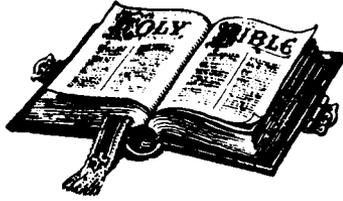


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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WHAT DOES "PUT AWAY" MEAN

What does "put away" mean in Jesus' statement, "**Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery,**" in Matthew 19:9? A popular misconception among modern day Christians is that "put away" refers solely to an action of the mind. Thus, if a married woman unjustly divorces her husband and marries another man, her first husband may then put her away **in his mind** for the cause of adultery and be free to remarry. According to this line of thinking, "put away" means something like "to mentally accept or determine that one's spouse will no longer be one's spouse."

The best of the more recent translations of the Bible has "**divorces**" instead of "put away" in passages like Matthew 19:9. (See the New King James Version, New American Standard Bible, and the New International Version.) The scholars who made these translations are absolutely correct in giving this rendering. "Put away" refers not

only to a mental determination to end a marriage, but also to the actual legal and physical termination of the marriage relationship — what we call **divorce**. The following observations from the Scriptures demonstrate this fact.

1. In the context of Matthew 19, the Pharisees had asked Jesus why Moses "**commanded to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?**" Jesus' answer was that, "**Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to PUT AWAY your wives . . .**" In Deuteronomy 24:1-2, we find that Moses had indeed allowed a man to write his wife "**a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife .**" Jesus said that Moses allowed them to **put away** their wives, but notice that the text in Deuteronomy does not say "**put away.**" It refers to a bill of divorcement, a sending out of the house or an end to co-habitation, and the freedom to legally remarry. This is what our Lord calls "**put away.**" This is His definition!

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Editorial . . .

“LOVE LETTERS or GOD’S LAW?”

Several years ago I heard Carl Ketcherside publicly teach that **“the writings of Paul did NOT constitute a legal code or a system of law, but were love letters.”** In further discussion he explained that we are **not** under any system of law but under grace. He suggested that people who teach that men **must obey** God’s commands in order to be saved are “legalists.”

“Code” means a set of laws or rules of conduct. “Law” means rules or statements that tell people what they must or may do and what they must not or may not do. “Legal” means “of or based on law or allowed by law. **Question:** Is there a set of laws or rules of conduct or that which is **of** or based on law **in the writings of Paul and other inspired men? I do not mean are they listed in a formal order** such as the Code of the State of Alabama or a Federal Code. I am asking are there instructions including commands that we are to follow and obey? Obviously so! Hence, these instructions and commands constitute law.

I asked Carl Ketcherside a few questions that seemed to disturb him. Here are some of those questions.

1. Was Paul inspired of the Holy Spirit to write his “love letters?”

2. Do they contain **God’s Will** for man?

3. Must men **obey God’s Will** as revealed in Paul’s “love letters” in order to be saved?

4. Will people who “obey not” **God’s Will** as revealed in Paul’s “love letters” be eternally lost in hell?

Carl Ketcherside replied that **Paul was inspired; that his writings do contain God’s Will for man.** Then when pressed he reluctantly admitted that **men must obey God’s Will as revealed in Paul’s writings in order to be saved and that those who “obey not” will be eternally lost in hell.** I then asked him what was his point or motive in saying that Paul’s writings were “love letters” and not a code of law or a legal system since he admitted that God’s Will is revealed herein and must be obeyed and those who obey not will be damned? I asked him was it to cause men to think that men do **not** have to obey God to be saved? He would not tell us what his point or motive was.

In Paul’s writings he showed the **necessity of one obeying God’s Will** (call them “Paul’s love letters”, a code of law, a legal system or anything else) in order to be saved. Here are some passages that so teach.

1. ROMANS 2:16 — **“In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by my gospel.”**

2. ROMANS 6:17-18 — **“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, Ye became the servants of righteousness.”**

3. ROMANS 10:16 — **“But they have not all obeyed the gospel . . .**

4. 1 COR. 7:19 — **“Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.”**

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“LOVE LETTERS” or GOD’S LAW?

