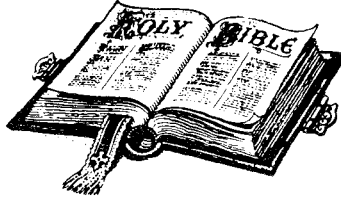


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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BAPTIZED "AGAIN"

Occasionally some honest, sincere and deeply concerned individual presents himself saying, "I want to be baptized again". My response is usually, "Why?" Quite often the reply is "I didn't know enough," or "I was too young to really understand what I was doing". For some this may very well be the case and when it is, one is not baptized, he simply gets wet. For others, the concern may be uncalled for.

To question and analyze our actions in light of what the Bible teaches has always been admirable. Remember the Bereans? (Cf. Acts 17:11). However, a fallacy sometimes attaches to the reasoning of some who question the validity of their baptism on the point of not knowing enough. Often one is prompted to judge that action on the basis of present knowledge, concluding he could not have known enough then because he has such a clear picture now. Is this a logical conclusion? All of us ought to know more about baptism now, the why and wherefore, than when we were immersed for the remission of sins. But it is not the "now" understanding that figures into the validity of the action, but the "then" knowledge.

When one is capable of understanding instruction and weighing evidence

which will motivate to action which he or she is ready and willing to accept the consequence of, they are old enough to obey the gospel. Such must know they are lost in sin, that salvation is in Jesus Christ. To get into Christ one must obey the gospel, the terms of which are faith, repentance and baptism for remission of sin; thus into Christ, added to the church, the one spiritual body of Christ where salvation is.

Indeed, in some instances one might need to consider his baptism as to its Scripturalness. If the action did not conform to divine requirement in every respect, if it was not understood as to the why and wherefore, one certainly needs to make his calling and election sure. God never intended that men be in doubt as to their relationship to him. If question exists, resolve it.

-- Julian R. Snell in
THE MANSLICK ROAD
SPEAKER, 8/1/75

THE PSALMIST SAID: "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord." (34:11)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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CAROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor, 1107 Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

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Editorial . . .

“PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN” (No. 22)

In the December, 1985 issue of THE INSTRUCTOR, we gave Scriptural proof that the teaching that “Churches may scripturally encourage the teaching of false doctrine and the practicing of sin” is false teaching. The fact that many churches and preachers (including a number of so-called “conservative” churches and preachers) have imbibed the spirit of compromise and do not have enough faith and conviction to stand firmly for truth and righteousness does not change truth and righteousness one iota. It only changes their attitude toward false doctrine and sin.

We call upon those who believe that churches may Scripturally encourage the teaching of false doctrine and the practicing of sin to meet us in a series of public discussions on this issue. Do you think that anyone has enough conviction left to defend what they believe along this line? We are waiting to see.

Number twenty-two is the next item in the list of twenty-five things that appeared in the October, 1983, issue of THE INSTRUCTOR, under “Specific Wickedness” for which Scriptural proof for the opposite view (than that stated in #22) has been requested. It reads as follows:

“22. We are not under any system of law.”

COMMENTS: The word law usually suggests authority and submission

in obedience. Many people resent the idea of “law” in spiritual matters because they do not want to humble themselves before God and submit in obedience to God’s will. They obviously desire to pick their “spiritual obligations” to suit themselves - sorta “cafeteria” style. However, the desires and actions of people do not determine whether or not we are under any system of law. God has already determined that.

A sincere consideration of the following facts and principles should convince all who desire the truth that we are under a system of law!

1. The apostle Paul affirmed that we cannot be justified by the law. In Gal. 3:11 Paul said: **“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.”** In Acts 13:39 he also said: **“And by Him (Jesus Christ -CRS) all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”** We read in Gal. 2:16 that **“... by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”** NOTE: The fact that we cannot be justified by the law (or the works of the law) of Moses does not prove nor even suggest that we are not under any law whatever!

2. In Romans 6:14 Paul told the saints at Rome that **“... Ye are not under the law, but under grace.”** NOTE: The fact that Christians are not under the law of Moses does not prove nor even suggest that we are not under any law whatever! QUESTION: Is it possible that “grace” provides some system of “law” for us to follow? OBSERVATION: We learn from Paul in Titus 2:11 that **“... the grace of God... teaches us...”** how we should live. How else would we know how to live? God’s grace teaches us what to do and what not to do. If we do it, we are promised eternal life, and if we refuse to do it, we have no promise of eternal life. Sounds a little like a “system of law”, doesn’t it?

3. In 1 Cor. 9:20 Paul mentioned the fact that unto the Jews he became as a Jew; to them that were under the law, as under the law that he might gain them. He also said: **“To them that are without law, as without law (being not without law to God, but under**

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the law to Christ) that I might gain them that are without law." (1 Cor. 9:21). The apostle Paul recognized his union with and his subjection to Christ. Yes, we are **"not without law to God, but under the law to Christ"**. NOTE: Saints are **not without law to God, but under law!**

4. James 1:25 says: **"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."** Several things are obvious from a reading of this passage. (1) There is a law. (2) It is a perfect law. (3) It is a law that liberates. (4) It is for all because James says **"But whoso . . ."** (5) It can be looked into and continued in. (6) To be blessed, the one looks into this law **must do the work**. NOTE: Obviously, this is the same **"system of law"** given by **"grace"**.

