

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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ANGELS — THEIR WORK (In the New Testament)

All we know about the work of angels is what we learn from a study of the Scriptures. The work of angels in this dispensation may be basically summed up as follows:

1. The angels of “little ones” always “behold” the Father’s face in heaven! (See Matthew 18:10). NOTE: Although Jesus stated this fact during the prior dispensation, it may be stating what is true in this age. If not true now, at least such was the case during Christ’s personal ministry while here on earth.

2. “The angel of the Lord” released the apostles from prison! (See Acts 5:17-25 & 12:3-19. Also cf. Acts 16:22-29).

3. Angels gave messages to men! Obviously, these messages were from God. Consider Philip in Acts 8:22; Cornelius in Acts 10:3-7 and Paul in Acts 27:23-24. NOTE: Although instructions were given to Cornelius who was lost, the gospel was not preached to him by an angel. The angel did NOT tell him what to do in order to be saved. Neither did the angel assure Cornelius that he was already saved! Cornelius was told to send for Peter who would tell him what to do to be saved!

4. Angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister FOR Christians! Hebrews 1:14 says: “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” NOTE: The Hebrew writer does not say specifically what the angels do in their ministering for Christians! However, please keep in mind that they do minister for Christians!

5. Paul declared: “For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.” (1 Cor. 11:10). The NASV says: “a symbol of authority” instead of “power.”

6. “The angel of the Lord” smote Herod because he gave not God the glory! (See Acts 12:20-23).

7. Angels will accompany the Lord when He comes again to raise the dead and to sever the wicked for the just and cast the wicked into fire! (See Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Thess. 4:16; Matthew 13:36-43 & Thess. 1:7-10).

We should accept what the Scriptures teach about angels, but we should give diligence lest we go beyond what God has revealed!

(CRS)

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Editorial . . .

RESPECT FOR GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

A long time ago the Psalmist declared: "**Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments,**" and "**I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.**" (Psa. 119:6, 15). The attitude of respect for God's precepts expressed by the Psalmist should be our attitude toward God's commandments.

The word **respect** suggests a proper regard for, or a looking up to, esteem or have a proper regard for all of God's commandments.

There is a severe famine of respect for the will of God in our society. Most of God's commandments are either disregarded, eliminated by human reasoning, set aside by emotional rejection or ridiculed by people in the world. Many so-called "Christians" show little or no respect for many of God's commandments.

We should show respect for all of God's commandments that apply to us. Of course, the commandments given to **Adam** (see Gen. 2:15-17), to **Noah** (see Gen. 6:22; Heb. 11:8), to **Abraham** (see Gen. 12:1-3; 17:9-14 & 22:1-2; Heb. 11:8-19), and to **Lot** (see Gen. 19:15-26) do not apply to us today. Neither do the commandments that God gave to **Israel** through **Moses** (see Exo. 20:1-21; Deut. 5:1-29; Lev. 12:1-3; etc.) apply to us! In fact,

the commandment Jesus gave to the apostles (in Luke 24:49) to ". . . Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" is not applicable to us today. When we speak of obeying the commandments of God we have in mind those commandments which apply to us in this age. We are not referring to every commandment that God has ever given to any person of every dispensation.

The following passages (as well as many others) show the essentiality of obedience to God's commandments.

1. Matthew 7:21- "**Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**"

2. John 14:15- "**If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.**" (NASV)

3. John 14:21- "**He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**"

4. 1 Cor. 7:19- "**Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.**"

5. Hebrews 5:9- "**And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.**"

6. James 1:22- "**But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**"

7. James 1:25- "**But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**"

8. James 2:12- "**So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.**"

9. 2 Peter 3:2- "**That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of**

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us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour."

10. 1 John 2:3- "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." Verse 4 says: "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

11. 1 John 3:24- "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him."

12. Rev. 22:14- "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Without question, we must have a deep respect for God's precepts and have enough faith in God to obey them.

It has been my observation through the years that when a person is confronted with and understands a precept of God (i.e., a command or statement) that he does **not** want to accept, he will either humble himself and submit to it or he will show disrespect for it. He may show disrespect by ignoring it, rationalizing it away, eliminating by prejudicial or emotional bias or by ridiculing it.

Here are some precepts of God for which some men show little or no respect.

1. Acts 2:38- "... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, ..."

2. James 5:12- "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." (Also see Mt. 5:33-37).

3. Matthew 19:9- "... 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 committeth adultery." (Also see Matthew 5:31-32). NOTE: The only person who has the right to divorce and remarry is the one whose spouse is guilty of fornication!

4. Luke 6:31 - "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."

5. 1 Cor. 5:11- "But now I have unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner: with such an one no not to eat."

6. 1 Timothy 2:9- "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." NOTE: A lack of shamefacedness is rampant among many "Christians!"

7. Romans 12:9- "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good." (NASV)

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." NOTE: This one is nearly completely "forgotten" by most churches!

9. John 7:24- "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."

10. Eph. 5:11- "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

11. Matthew 19:6- "... What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (Also see 1 Cor. 7:10-11).

12. 1 Cor. 11:14-15- "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a

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shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."

13. 1 Cor. 11:34- "And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. . ."

14. 1 Cor. 14:34-35- "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

15. 2 John 9- "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

Is there any of the above or any other precept of God that you do not respect? As the Psalmist of long ago said, we should say: "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way." (119:127-128)

Let each of us give diligence to greatly respect all of God's precepts continually. (CRS)

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

"In the beginning the Word was with God (1 John 1:1-2), and as Deity Himself enjoyed the exalted state (glory) with the Father. (John 17:5)

But Jesus emptied Himself, and did not retain the prerogatives [plural - editor] of Deity, to come to earth as a man. (Phil. 2:5-8)"

— GENE FROST in "The 'ONENESS' of Pentecostalism and The Bible Doctrine of The Godhead," 1974, p. 45

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

He should not be weary of the cross who is sure of the crown.

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Abundant life may be smothered by material abundance.

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"Reason and free inquiry are the effective agents against error. They are the natural enemies of error, and error only."

— Thomas Jefferson

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He who offers God a second place offers him no place at all.

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He is truly wise who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

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