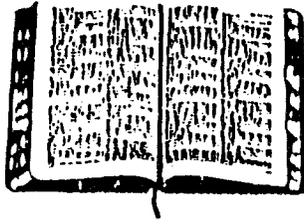


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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Number 6

"NEITHER MURMUR YE"

Speaking to saints the apostle Paul admonished, "*Neither murmur ye, as some of them* (the Israelites in the wilderness) *also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.*" (1 Cor. 10:10). VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NT WORDS (Vol. III, pg. 93) defines the word that is translated *murmuring* as "*indignant complaining*". Generally, a *low muttered complaint* or what we call *grumbling* is *murmuring*.

I. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF EXAMPLES OF MURMURING IN BOTH OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS. Here are some of them.

A. The *Israelites in such passages as* Exo. 15:24; 16:1-8; 17:1-6; Psalms 106:25; Numbers 14:1-3 and Numbers 14:26-27 *murmured*.

B. The *Scribes and Pharisees murmured against the disciples of Christ* in Luke 5:29-30 and *against Jesus* in Luke 15:1-2.

C. The *Jews murmured against Jesus* in John 38-43.

D. The *disciples murmured at the teaching of Jesus* in John 6:50-68.

E. In Acts 6:1-7 there *arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were being neglected in the daily ministrations*.

II. MURMURING IS SINFUL! It seems that a number of people take *murmuring* very lightly. It seems to be a way of life for them. However, since an apostle plainly said, "*Neither murmur ye*" and "*Do all things without murmurings*" (1 Cor. 10:10 & Phil. 2:14), *it is a transgression of the law of Christ and thus sinful!*

III. THERE IS PUNISHMENT FOR MURMURING! One of the reasons that some of the Israelites missed Canaan, the promised land, was because they *murmured*. (See Numbers 14:1-12; 14:26-39 & Psalms 106:24-27).

Murmurers will be lost! In discussing those who are ungodly sinners against whom woe is pronounced, Jude specifically mentions *murmurers* (Jude 14-16). Also see Rev. 21:27; 22:14-15; 1 John 3:4.

Such passages as Heb. 13:5-6; 1 Tim. 6:6-8 & Phil. 4:13 teach that we should learn *contentment*. It is not wrong to offer rebuke and constructive criticism when needed, but *murmuring* should be avoided.

Are you a murmurer? If so, you should repent! Remember that "*all things work together for good to them that love God...*" (Rom. 8:28).

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial...

MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 24)

In prior articles, we have endeavored to show the truth about the Sabbath Law that God gave to Israel by Moses for *specific* reasons. It was *provisional* and *temporary*.

We also studied the *two covenants* i.e., (two testaments, two laws). We showed from the Scriptures that the *first covenant* (which contained the sabbath command) was given to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai. It was *not* given to *all nations*. *It is no longer in effect as law! It is not bound on Christians and never was!*

Jesus Christ gave the new covenant and it was intended for *all nations!* (See Jer. 32:31-34; Heb. 8:6-13; Mt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-47; Mark 16:15-16 etc.) A study of such passages as Matthew 5:17-18; Col. 2:14-17; Eph. 2:14-16; Rom. 7:4-7; Heb. 7:12; Gal. 3:24-25; 2 Cor. 3:6-16 also *proves* that the sabbath law is *not* binding on Christians.

In our previous articles we have also examined and exposed "arguments" that are sometimes made

by Sabbatarians in an effort to bind sabbath keeping on Christians

In our articles the last three months we gave some additional information about the sabbath and related matters. We had seven major points and some observations. Let us continue our study.

VIII. SABBATARIANS OFTEN ASSERT THAT "WE MAY STEAL, KILL, COMMIT ADULTERY, COVET ETC. IF WE ARE NOT UNDER THE TEN COMMANDMENT LAW TODAY THAT GOD GAVE TO ISRAEL THROUGH MOSES."

1. Although it is often asserted, it is never proven!

2. Sin is a transgression of God's law according to 1 John 3:4. Adam transgressed God's law by eating of the forbidden fruit (cf. Gen. 2:16-17; 3:1-6) *before* God gave the ten commandment law to Israel through Moses. (See Exo. 20:1-17; Deut. 5:1-22). The commandment that Adam violated was *not one of the ten commandments!* Thus sin entered the world *before* the giving of the ten commandment law to Israel!

3. *After* the giving of the ten commandment law by Moses to Israel and *after* it was fulfilled, nailed to the cross and taken out of the way (as taught in Mt. 5:17-18; Luke 24:44-46; Col. 2:14-17; etc.), Simon sinned by trying to buy the power to impart the Holy Ghost to others (in a miraculous way) like the apostles had. (See Acts 8:14-24). NOTE: Simon *did not sin* by violating *one of the ten commandments*

4. Let us now consider the ten commandments as contained in the law God gave to Israel by Moses and notice how the New Testament Scriptures prohibit or enjoin every thing (and more) that was prohibited or enjoined by the ten commandment law *except the command to keep the sabbath day holy*. The New Testament does *not* command sabbath keeping.

