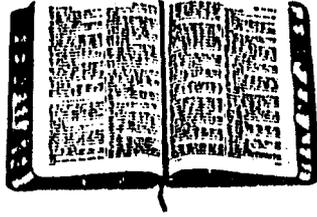


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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

MAY, 1999

Number 5

"YE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH"

Speaking to His disciple in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said: **"Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shalt it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under the foot of men."** (Matthew 5:13). When Jesus told this disciples that they (figuratively) are the salt of the earth, He was telling them that they were something good because salt is good. In fact, in Mark 9:50 Jesus said: **"Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another."** In Luke 14:34 Jesus said: **"Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?"**

In the Old Testament *"a covenant of salt"* is mentioned in Numbers 18:19 and *"the salt of covenant of thy God"* is mentioned in 2 Chron. 13:5. There is not much information given about *the covenant of salt*.

We also learn from the OT that **"offerings were to be offered with salt"** in Lev. 2:13-14 and Ezekiel 43:24. Jesus probably had reference

to this when He said, **"For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt"** in Mark 9:49.

When Ezra (and others) left Babylon, Artaxerxes (King of Persia) authorized **"Salt without prescribing how much"** be given to Ezra. (Ezra 7:22)). Obviously, it was important that Ezra and the other Israelites have salt.

As Jesus said, **"salt is good"**. Let us consider some good qualities of salt and think about how we can and should be as salt.

1. SALT SEASONS (OR FLAVORS)! It makes food tastier and more palatable. We should live in such a way so as to glorify Christ and be an influence for good. Because others can see Christ in us may persuade them to become interested in learning and obeying His Gospel. QUESTION: What kind of seasoning (or flavoring) are you? Good or evil?

2. SALT PRESERVES (OR SAVES)! Salt is used to preserve food and thus save it from decomposition. We should endeavor to teach people the gospel and influence them to obey it so as to

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THE INSTRUCTOR

(usps # 581680)

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

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Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950.

Editorial...

MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 23)

In our past 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!*

The *new covenant* was given by Jesus Christ 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 two months we gave some additional information about the sabbath and related matters. We had five major points and some observations. Let us continue our study.

VI. THE TEN COMMANDMENT LAW, AS SUCH, WAS A LAW OF DEATH. Sabbatarians often say, "*The ten commandment law was not a law of death.*" However, this statement is never proven by the Scriptures. It is assumed and asserted with proof!

When a person violated most of the ten commandments he was subject to death (physical). Let us notice each of the ten commandments and see if that is so. Read Exo. 20:1-17 for a list of the ten commandments. Here they are.

(1) *No other gods* (vs. 3). A reading of Deut. 13:6-11 will tell us that if a friend or a relative were to secretly say, "**Let us go and serve other gods,...**" that he (or she) was to be stoned to death!

(2) *No idols or images* (vss. 4-5). A reading of Deut. 13:6-18 and Exo. 22:20 indicates that a person who worships idols (which could be images) would be put to death!

(3) *Not take God's name in vain* (vs. 7). A reading of Lev. 24:10-16 informs us that a person who took God's name in vain would be put to death!

(4) *Keep sabbath holy* (vs. 8). We learn from Exo. 35:1-2 that death was the penalty when one violated the sabbath command by working!

(5) *Honour parents* (vs. 12). A person who dishonoured his parents by smiting them was to be put to death! (See Exo. 21:15).

(6) *Not kill* (vs. 13). Death was the penalty for killing another person according to Exo. 21:12-14.

(Continued on next page)

(7) *No adultery* (vs. 14). According to Lev. 20:10 both the adulterer and the adulteress were to be put to death!

(8) *Not steal* (v. 15). In the case of a man stealing another man, death was the penalty according to Exo. 21:16. In some cases, a thief would be sold and in other cases restitution (sometimes as much as five for one) would be made. (See Exo. 21:16 & 22:1-14).

(9) *Not bear false witness* against neighbor (vs. 16). It seems from a reading of Deut. 19:16-21 that death could be exacted as a penalty in some cases but not in most cases.

