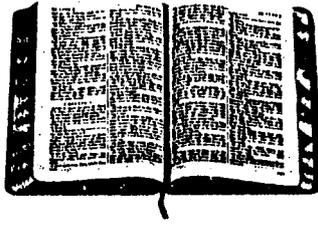


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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)*

Volume 36

FEBRUARY, 1999

Number 2

## " PROVIDE THINGS HONEST"

Although we teach that people (Christians and non-Christians) should be *honest*, much dishonesty abounds. Honesty is a rare precious jewel. Business people, politicians, actors, actresses, socialites, etc. and even "religionists" often evidence dishonesty.

VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY defines the word translated *honest* as "*good, admirable, becoming, has also the ethical meaning of what is fair, right, honourable, of such conduct as deserves esteem...*" (italics mine-Editor) Vol. II, page 229.

In explaining the parable of the sower in Luke 8:15 Jesus said: **But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.** We learn from this verse that those who have *honest* hearts will keep the Word of God (when they hear it) and bring forth fruit with patience. NOTE: We need "*honest and good hearts.*"

In selecting seven men who would be over the business of serving tables, one of the qualifications was that they were to be "**men of honest report.**"

(Acts 6:7). NOTE: We need to be men and women "*of honest report.*"

The apostle Peter said: "**Having your conversation** (ASV says *behaviour*) **honest among the Gentiles:...**" (1 Peter 2:12). NOTE: Our behaviour should be *honest!* To the saints at Rome Paul said: "**Let us walk honestly as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.**" Rom. 13:13; also cf. 1 Thess. 4:12). NOTE: One who walks *honestly as in the day* does *not* walk in such things as rioting, drunkenness, chambering, wantonness, strife or envy!

The saints at Rome were admonished to "**...Provide things honest in the sight of all men.**" (Rom. 12:17). The Corinthian saints received a letter that said: "**...Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of all men.**" (2 Cor. 8:21). They were also told that they "**...should do that which is honest.**" NOTE: *Saints are to do that which is honest and they are to provide for honest things in the sight of the Lord and also in the sight of all men!*

It is not always easy to do those

(Continued on page 4)

# THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama.

CARROL RAY SUTTON  
Editor

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

Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, AL 35950

## Editorial...

### MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 20)

In our last twelve articles we have examined 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

36. "JAMES 2:10 (WHICH SAYS, 'FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL KEEP THE WHOLE LAW, AND YET OFFEND IN ONE POINT, HE IS GUILTY OF ALL'), REFERS TO THE SABBATH LAW BECAUSE IN VERSE 11 JAMES QUOTES TWO OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS."

#### REPLY:

- (1) Assuming and asserting that a thing is so *does not prove it* to be so.
- (2) Does the fact that James (in the context in verse 11) quoted two

of the commandments that are contained in the ten commandments *prove* that James was binding the ten commandments on Christians in verse 10? Of course not!

(3) If the fact that James quoted two of the commandments that are contained in the ten commandments proves that he was binding *all* of the ten commandments on Christians, then it would also *prove* that since in verse 8 (in the same context) James quoted one of the commandments that are contained in what Sabbatarians call "the law of Moses", that he was binding *all* of the commandments contained in "the law of Moses"! NOTE: In verse 8 James said: "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well." This commandment is not one of the ten commandments. It is found in Lev. 19:18.

Are Sabbatarians ready to accept the obvious conclusion of their reasoning? Are they ready to bind *all* of "the law of Moses" on Christians? NOTE: That which proves too much proves nothing!

(4) Please observe the fact that James *did not quote* the command to keep the sabbath! In fact no apostle ever commanded any Christian to keep the sabbath day holy!

(5) Contextually, "*the whole law*" that James mentions in verse 10 seems to be "*the royal law*" of verse 8. This same law is spoken of in verse 12 as "*the law of liberty*" by which we shall be judged. No doubt, James referred to the same law in 1:25 when he said: "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."

(6) No, James 2 does not refer to the sabbath law! (Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

37. "THE FACT THAT THE SABBATH IS MENTIONED A NUMBER OF TIMES AFTER THE CROSS PROVES THAT THE SABBATH IS TO BE OBSERVED BY CHRISTIANS."

