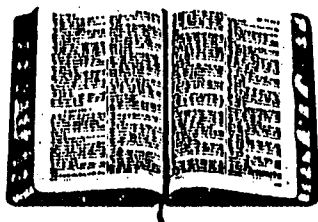


# THE INSTRUCTOR



***"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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## ***"STAND FAST IN THE FAITH"***

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 *stand fast in the faith*. Every saint since the first century has needed this exhortation and every saint in this century needs this exhortation. Consider the following facts.

### **1. CHRISTIANS MUST STAND!**

One cannot "**stand fast in the faith**" unless he *stands*. Some are not willing to *stand*. It takes a lot of effort to *stand in the faith*. In Eph. 6:13-14 Paul said, "**and having done all, to stand, Stand therefore...**" We must not turn and run. We must not allow *the wiles of Satan* to deceive us. We must not yield to the pressures of the world and fall from the grace of God.

**2. CHRISTIANS MUST STAND FAST!** One cannot "**stand fast in the faith**" unless he *stands fast*. Instead of *standing fast* many so-called Christians will vacillate when persecutions or pressure come. To stand fast means to stand firmly! It means to stand without compromise!

If we stand fast in the faith we will not be tossed about by every wind of doctrine, (Cf. Eph. 4:14-15), but we will put God's Word above the word of any man. We will fear God and keep His commandments. (Cf. Eccl. 12:13; Heb. 11:7; 5:8-9). We will live and walk by faith. We will live and walk as "the faith" directs us. (See Gal. 2:20; 3:11; 2 Cor. 5:7; Titus 2:11-12; 1 John 5:4). If we stand fast in the faith we will defend and contend for the faith! (See Phil. 1:17; Jude 3).

**3. CHRISTIANS MUST STAND FAST IN THE FAITH!** We are *not* told that as long as we are sincere that doctrine does not matter. The text says "**in the faith.**" It does *not* say "**in a faith**"! Neither does it say "in the *faiths*"! It clearly says "**in the faith**"! "*The faith*" is not *plural*, but *singular*! Paul said there is "**one faith.**" (Eph. 4:5). "*The faith*" is the *system of faith, the gospel, the law of liberty*! In preaching the gospel Paul was preaching the faith. (Cf. Rom. 1:15; Gal. 1:23). In obeying the gospel one is being obedient to the faith! (Cf. 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Acts 6:7).

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## Editorial...

### MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 16)

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. 2:14-17; Gal. 3:23-27; Col. 2:14-17; etc.)

In our last eight 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

29. "IF NINE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (ALL EXCEPT THE COMMAND TO KEEP THE SABBATH) ARE INCLUDED IN THE NEW COVENANT, THEN THE NEW COVENANT *IS ACCORDING TO* THE OLD COVENANT. BUT THE LORD PLAINLY SAYS THE NEW COVENANT WOULD *NOT BE ACCORDING TO* THE OLD COVENANT."

### REPLY:

(1) It is true that the *New Testament (Covenant)* forbids idolatry, making graven images, taking God's name in vain, murder, adultery, stealing, bearing false witness against our neighbors and coveting their things. It also requires us to honor our parents. But it is also true that it goes far beyond these things in its prohibitions and requirements. Here are some examples:

A. It not only prohibits killing, but it also prohibits being angry with a brother without a cause. (See Mt. 5:21-22).

B. It not only prohibits adultery, but it also prohibits lusting after a woman. (See Mt. 5:27-28).

Although there are some things in the New Testament that were in the Old, it is truly a *New Covenant*! It is *not according to the Covenant* that God made with Israel when He led them out of Egypt.

(2) In view of the above argument, please observe the fact that Sabbatarians (according to the above argument would have the *New Covenant exactly like the Old*

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Covenant because they include all ten commandments (including the sabbath command) in the *New Covenant*! NOTE: Of course, we recognize the fact that there were many other prohibitions, requirements and regulations in the Old Covenant besides the ten commandments!

(3) Even if the above argument were true this would not prove that Christians should keep the sabbath day holy as did the Israelites under the Old Covenant. Christians are under **"a better covenant, which was established upon better promises"** and it (the *New Testament*) does *not* command *Christians* to keep the sabbath day holy! (See Heb. 8:6).