(5). In Romans 3:27 Paul asks, **"Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.** NOTE: The context indicates that the **"law of works"** is the law of Moses. It is the law that was first given to the Jews. Boasting is not excluded by that law, but it is excluded by the **"law of faith"**. We are justified without the deeds of the **"law of works"**, but we should not conclude that we are justified without the deeds of the **"law of faith. One must obey "the faith"** in order to be saved. In Acts 6:7 we are told that **" . . . a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith . . ."** Romans 16:26 mentions **"the obedience of faith"**. One's faith must act. It must work. It must obey! We must be obedient to the faith, that is, to the system of faith, the gospel, the truth, the law of faith! **Yes, we are under the law of faith.**

6. Under the Levitical priesthood, **"the people (the Israelites - CRS) received the law"**. (See Heb. 7:11). In Heb. 7:12 we read: **"For the priesthood being changed, (from the tribe of Levi to Judah-CRS) there is made of necessity a change also of the law"**. NOTE: This change of priesthood did **not** require the abolition of

all law, but it brought about a change of law.

7. Jesus Christ was **"made a surety of a better testament"**. (See Heb. 7:22). He is the mediator of a **"better covenant"** which was established upon **"better promises"**. In making this **"new covenant"** the Lord said, **"I will put my LAWS into their mind, and write them in their hearts."** (Heb. 8:10). NOTE: Under the **"new covenant"** we have laws!

8. In Galatians 6:2 Paul urges Christians to **"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ"**. NOTE: By the wildest stretch of the imagination it would be difficult to conceive that Paul means that **"we are not under any system of law"**.

9. Read carefully Galatians 2:11-14 and observe the following points: (1) Paul rebuked Peter because **"he was to be blamed"**. (2) Peter was guilty of **hypocrisy** (dissimulation). (3) In acting hypocritically Peter was **not** walking **"uprightly according to the truth of the gospel"**. CONCLUSION: In acting hypocritically, Peter violated **God's law** (the gospel)! Today, if we act hypocritically, we violate **God's law** as revealed in the gospel! Cf. 1 Peter 2:1-2; James 3:17 & Romans 12:9.

10. In Romans 2:16 Paul said: **"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL."** We learn from John 12:48 that **"the word"** that Jesus spoke will judge us in the last day. We are told in James 2:12 to **"So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged BY THE LAW OF LIBERTY"**. QUESTION: Are there three **distinct standards** by which we will be judged in the last day? Obviously not! CONCLUSION: The **word** spoken by Christ is the **gospel**, the **law** of liberty by which we will be judged in the last day! Question: Are we going to be judged by some system of law that we are **not** under? Believe it? Who can?

IF WE ARE NOT UNDER ANY SYSTEM OF LAW TODAY, THEN:

1. There is no one in the position of authority over us who has the right to give us **commands!** Please read 1 John 2:3-4; John 14:15-23; 15:13 & Rev. 22:14.

2. It is not necessary to our salvation

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for us to bear another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ as taught in Gal. 6:2.

3. It is **not** essential to our salvation that we look into the perfect law of liberty and continue therein as taught in James 1:25.

4. It is not needful to our salvation that we **obey** the "laws" that the Lord said he would put in our hearts and minds under the "new covenant" as recorded in Hebrews 8:7-13.

5. We do **not** sin by violating the New Testament law! Please read 1 John 3:4.

6. It is **not** necessary to our salvation that we obey **any** system of law!

7. It is **not** essential to our salvation that we obey "the law of faith"!

8. We will be judged by a system of law (the law of liberty, the word of Christ, the gospel) although we are **not** under it! Please read James 2:12; John 12:48 & Romans 2:16.

Dear reader, do not be deceived by

those who feign love and respect for God by using "good words and fair speeches". **We are under law!**

When a person **presumes** to speak the doctrine that "**we are not under any system of law**" in the name of Christ, he is speaking **presumptuously** and is teaching **false** doctrine because such is **not** taught in God's Book! **The person who so speaks is guilty of wickedness!**

Let each of us earnestly endeavor to learn God's will and fear Him to the extent that we will "**so speak**" and "**so do**" as those **who will be judged by the LAW of liberty!** (See James 2:12).

(CRS)

(To be continued)

THE PREACHER SAID:
"As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him." (Prov. 10:26).

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

It is a sweet thought to know that you are not forgotten by the one you can't forget.

* * * * *

Self-righteousness is never right.

* * * * *

You cannot straighten out a snake, or sin, except by **killing** it.

* * * * *

Alcohol is **not** a stimulant but a depressant, both physically and spiritually.

* * * * *

Proper cross-bearing ends in victorious crown wearing.

* * * * *

A Bible in the hands is worth two on the shelf.

* * * * *

The fact that a person **talks** godly does not mean that he **walks** godly.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1107 Highway 431 South
Albertville, AL 35950