REPLY:

(1) This argument is merely an assumption and an assertion! The fact that a thing is mentioned in the New Testament *after the cross* does not prove that it is binding upon Christians.

(2) Pentecost, sacrifices (animal) and burnt offerings are mentioned *after the cross*. Does that prove that Christians should observe Pentecost, offer animal sacrifices and burnt offerings?

(3) Circumcision is mentioned four or five times as much as the sabbath is *after the cross*. Does this prove that physical circumcision is bound on Christians? Of course not!

37. "JAMES 1:25 REFERS TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS WHEN IT SAYS, 'BUT WHO 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'. THEREFORE THE TEN COMMANDMENT LAW IS THE PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY."

REPLY:

(1) Again we see Sabbatarians assuming and asserting things without *Scriptural proof*.

(2) The law that contained the ten commandments was given to a nation (the nation of Israel) that God had delivered from Egyptian bondage. (See Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:1-21, etc.). It was *not* given to any other nation. He did *not* deliver any other nation from bondage in Egypt. So the law that contained the ten commandments was *limited in scope*.

It applied only to those of the nation of Israel and those who became Jewish proselytes. Please note the fact that "the perfect law of liberty" is of *universal* application. James said, "But *whoso* looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein..." NOTE: In view of this we can see that the "ten commandment law" is *not* the "perfect law of liberty".

(3). James 1:25 does not refer to the law that contained the ten commandments because Hebrews 7:19 says: 'For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.' NOTE: The law (which contained the ten commandments) made nothing perfect, the law of James 1:25 is a "perfect law" that liberates!

The "perfect law of liberty" of James 1:25 is the same "law of liberty" of James 2:12 by which we shall be judged! NOTE: According to Romans 2:16 we will be judged by Jesus Christ according to the "gospel" that Paul preached.

We learn from John 12:48 that the words of Christ will judge us in the last day. In view of this verse and Romans 2:16 and James 2:12 *the words of Christ*, the *gospel* and the *law of liberty* must be one and the same thing. They are different expressions referring to the same thing. NOTE: These expressions do not refer to the ten commandment law!

38. "CHRISTIANS SHOULD KEEP THE SABBATH BECAUSE GOD SAID, 'I CHANGE NOT' AND JESUS CHRIST IS 'THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER' Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8)."

REPLY:

(1). The fact that *God does not change* and *Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever* does not

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

*prove* that the sabbath law is binding on Christians. It *does* prove that God Himself does *not* change and that Jesus Christ remains the same, in some sense.

(2). Does the fact that God does not change and Jesus remains the same prove that circumcision, animal sacrifices, burnt offerings, burning incense, etc. are binding on Christians since they were bound on the Israelites? If not, then how does the fact that God does not change and Jesus remains the same prove that sabbath keeping is binding on Christians?

(3). Does the fact that God does not change and Jesus remains the same prove that inflicting the death penalty for sabbath violation (see Exo. 35:1-2) is binding on Christians since it was bound on the Israelites? *Neither does it prove that the sabbath is bound on Christians!*

(To be continued)

(CRS)

(Continued from page 1)

things that are honest. Peer pressure is not always easy to resist. Doing that which is honest may cost us financially. Doing the honest thing is the right thing to do although it may sometimes bring disappointment and even heartache to some.

To be prepared to *provide things honest* we must heed the exhortation of Paul in Philippians 4:8 where he says: "**Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**"

(CRS)

A SERIES OF GOSPEL MEETINGS AT EAST ALBERTVILLE, March 14-19, 1999. On Sunday at 9:30 AM; 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM and at 7:00 PM Monday through Friday. There will be a different speaker at each service. *We welcome you to come!*

---

## SENTENCE SERMONS

The secret to contentment is not getting everything we want, but in wanting less.

\* \* \* \* \*

Patience is the ability to count down before blasting off. (Read Proverbs 15:1)

\* \* \* \* \*

Prayer does more than help us get what we want, it helps us become what God wants.

\* \* \* \* \*

A tongue three inches long can ruin a man six feet tall. (Listen to James 3:2-10)

\* \* \* \* \*

Faults are thick where love is thin. (Read 1 Cor. 13 and John 13:34-35)

---

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Second-class postage

4777 U.S. Highway 431

Albertville, Al 35950