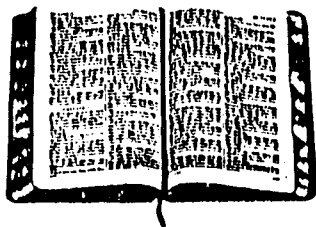


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

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"QUIT YE LIKE MEN"

Writing to the saints, the apostle Paul said, **Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit ye like men, be strong.**" (1 Cor. 16:13). The saints in the first century needed this exhortation to *quit ye like men*. Some of the saints at Corinth had not matured spiritually at the time Paul wrote to them. They were "**as... babes in Christ.**" (See 1 Cor. 3:1-3). They were guilty of such sins as envying, strife, divisions, going to law with a brother and that before unbelievers. (Cf. 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:1-3; 6:1-8) One was guilty of fornication. (1 Cor. 5) The Lord's Supper was not being properly observed. (Cf. 1 Cor. 11:18-34). It seems there was misuse of spiritual gifts. (Cf. 1 Cor. 14).

Not only did the saints in the first century need this exhortation to "*quit ye like men*", but every saint since the first century has needed this exhortation. All saints today need this exhortation!

WHAT DOES THE EXPRESSION, "**QUIT YE LIKE MEN**" MEAN? The word translated into this expression means "**to show one's self a man, be**

brave" according to Thayer's Lexicon (Page 43). Berry's Greek-English Lexicon says it means, "**to act like a man, to be brave.**" The NASV says, "**act like men.**" The RSV says, "**be courageous**" and the NKJV says "**be brave.**"

We can conclude from the above definitions and translations that the exhortation given by Paul is that we should conduct ourselves like men should. We should not be cowards or timid in our battle against sin and error. Boldness and bravery should characterize us in our battle for truth and righteousness. We should face opposition with faith and courage. As we discharge our duties and fulfill our responsibilities we should act like men!

We should not fail to act like men although we may be in the minority or even alone.

Caleb was in the minority when he "**stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.**" (Num. 13:30). Joshua stood with Caleb, "**But all the congregation bade stone them with**

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CARROL RAY SUTTON
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the Editor, 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950.

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Editorial... MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 17)

In our past articles we have shown from the Scriptures that the law that required the *Israelites* to keep the sabbath day holy was *provisional* and *temporary*. There is no Scriptural *proof* that the LORD ever intended for *Christians* to keep the law that He gave to the *Israelites* after they came out of Egypt. The sabbath day was given to a *specific* people for *specified* reasons. When that law had fulfilled its purpose *it ceased to be binding*. When the law that required sabbath keeping was fulfilled, *it was no longer in force!* (Cf. Jer. 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:6-13; 7:11-19; 9:16-17; 10:9-10; Romans 7:1-7; 2 Cor. 3:6-17; Col. 2:4-17; Gal. 3:23-27; Col. 2:14-17; etc.

In our last nine studies we have been examining some arguments made by "sabbath keepers" in an effort to show that sabbath keeping is **binding** on Christians today. We have shown that Scriptural *proof* is lacking. The arguments set forth by Sabbatarians will not stand the test of

Scriptural examination. *Assumptions* and *assertions* are not *proof*! Let us continue our study.

ARGUMENTS FOR SABBATH KEEPING CONSIDERED

32. "ISAIAH 66:23 TEACHES THAT THE SABBATH WILL BE OBSERVED IN THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH. IN VIEW OF THIS CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE KEEPING THE SABBATH DAY HOLY."

REPLY:

(1) The desired conclusion is *assumed* and *asserted*, but *not proven*!

(2) The fact that a thing may be done in the next age *does not* necessarily *prove* that it is binding on Christians in this age!

(3) *If* (and that's a big "if") Isaiah 66:23 teaches what Sabbatarians claim, then that would simply prove that *in another age* the sabbath would be observed. That would *not* prove that Christians *in this age* must keep the sabbath day holy in order to please God.

(4) If Isaiah 66:23 binds "sabbath keeping" on Christians in this age, it would also bind the keeping of the "new moons" which involved burnt offerings, etc. (Cf. 1 Chron. 23:31; 2 Chron. 2:4; 8:13; 31:3; Ezra 3:5; Neh. 10:33; etc.). NOTE: This would re-instate (or re-institute) the old system of the Israelites, which is inferior to the system of faith revealed in the New Testament of Jesus Christ, to be followed in the next age. I don't believe that most Sabbatarians will accept that.

(5) We know that Christians will not be condemned for not keeping the sabbath, the new moon, etc. because Paul said: "**Let no man judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or**

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of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." (Col. 2:16-17).

