

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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"WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, NOT AS FOOLS"

In addressing the saints at Ephesus (and "the faithful in Christ Jesus") the apostle Paul admonished them saying: "**See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.**" (Eph. 5:15). Obviously, this admonition was intended for all Christians throughout the Gospel dispensation. Let us consider in some detail this passage. There are several facts we need to ponder. Here are some of them.

1. WE ARE TO *SEE* THAT WE WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY. "See" suggests that we should look or watch. We are not to passively wait to see what happens. There is to be an active concern. Our hearts (or minds) must be concerned about how we walk and determine that that we will *walk circumspectly*. (Cf. Prov. 23:7; 4:23). We must give attention to the proper things and must be diligent in our pursuit of them.

2. WE ARE TO *WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY*. We are to "*walk!*" This suggests effort and action on our part. We cannot sleep and walk at the same time. In fact in Eph. 5:14 (the previous verse) Paul said: "*Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee*

light." We cannot walk while we are sitting or crawling. We are to be diligent and put forth whatever effort it takes to *walk!*

3. WE ARE TO WALK *CIRCUMSPECTLY!* Not only should we walk, but also we have an obligation to see that we walk *circumspectly*. THAYER'S LEXICON, (P. 24), defines the word translated *circumspectly* to mean "*exactly, accurately, diligently*". The following comments appear in the same paragraph: "To live carefully, circumspectly, deviating in no respect from the law of duty, Eph. 5:15." W. E. VINE says: "*The word expresses that accuracy which is the outcome of carefulness.*" (VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF N.T. WORDS, Vol. 1, p. 25). The ASV and some other translations have the word "carefully" instead of the word "circumspectly" in the passage.

It is obvious from the meaning of the word translated *circumspectly* that God is definitely concerned about how we walk. Carefulness in walking as a Christian should characterize every child of God. Any teaching that would cause us to become careless about how we walk (or live) as a

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Editorial...

MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 22)

In our past articles we have discussed various questions about the Sabbath Law that God gave to Israel by Moses for specific reasons. It was provisional and temporary.

We also considered *the two covenants* i.e., (two testaments, two laws). We showed from the Scriptures that the *first covenant* (which contained the sabbath command) was given to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai. It was *not* given to *all nations*. *It is no longer in effect as law! It is not bound on Christians and never was!*

The *new covenant* was given by Jesus Christ and it was intended for *all nations!* (See Jer. 32:31-34; Heb. 8:6-13; Mt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-47; Mark 16:15-16 etc.) A study of such passages as Matthew 5:17-18; Col. 2:14-17; Eph. 2:14-16; Rom. 7:4-7; Heb. 7:12; Gal. 3:24-25; 2 Cor. 3:6-16 also *proves* that the sabbath law is *not* binding on Christians.

In our previous articles we have also examined 38 "arguments" that

are sometimes made by Sabbatarians in an effort to bind sabbath keeping on Christians. When the Sabbatarian "arguments" are examined closely in the light of the Scriptures we can clearly see their failure to *prove* that Christians must keep the sabbath holy as did the Israelites under the *first covenant*.

In our article last month we gave some additional information about the sabbath and related matters. We had four major points. Let us continue our study.

V. THE LAW OF MOSES INCLUDED MANY THINGS. Here is a list of some of the things included in "*the law of Moses*."

(1) *Burnt offerings*. They (the priests and others) "**buildded the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in law of Mōses, the man of God.**" (Ezra 3:2). Cf. Deut. 12:5-14.

(2) *Fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to death for the fathers; but every man shall be put to death for his own sin* "**according unto that which is written in the book of the law of Moses, wherein God commanded...**" (2 Kgs. 14:6). Referring to this, 2 Chron. 25:4 says: "*the law in the book of Moses.*"

(3) Josiah put away "**workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols and all the abominations that were spied**" in Jerusalem and the land of Judah "**that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book the Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord.**" (2 Kgs. 23:24) NOTE: Verse 25 refers too it as "*the law of Moses.*"

(4) *Purification*. "**And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished...**" (Luke 2:22)

(5) *Stone adulterers*. Speaking
(Continued on page 3)

to Jesus of a woman they said was taken in the very act of adultery, the scribes and Pharisees said: "Now **Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?**" (John 8:5). (Cf. Lev. 20:10; Deut. 17:6-7).

