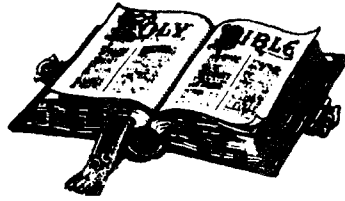


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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"BE NOT WEARY IN WELL DOING"

In 2 Thess. 2:13 Paul exhorted saints to "...**Be not weary in well doing**". The expression *be not weary* means not "*to be weary in anything, or to lose courage, flag, faint*" according to Thayer's Lexicon, p. 166. Paul is urging Christians to *not lose courage or faint in well doing*.

Through the years we have seen hundreds of saints lose courage and faint. They fail of or fall from the grace of God (cf. Heb. 12:15). Usually it is a gradual process. One stops his earnest contention for the faith (cf. Jude 3). Compromise begins in practice and teaching (cf. Mt. 12:30; 6:24). Assembling with the saints becomes a chore instead of an exalted privilege (cf. Mt. 12:30; 6:24). Criticism of God's people as individuals, the truth and the church of Jesus Christ as God designed it becomes habitual. Interest in spiritual things wanes. Then complete apostasy occurs. A soul that was zealous has turned away from God's way and is in a lost condition! This is deplorable! We must not let this happen to us! Paul is urging Christians to not lose courage or faint in well doing.

As Christians we must not lose

courage or faint in living lives of self-denial of ungodliness and worldly lusts; lives of soberness, righteousness and godliness (cf. Titus 2:11-12). We must never tire of opposing such sins as immodesty in dress, social drinking, dancing, swearing, gambling, homosexuality, unscriptural divorce, etc. to the point that we lose courage or faint (cf. 1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Pet. 4:3; Gal. 5:19-21; James 5:12; Rom. 12:17; Rom. 1:26-32; Mt. 5:32; 19:9; Rom. 12:1-2). We must never tire of teaching the truth on how to be saved, how to worship God acceptably, the church, its organization and work, the eternal soul of man, death, the resurrection, judgement, heaven, hell, etc. (cf. Mk. 16:15-16; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:38; John 4:23-24; Mt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4-6; Phil. 1:1; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; etc.

We must never tire of endeavoring to be good examples, salt and the light of the world to the point that we lose courage or faint (cf. 1 Tim. 4:12; Mt. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:12-16).

At times all of us will get tired physically and mentally as we fulfill our responsibilities as Christians. A period of rest will be needed to

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Editorial ...

MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 2)

In our study last month we considered five questions in light of the truth as revealed in the Scriptures. The questions were as follows: (1) *What day is the sabbath?* (2) *Who gave the sabbath?* (3) *To whom was it given?* (4) *When was it given?* (5) *Why was it given?* Let us continue our appeal to the Scriptures as we continue our study of the *sabbath* question.

VI. WHAT DID SABBATH KEEPING REQUIRE? Since God gave the command to the Israelites to **"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy"** (Exodus 20:8), only *God* had the right to give the requirements of sabbath keeping. "God gave some negative requirements and some positive ones. In fact God gave more negative than positive ones. Here are some things that He required of the Israelites.

1. **THEY WERE REQUIRED TO DO NO WORK ON THE SABBATH!** He commanded: **"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days, shalt thou labor and do all thy**

work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." (Exodus 20:8-10).

In Exodus 31:15 the Lord spake through Moses, saying, **"Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death."** Again in Exodus 35:2 we read: **Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the Lord: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death."** In Numbers 15:32-36 we read: **"And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the Lord said to Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the Lord commanded Moses."**

The evidence is clear! The proof is ample! *God required the Israelites to do*

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MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY?

no work on the sabbath! They were required to rest on the sabbath!

2. **THEY WERE REQUIRED TO DO NO BAKING OR BOILING ON THE SABBATH!** When gathering the manna (bread) provided for them from heaven, they were to gather twice as much on the sixth day than on other days. The Lord through Moses said: **"Tomorrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning."** (Exodus 16:23). It is obvious that *Israelites were not to gather manna nor bake or boil any thing on the sabbath!*

3. **THEY WERE REQUIRED TO KINDLE NO FIRE ON THE SABBATH!** The Israelites were clearly instructed, **"Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day."** (Exodus 35:3). This instruction is plain and easily understood! *Sabbath keeping required the kindling of no fires in their dwellings!*

4. **THEY WERE REQUIRED TO BEAR NO BURDEN ON THE SABBATH!** The Lord through Jeremiah commanded the Israelites, saying, **"Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem; Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers."** (17:22-23). These instructions were given hundreds of years after the giving of the command to keep the sabbath day holy at Mount Sinai as recorded in Exodus 20. It is obvious that these

same requirements had been given to their "fathers". Without question, *the Israelites were required to bear no burden on the sabbath day!*

5. **THEY WERE REQUIRED TO OFFER TWO LAMBS, ETC. ON THE SABBATH!** After discussing a number of other offerings we read in Numbers 22:9-10 that the Lord said, **"And on the sabbath day two lambs of the first year without spot, and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and the drink offering thereof: This is the burnt offering of every sabbath, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering."** This offering (including two lambs) were required for sabbath keeping! *Yes, sabbath keeping required the offering of two lambs, etc.*

In view of the above requirements of the Israelites for sabbath keeping, if we examine the so-called "Christian" churches that claim to be keepers of the sabbath day we find their "sabbath keeping" lacking. they pick and choose what they want to practice for "sabbath keeping" without regard for the Scriptural requirements of the Israelites to whom the sabbath command was given! In other words, *those who claim to be keeping the sabbath day holy do not observe the sabbath as the Israelites were told to observe it!*

If we are to observe the sabbath day because it was one of the ten commandments given to Israel on Mount Sinai, it is imperative that we observe it by meeting the requirements of sabbath keeping as set forth in the above Scriptures!

(To be continued)

"BE NOT WEARY IN WELL DOING"

renew our strength and refresh our spirits (cf. Mk. 6:31). To help us not to lose courage or faint, here are some things we can do.

1. Remember that the Lord is with us! (Cf. Heb. 13:5-6; Psa. 23:4).

2. Remember that discouragement is only temporary! It will soon pass! (Cf. Psa. 30:5)

3. Remember that a way of escape is provided for every temptation and God's grace can sustain you through your trials! (Cf. 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 12:9).

4. Trust God and pray often! (Prov. 3:5; 1 Pet. 4:19; Phil. 4:6). **"And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."** (Gal. 6:9)

(CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS
Lacey's Spring, Alabama
July 27 - Aug. 1 1997
Natchez Trace, Camden, Tennessee
August 17-22, 1997

– SENTENCE SERMONS –

The bonds of discipline are essential to the development of sterling character.

* * * * *

God can use troubles to fashion us for better and greater things.

* * * * *

True humility prompts acceptance of and obedience to God's Will.

* * * * *

Secular education without God is like a ship without a compass.

* * * * *

Stumbling blocks may be carved into stepping stones.

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