30. "ACCORDING TO JER. 31:31-34 & HEBREWS 8:8-13 THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE OLD COVENANT AND THE NEW COVENANT IS THAT THE OLD WAS WRITTEN ON TABLES OF STONE, BUT THE NEW WOULD BE WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS. IN BOTH INSTANCES IT WAS THE SAME LAW."

**REPLY:**

(1) It is true that God (speaking of the *New Covenant*) said, **"...I will put my laws in their mind, and write them in their hearts..."** (Heb. 8:10), but *God did not say* that this would be the *only* difference.

(2) God did *not* say that in both instances it would be the *same law*! In fact God said that the *New Covenant* would *not be according to* (or *like*) the one that He made with them when He led them out of Egypt.

(3) Although it is true that God puts His laws in our minds and writes them in our hearts it is also true that

*the laws of God have been written in what we call the Books of the New Testament.* In Eph. 3:2-6 Paul mentions the fact that God revealed the gospel, (the faith, the law of liberty), to Him and *He wrote it down* so others could read and understand what he knew. (Also see John 20:30-31; 1 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18-19; 1 John 5:13; Col. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:27; 2 Thess. 2:15; 2 Thess. 3:14; 2 Peter 3:1, 16; Acts 15:19-32; 1 Cor. 14:37. etc.)

(4) The Hebrew writer says: **"For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law."** (7:12). It was *essential* that *the law be changed* in view of the change in the priesthood.

(5) The above argument falls far short of *proving* that the sabbath law is still in effect! No, the *New Covenant is not according to the Old Covenant*!

31. "THE AGREEMENT THAT THE ISRAELITES MADE IN EXO. 19 TO DO ALL THAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN WAS THE COVENANT THAT WAS DONE AWAY, NOT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS."

**REPLY:**

(1) It is true that the Israelites broke their agreement to do all that God had spoken. However, *their agreement was not* the covenant that was done away. Please note the fact that God said, **"...If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant..."** (Exo. 19:5). God did not say, **"if you will keep your agreement..."**, but He said, **"...my covenant..."**

(2) Consider also the fact God (speaking of the covenant and the

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Israelites) said, "...which *my covenant* they brake..." (Jer. 31:32). God *did not* say, "which *their agreement* they brake" but "*my covenant* they brake"! A big difference! See the difference?

(3) Please observe the fact that it was the *covenant* that God made and the one that the Israelites broke that was done away according to Hebrews 8:7-13. God did not do away with the *agreement* that Israel made. The Israelites did not keep their *agreement* and thus they did away with it!

(4) In Deut. 9:11 Moses identifies the "two tables of stone" as the "tables of the covenant". In Deut. 4:13 we learn that God declared unto Israel "*his covenant*" that he commanded Israel to perform, "even the ten commandments"

which He wrote upon two tables of stone. It was *God's Covenant*, not *their agreement*! (CRS)

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### STAND FAST IN THE FAITH

When we walk uprightly according to the truth of the gospel we are *standing fast in the faith*. (See Gal. 2:14). Living and walking by faith is *standing fast in the faith*. (Cf. Cal. 2:20; Rom. 1:17; 2 Cor. 5:7). When we defend and contend earnestly for the faith we are *standing fast in the faith*. (Cf. Phil. 1:17; Jude 3).

Are you really *standing*? Are you really *standing fast*? Are you really *standing fast in the faith*? (CRS)

#### GOSPEL MEETINGS

CLINTWOOD, VA -Sept. 20-25, 1998

GRIFFITH, IN -Oct. 11-16, 1998

N. HUNTSVILLE, AL Oct. 26-Nov. 1, 1998

OAK RIDGE, TN -Nov. 8-13, 1998

EAST, A'VILLE, ALBERTVILLE, AL- Nov. 15-26, 1998 -Connie Adams

## SENTENCE SERMONS

If your faith is strong, suffering may lead you *closer to*, not further away from, God.

\* \* \* \* \*

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." (Psalms 118:8)

\* \* \* \* \*

Living from hand to mouth is not so bad, when it is God's hand.

\* \* \* \* \*

Experience is what you get when you don't get what you want.

\* \* \* \* \*

"If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small." (Proverbs 24:10)

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