No, Isaiah 66:23 *does not prove* that the sabbath law of the Old testament is binding on Christians!

33. "IN ACTS 15:21 JAMES SAID: '**For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.**' THIS PROVES THAT THE SABBATH WAS BEING KEPT ABOUT 20 YEARS AFTER THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST."

REPLY:

(1) The *desired* conclusion of the Sabbatarian is that Christians *must* keep the sabbath day holy because "James mentioned the sabbath about 20 years after the resurrection of Christ. To reach that conclusion one must make *assumptions* and *assertions* that are not warranted.

(2) In Acts 15:21 James did not have reference to *Christians* when he said "... **Moses... hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.** *Christians did not preach Moses nor read Moses in the synagogues every sabbath day!* They preached *Christ!* The synagogues were places where the Jews met to preach and read Moses every sabbath day. When Paul wrote 2 Corinthians 3:15 he said: "**But even unto t his day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.**"

NOTE: Those who preached Moses in the synagogues every sabbath were Israelites, who because of the veil upon their heart, did not understand that the law that God gave through Moses to **Israel** at Mt. Sinai had been abrogated at the cross. This included the ten commandments. (Cf.

Col. 2:14-17; Rom. 7:1-7; Heb. 8:6-13; 7:12, 19; 10:9; Gal. 5:4; etc.)

(3) When Paul (as an apostle of Christ) went into the synagogues on the sabbath days "**and reasoned with them out of the scriptures**" he was *not* preaching Moses, but he was preaching *Christ!* (Cf. Acts 17:1-3).

No, the statement of James in Acts 15:21 *does not* prove that the sabbath law is binding on Christians!

34. "GOD COMMANDED THE ISRAELITES TO KEEP THE SABBATH DAY HOLY. SINCE GOD IS NO RESPECTOR OF PERSONS AS TAUGHT IN ACTS 10:34; ROM. 2:11 AND EPH. 6:9 CHRISTIANS TODAY MUST ALSO KEEP THE SABBATH DAY HOLY."

REPLY:

(1) It is true that God commanded *the Israelites* to *remember the sabbath day to keep it holy* in such passages as Exo. 20:1-17; Deut. 5:1-22; etc. It is also true that the New Testament teaches that God *is no respecter of persons* (in the above and other passages). However, it is *not true* that Christians must keep the sabbath day holy as the Israelites were required to do.

(2) The fact that *God commanded Noah to build an ark* (Cf. Gen. 6:22), does not mean that all other people (including Christians) are obligated to build arks. The fact that *God commanded Abraham (and the Israelites) to practice circumcision* (Cf. Gen. 17:9-14; Lev. 12:1-3) does **not** make it *obligatory* that *Christians practice circumcision*. The fact that God commanded the Israelites to offer burnt offerings, animal sacrifices, etc. *does not prove* that Christians must offer these things today! (To be continued)

(CRS)

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"QUIT YE LIKE MEN"
stones..." (Num. 14:10).

In 2 Tim. 4:16-17 the apostle Paul said: **"At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Not withstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known. and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."**

NOTE: On this occasion *Paul stood alone*, but *God was with him!* Paul was bold and courageous! *He acted like a man!*

In malice we should be children, but in understanding *we should be men!* (Cf. 1 Cor. 14:20). True men are characterized by, not only boldness and courage, but also by,

honesty, soberness, temperance patience, a willingness to fight and love. *We*, like Caleb and Paul, *should quit ourselves like men!* (CRS)

QUESTION AND ANSWER

QUESTION: "Is it Scriptural for a preacher to also be an elder (bishop) in a local church?"

ANSWER: In view of the fact that Peter was an elder as well as a preacher, the answer is yes! The apostles, including Peter, were told to **"...Preach the gospel..."** and they did. (See Mk. 16:15, 20). Peter said: **"...Who am also an elder..."** (1 Pet. 5:1). The question is answered! The answer is clear. Would it be *expedient*? Each case would have to be considered individually. (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

GRIFFITH, IN - Oct. 11-16, 1998
N. HUNTSVILLE, AL -- Oct. 26-Nov. 1, 1998
OAK RIDGE, TN - Nov. 8-13, 1998
EAST ALBERTVILLE, ALBERTVILLE, AL -
Nov. 15-26, 1998 - Connie Adams

SENTENCE SERMONS

In giving others a piece of your mind, you may rob yourself of your peace of mind.

* * * * *

Evil men try to justify their sins, but good men repent and turn from their sins.

* * * * *

To be great one must be humble enough to serve.

* * * * *

The road to ruin is wide and broad and is easily traveled.

* * * * *

There are many cheap religions, but the price of pure religion remains high.

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