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5. 1 COR. 14:37 — “If any man think himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.” NOTE: This doesn’t sound like a mere “love letter,” does it?

6. 2 COR. 5:10-11 — “For we must all appear the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, Whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.”

7. 1 COR. 4:2 — “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

8. 2 THESS. 3:6 — “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.”

9. 2 THESS. 3:14 — “And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.”

10. ROMANS 16:26 mentions “the obedience of faith . . .” and ROMANS 1:5 mentions “obedience to the faith . . .”

11. ROMANS 2:6-11 — “Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish upon every soul that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God.”

12. 2 THESS. 1:7-9 — “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord shall be revealed

from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; . . .”

Paul (as well as other inspired men) mentions the fact that we are “. . . under law to Christ, . . .” in 1 Cor. 9:21 and in Gal. 6:2 he speaks of “the law of Christ.” James speaks of “the perfect law of liberty” that we are to do what it says and by it we shall be judged. (See James 1:25; 2:12). In Romans 3:27 Paul mentions the fact that boasting is excluded “by the law of faith.”

In Rom. 6:14 Paul declared: “. . . For ye are not under the law, but under grace.” NOTE: Here we see “the law” contrasted with “grace” and in Rom. 3:27 “The law of works” is contrasted with “the law of faith,” but you will never find an inspired writer contrasting “the law of Christ” with “grace.” Neither will you find “obedience” (to God — working righteousness) contrasted with either “grace” or “faith.” Of course, we are **not** under the law that God gave through Moses to Israel. Neither are we under any law given by man’s wisdom. **We are under law to Christ!**

It is certainly true that Paul penned his epistles from a heart of love. The love of God was in his heart. (See Romans 5:5). He loved the saints to whom he wrote. (See 1 Cor. 16:24; 2 Cor. 7:3; 11:11; 12:14-16). He also loved the truth he taught through his epistles. (See Ephesians 4:15; 2 Thess. 2:10-12). But to suggest that Paul’s writings may be disregarded and the will of God revealed therein may be disobeyed by saying that “his writings do not constitute a code of law or legal system” is to show disrespect for God whose will is made known through Paul’s writings (and those of other inspired men). (CRS)

**BAPTIST PREACHER ON
"DO A CHRISTIAN'S SINS
DAMN HIS SOUL?"**

"We take the position that a Christian's sins do not damn his soul. The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul. This is settled in Christ and Christ alone . . ."

"... All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles he may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, all the benevolent acts he may perform will not make his soul one whit safer; and all the sins he may commit from idolatry to murder will not make his soul in any more danger . . ."

— SAM MORRIS, Pastor, **First Baptist Church**, Stamford, Texas
Editor's note: Read 1 Cor. 10:12; Gal. 5:4; 2 Pet. 2:20-22; Rev. 2:10.

**WHAT DOES
"PUT AWAY" MEAN?**

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2. When Mary was "**found with child of the Holy Ghost**," the Bible states that "**Joseph her husband . . . was MINDED TO PUT her AWAY privily.**" (Matthew 1:18f). If all that is involved in putting someone away is determining in one's mind to do so, then Joseph had already put Mary away. The text states he was "**minded**" to do so. The word "**minded**" literally means "**resolved**." (See Marshall's Interlinear on Matthew 1:19). Obviously, there is more involved in putting someone away than mere mental resolve.

3. If "**put away**" does not refer to getting a legal divorce and ending a marriage relationship, then Jesus never addresses the subject, but only talks about the mental acceptance of a state of affairs or a determination made in one's heart. **Who can believe it!?**

— Steve Klein,
1826 Emanuel Ave.
Gadsden, Alabama 35901

— **SENTENCE SERMONS** —

When a man keeps all of his blessings, he does not bless others.

* * * * *

God does not settle all of His accounts in October.

* * * * *

The man who sows seeds of kindness enjoys a perpetual harvest.

* * * * *

Your bank account does **not** indicate your true worth.

* * * * *

A religion that is not worth practicing is not worth preaching.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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