(5) *Not muzzle the ox.* The apostle Paul said: "For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn." 1 Cor. 9:9). Cf. Deut. 25:4.

(6) *Circumcision.* Jesus said: "**Moses therefore gave you circumcision; (not because it is of Moses, but of the fathers;) and ye on the sabbath day circumcise a man. If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?**" (John 7:22-23). Cf. Lev. 12:1-3.

(7) *God's ways, statutes, commandments, judgments and testimonies.* David charged Solomon to "...keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses..." (1 Kgs. 2:3).

(8) *Things concerning Christ.* Jesus said: "...These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms concerning me." NOTE: In John 1:45 Philip said: "We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

(9) *Honour thy father and thy mother.* Speaking to the Pharisees and to certain of the scribes (in Mark 7:9-10) Jesus declared: "Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own

tradition. For **Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death.**" (Cf. Exodus 20:10 & Deut. 5:16). NOTE: This was one of the ten commandments.

(10) *Thou shalt not kill.* Speaking to the Jews (in John 7:19-20): Jesus said: "**Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me? The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?**" NOTE: According to John 5:18 "the Jews sought the more to kill him,..." FURTHER NOTE: In John 7:19-20 Jesus taught that Moses gave the Jews the law that said "Thou shalt not kill" (which was one of the ten commandments) and yet they were seeking to kill him in violation of that law.

OBSERVATIONS:

A. The law of Moses not only contained such things as circumcision, purification, burnt offerings, not muzzling the ox, stoning adulterers, things concerning Christ, God's ways, statutes, commandments, judgments, testimonies, etc., including the ten commandments.

B. The *ten commandments* (as a list of commandments) are written twice in the book of the law of Moses as recorded in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:1-22.

C. The Sabbatarians are simply wrong when they make a distinction between "the law of Moses" which they claim was a ceremonial law and "the law of God" which they contend was the ten commandment law.

The truth is clear. The "law of Moses" contained the ten commandments as well as burnt offerings, etc. and "the law of God (the Lord)" contained sacrifices, etc. as well as the ten commandments.

(To be continued)

"WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, NOT AS FOOLS."

Christian is a false doctrine and should be opposed. The doctrine of "once saved, always saved" is one such false doctrine. Another one is the teaching that "the grace of God will cover (or forgive) sins committed through ignorance and/or weakness without a person repenting, confessing and praying for forgiveness as a child of God." Both of these doctrines will tend to encourage a child of God to become careless, lax, incautious, or lukewarm relative to learning God's will in all matters and being diligent and careful to follow exactly what the Word of God teaches. *We must be very careful about how we walk or live!* Such sins as fornication, uncleanness, covetous-

ness, filthiness, foolish talking, or coarse jesting should not be once named among us as being proper for saints. (Eph. 5:5). We must not be deceived by vain words, or be partakers with the children of disobedience. (Eph. 5:6-7). Instead of having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, we should reprove them. (Eph. 5:11-12).

4. WE ARE TO WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, NOT AS FOOLS, BUT AS WISE. It is foolish for us to walk carelessly. To walk *circumspectly*, redeeming the time, because the days are evil, *is to walk as wise men and not as fools*. How are you walking?

GOSPEL MEETINGS
GLEN ELLYN, IL -May 23-28, 1999.
WOODBURY, TN - June 6-11, 1999.
EAST ALBERTVILLE, AL-June 20-25, 1999 with
our beloved brother, Shirley Mullins.

SENTENCE SERMONS

Develop true, sincere character and your reputation will take care of itself.

* * * * *

Who and what we are, not what or how much we have, is what makes life worth living.

* * * * *

If you will get on the right road and go straight, you will not get lost.

* * * * *

Common sense is one of the most uncommon things around.

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Many "respectable" religions like Catholicism, Mormonism and Pentecostalism are false religions.

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