(10) *Not covet* (vs. 17). Although death is not specifically stated as a penalty for a violation of this commandment, covetousness could lead to violations of other commandments which could (and in many cases would) result in death! Achan in Joshua 7 is an example of this.

Yes, without question, *the Law that contained the ten commandments was a law of death!*

The same Law (the Old Covenant) that contained the ten commandments also contained a number of other commandments that had death penalties for those who violated them. Here are some examples.

1. Lev. 20:15- **And if a man lie with a beast, he shall surely be put to death: and ye shall slay the beast.**" (Cf. Exo. 22:19).

2. Read Deut. 13:5 and you will see that *a false prophet* or a dreamer of dreams was to be put to death! NOTE: Suppose all false prophets today were put to death. It might be good for the people but it would be sad because false prophets will be lost eternally in hell!

3. Exo. 22:18- **"Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live."** (Also read Lev. 20:27).

4. Read Lev. 18:22 & 20:13 and you will see that those who are guilty of homosexuality were to be put to death.

5. According to Deut. 21:18-21 a stubborn and rebellious son that was a drunkard and a glutton was to be put to death.

NOTE: The evidence is overwhelming! The conclusion is clear! The Law that God gave through Moses to Israel that contained the ten commandments was a law of death! It required the death penalty for many of its violations. We should rejoice and be grateful that we are *not* under that Law today.

VII. THE FIRST COVENANT (INCLUDING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS WAS FAULTY. Although Sabbatarians deny this fact the Hebrew writer says: **"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second."** (8:7). Although the first covenant was perfect in the sense that it accomplished that which God designed it to accomplish, it was faulty from other standpoints. Let us consider some ways in which it was faulty.

1. Although it purified the flesh, *it did not purify the conscience.* (See Heb. 9:13-14)

2. Since the ceremonies, etc., were required in the tabernacle and later in the temple, *it could not be a world-wide religion.*

3. Its promises *emphasized the physical and temporal* rather than the spiritual and eternal.

4. *It could not permanently take away sin.* (See Heb. 10:4).

5. Under it *violators died without mercy.* (See Heb. 10:28).

6. *It made nothing perfect* according to Heb. 7:19.

Yes, the first covenant was faulty but the second is a perfect law of liberty! (Cf. James 1:25) (To be continued)

(continued from page 1)

save or preserve them from eternal damnation.

3. SALT ASSISTS IN HEALING! Salt in water is often used to help sore throats. There are many sick (physically and spiritually) people in the world. We should do what we can to assist in their healing.

4. SALT MELTS ICE (OR LOWERS THE FREEZING POINT)! As disciples of Christ we should have proper attitudes and conduct ourselves in such a way so as to melt the hearts of hard or cold hearted people. We should *love our enemies* and *do good to them that hate us*. (Cf. Luke 6:27). We should *not* return evil for evil but *good for evil*. (Cf. Rom. 12:17-21). We should do to others, *as we would have men to do unto us*. (Cf. Luke 6:31).

5. SALT MAKE ONE THIRSTY! The thirstier one gets the more water he desires and drinks. When disciples
(Continued in next column)

are examples of true believers "**in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity**" (1 Tim. 4:12), people of the world will take note of it and will be favorably impressed. In other words, it may make them thirsty for the living water. Ungodly lives by those professing to be saints repel sinners!

In Col. 4:6 Paul said: "**Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.**" Grace should characterize our speech and *salt should season it*. Our speech should always be true. We should endeavor to make it interesting and challenging! Wisdom (as found in *common sense*) should direct us in our speech.

Are you truly salt of the earth?

GOSPEL MEETINGS

High St, WOODBURY, TN. June 6-11, 1999.
EAST A'VILLE, Albertville, AL June 20-25, 1999--Our brother, Shirley Mullins will be preaching.

SENTENCE SERMONS

A *narrow mind* with a *wide mouth* can cause a lot of confusion and trouble.

* * * * *

Our *walk* should always be according to our *talk*.

* * * * *

You may need false teeth but be sure that your *tongue is always true*.

* * * * *

The Word of God will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from God's Word.

* * * * *

Avenging makes us *even* with our enemies, but *avenging not* makes us *superior* to them.

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