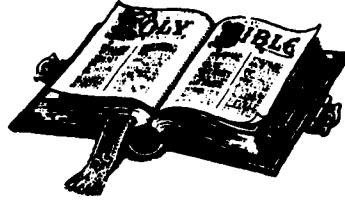


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 DID THE LORD REQUIRE OF ISRAEL?

In Deut. 10:12-13 Moses said: "And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes..."

The above passage reveals in principle what God required of the children of Israel under the Old Testament. It may be summed up as follows.

FEAR GOD

I. GOD REQUIRED ISRAEL TO FEAR THE LORD THEIR GOD! As the Israelites of old were required to fear the Lord so are we! The apostle Peter declared in Acts 10:35 that "...In every nation he that feareth him and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Later, in addressing the people of God the same apostle exhorted them saying, "... Fear God ..." (1 Peter 2:17). In Col. 3:22 Paul admonished servants to "...Obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God." Solomon said: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God,

and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." God requires of all men fear (i.e., reverential awe and deep respect for God that prompts obedience).

WALK IN HIS WAYS

II. GOD REQUIRED ISRAEL TO WALK IN HIS WAYS! Since "... It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23), God expects man to walk in His ways. To walk in God's ways **we must**: (1) Walk by faith (cf. 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17), (2) Walk in the Spirit (cf. Gal. 5:25), (3) Walk in the fear of the Lord (cf. Acts 9:31), (4) Walk in the truth (cf. 3 John 4), (5) Walk honestly (cf. Rom. 13:13), (6) Walk circumspectly (cf. Eph. 5:15), (7) Walk in newness of life (cf. Rom. 6:3-4), and (8) Walk as Christ walked (cf. 1 John 2:6).

LOVE GOD

III. GOD REQUIRED ISRAEL TO LOVE HIM! When asked, "Which is the great commandment in the law," Jesus replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

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Editorial . . .

THINGS WE CAN KNOW

Although there are many things that we do **not** know and in many instances we cannot know, there are many things that we **do** know and many things that we **can** know. Let us consider some of the **things we can know** according to 1 John. Here are some of them.

1. WE CAN KNOW THAT WE KNOW HIM! 1 John 2:3 says: "**And hereby we do know that we know him if we keep his commandments.**" NOTE: If we do **not** keep his commandments we do **not** know that we know him.

2. WE CAN KNOW THAT WE ARE IN HIM! 1 John 2:5 says: "**But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.**" NOTE: If we do **not** keep his word we do **not** know that we are in him!

3. WE CAN KNOW THAT WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM! 1 John 3:2 says: "**Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**" NOTE: Although we do **not** know what we shall be, we **do** know that when the Lord comes we shall see him as he is and we shall be like him!

4. WE CAN KNOW THAT WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH

UNTO LIFE! 1 John 3:14 says: "**We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.**"

NOTE: If we do **not** love the brethren we do **not** know that we have passed from death unto life.

5. WE CAN KNOW THAT WE ARE OF THE TRUTH! 1 John 3:19 says: "**And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.**" NOTE: If we do **not** practice the truth (esp. as set forth in the preceding verses) we do **not** know that we are of the truth.

6. WE CAN KNOW THAT HE ABIDETH IN US! 1 John 3:24 says: "**And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.**" NOTE: If he has **not** given us the Spirit we do **not** know that he abideth in us. We also read in 1 John 4:13: "**Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he that giveth us of his spirit.**" We can know that we dwell in him.

7. WE CAN KNOW THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF ERROR! 1 John 4:6 says: "**We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**" NOTE: It is the spirit of truth if we hear what **inspired** men like the apostles taught. It is the spirit of error if we do **not** hear what **inspired** men (like the apostles) taught.

8. WE CAN KNOW THAT WE LOVE GOD'S CHILDREN! 1 John 5:2 says: "**By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments..**" NOTE: If we do **not** love God and keep his commandments, we do **not** know that we love the children of God.