(Continued on page 3)

A. The ten commandment law taught *no other gods before God*. (Cf. Exo. 20:3). The New Testament teaches that *we should turn from vanities unto the living God* that made heaven, earth and sea and all things therein. (See Acts 14:15).

B. The ten commandment law taught *no graven images, etc.* (Cf. Exo. 20:4-5). The New Testament teaches that *we should keep ourselves from idols*. (See 1 John 5:21).

C. The ten commandment law said: "*Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.*" (Cf. Exo. 20:7). The New Testament *forbids swearing and blasphemy* and teaches us that *we will give an account for every idle word that we speak*. (See James 5:12; Col. 3:8 & Mt. 12:34-37).

D. The ten commandment law said: "*Honour thy mother and thy father...*" (Cf. Exo. 20:12). The New Testament teaches children to obey and honour their parents in Eph. 6:1-3 and in 1 Tim. 5:4 we are taught to *show piety at home and to requite our parents*.

E. The ten commandment law said: "*Thou shalt not kill*" (Exo. 20:13). The New Testament teaches us that murder is a work of the flesh and those who commit murder cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven. (See Gal. 5:19-21). It also teaches us to love the brethren, our neighbors and our enemies (1 Thess. 4:9; 1 John 2:10; 3:14; Rom. 13:8-10; Mt. 5:43-48). None of these were found in the ten commandments. NOTE: The commandment that prohibited bearing false witness against the neighbor and coveting anything that belongs to the neighbor did not teach the Israelites to love him. Other commandments in the Law of Moses (the first covenant) did teach them to love their neighbors. (Cf. Lev. 19:18).

F. The ten commandment law said: "*Thou shalt not commit adultery*" (Exo. 20:14). The New Testament not only forbids adultery but also forbids looking on a woman to lust after her and also calls that adultery. (See Mt. 5:27-28). Adultery is a work of the flesh according to Gal. 5:19-21. Also see Mark 7:20-23.

G. The ten commandment law said: "*Thou shalt not steal*" (Exo. 20:15). The New Testament teaches us *not to steal* (See. 4:28). The NT teaches us to "*give to him that needeth*" in that same passage. Which of the ten commandments taught the Israelites to "*give to him that needeth?*"

H. The ten commandment law said: "*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour*" (Exo. 20:16). The New Testament teaches us *not to lie* which includes bearing false witness against our neighbor. It also includes bearing false witness against our enemy or about anything else. Lying in all forms is condemned in the NT. (See Col. 3:9; Eph. 4:25; Rev.21:8; 21:27).

I. The ten commandment law prohibited the Israelite from *coveting his neighbour's wife or possessions*. (Cf. Exo. 20:17). The New Testament teaches us *not to covet* and tells us that covetousness is idolatry. It also teaches us that the covetous shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven. (See Eph. 5:3-5; Col. 3:5). Which of the ten commandments prohibited the Israelite from coveting the wife and possessions of his enemy?

People today do not sin by violating the ten commandments *as such*, but by *violating the law of Christ as revealed in the New Testament!* No, we are not under the ten commandments today! Yes, it is sinful to steal, kill, commit adultery, covet, bear false witness against our neighbor, etc.

(Continued from page 3)

IX. COMMANDMENTS OF GOD GIVEN TO OTHERS IN A PRIOR-DISPENSATION ARE NOT BINDING ON US TO-DAY.

A. This is a basic principle of truth that many religionists over look. They assume (and assert) without proof from the Scriptures that all of God's commandments apply to all people of all ages.

B. Let us consider some commandments that God gave in prior dispensations that will illustrate the above principle.

1. God commanded Adam *not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil* in Gen. 2:16-17. This command *does not apply to us* in this dispensation!

2. God commanded Noah to *build an ark of gopher wood* in Gen. 6:14. This command *does not apply to us* in this age!

3. God commanded Abram to *offer his son Isaac for a burnt offering* in Gen. 22:2. This command *does not apply to us* in this age!

4. God commanded Moses to *number the firstborn among the Israelites* in Num. 3:42. This command *does not apply to us* in this dispensation!

5. God commanded Aaron to *offer burnt offerings and sin offerings, etc.* in Lev. 9:7. This command *does not apply to us* in this age!

6. God commanded Joshua to *set the city of Ai on fire* in Joshua 8:8. This command *does not apply to us* in this dispensation!

7. God commanded the Israelites to *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy"* in Exo. 20:8. That command (like the other above ones) *does not apply to us* in this dispensation! It was given to the children of Israel in a prior dispensation! It was not given for people who live in the gospel dispensation! We are under law to Christ! (To be continued)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

PINE GROVE, Clay Co., KY- July 18-23, 1999.

LAPORTE, IN -August 15-20, 1999.

WESTLAND, MI- September 5-10, 1999.

SENTENCE SERMONS

It takes far more effort to make a good life than a good living.

* * * * *

We should have enough wisdom to say all that *should* be (not all that *could* be) said.

* * * * *

A groundless rumor can cover a lot of ground in a short time.

* * * * *

Often the chains of bad habits are too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.

* * * * *

It is not your position in life that counts, but it is your disposition.

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