9. WE CAN KNOW THAT WHO-SOEVER IS BORN OF GOD SINNETH NOT! 1 John 5:18 says: "**We know that whosoever is born of**

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THINGS WE CAN KNOW

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God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." NOTE: The person who keepeth himself does **not** practice sin. The person that practices sin is of the devil! Also read and consider 1 John 3:8-9. FURTHER NOTE: These verses are **not** teaching that a person will live sinlessly perfect. They are **not** teaching that a person will **never** commit a sinful act or have a sinful thought. Please read and study 1 John 1:5-2:1.

10. WE CAN KNOW THAT THE SON OF GOD HAS COME AND HAS GIVEN US AN UNDERSTANDING! 1 John 5:20 says: "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life." NOTE: If we accept the truth as revealed by John (and other **inspired** men) we can know that Christ has come and has given us an understanding, that we might know him.

We can **NOT** know BY OUR FEELINGS that WE KNOW HIM! Or that WE ARE IN HIM! Or that WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM! Or that WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE! Or that WE ARE OF THE TRUTH! Or that HE ABIDETH IN US! Or THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF ERROR! Or that WE LOVE GOD'S CHILDREN! Or that WHOSEVER IS BORN OF GOD SINNETH NOT! Or that THE SON OF GOD HAS COME AND HATH GIVEN US AN UNDERSTANDING, THAT WE MAY KNOW HIM THAT IS TRUE! We can know the above things if we are willing to accept the testimony of the Scriptures!

Let us rejoice because of the things that we **can** and **do** know as revealed in the Scriptures!

WHAT DID THE LORD REQUIRE OF ISRAEL?

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(Matt. 22:37-38). God requires of all that we **love** Him. Please read and carefully consider Romans 8:28; 1 Cor. 8:3; 1 John 2:5; 1 John 4:20-21 and 1 John 5:2-3. Israel's love for God (or **lack** of love for God) was shown by their actions. **So is our love for God shown by our actions!**

SERVE GOD WITH HEART AND SOUL

IV. GOD REQUIRED ISRAEL TO SERVE HIM WITH THEIR HEART AND SOUL! Acceptable service to God is service that comes from the heart and soul. To become a Christian one must believe in **his heart** that Jesus is Lord and must **obey** "from the heart" the doctrine of Christ. (See Rom. 10:9-10 & Rom. 6:17-19). Our service to God must be a "**spiritual service**." (See Rom. 12:1-2 ASV). We should "**with purpose of heart**" cleave unto the Lord (cf. Acts 11:23) and our service to Him should be with "**singleness of heart**" (cf. Acts 2:46). Also see Eph. 5:5; 6; 2 Tim. 2:22 & Heb. 10:22.

KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS!

V. GOD REQUIRED ISRAEL TO KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS! God requires us today to keep His commandments. (See 1 John 2:3-4; 3:22; 3:24; 5:2-3; 2:6; Rev. 14:12 and 22:14).

The Israelites were required to keep the commandments that God gave to **them**. They were not required to keep the commandments that God gave to Adam (cf. Gen. 2:16-17), to Noah (cf. Gen. 6:14-22), or to Abraham (cf. Gen. 12:1; Heb. 11:8 and Gen. 22:1-2). Neither are we to obey the commandments that God gave to Adam, Noah, Abraham or to **the Israelites**. We must obey the commandments that God has given to us in the **New Testament**! God has **not** commanded us to **keep the sabbath day holy** nor to put a man to death who gathers sticks on the sabbath. Neither did

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THE BREATH OF LIFE

Please read and meditate on the following verses of Scripture and be impressed with the brevity of life.

Job 9:25-26 — “Now my days are swifter than a post; they flee away, they see no good. They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.”

Job 7:6-7 — “My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and are spent without hope. O remember that my life is wind: . . .”

Psalms 39:5 — “Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and my days as nothing before thee: . . .”

Job 14:2 — “He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as shadow, and continueth not.”

James 4:14 — “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

Psalms 90:12 — “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

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WHAT DID GOD REQUIRE OF ISRAEL?

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God command us to offer animals as offerings and sacrifices to the Lord but He did command the children of Israel to do these things! Sabbatarians try to bind the command to keep the sabbath holy that God gave to Israel but they refuse to inflict the death penalty upon a man who gathers sticks on the sabbath day as God commanded! (See Numbers 15:32-36).

(CRS)

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