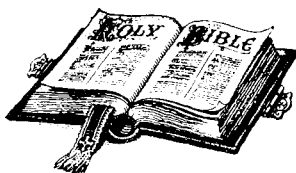


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 16

OCTOBER, 1979

Number 10

A CHALLENGE TO THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

We read with interest your full page advertisement entitled: "AN OPEN LETTER TO EVERYBODY" which appeared in THE HUNTSVILLE TIMES, Saturday, August 11, 1979. In your article you endeavored to show that there is no Scriptural authority for Christians today to worship God on the first day of the week. You also endeavored to prove that the seventh day (sabbath) is binding under the law of grace as revealed in the New Testament. In other words, you tried to prove that Christians today must keep the sabbath in order for them to please God and thus be saved eternally.

Your article indicates a lack of understanding of God's Word. Your conclusions are the results of NOT "rightly dividing the word of truth." (See 2 Timothy 2:15). We do not question your integrity, but we do believe you are in error and we have a responsibility to expose such. (See 2 Timothy 4:1-4).

A CHALLENGE: We hereby kindly (and yet firmly) challenge you (the Seventh Day Adventists and especially Mr. E.C. Ward & Company) to enter into a series of public discussions with us on "the sabbath question." We suggest at least four

two-hour sessions which will be arranged by mutual agreement. We would like for everybody to have a chance to hear and examine both sides of this question. Are you willing for this to be done? If not, why? Are you afraid that your "position" will not stand when the search light of God's eternal truth shines upon it?

We are willing to AFFIRM this proposition: **"The Scriptures teach that Christians today should worship God on the first day of the week."** Are you willing to DENY this proposition? We are willing to DENY this proposition: **"The Scriptures teach that the sabbath law is binding on Christians today."** Are you willing to AFFIRM this proposition? Is there a "Sabbatarian" anywhere who is willing to sign these propositions and arrange for a series of public discussions? If so, let us hear from you soon.

We are ready and willing to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (See Jude 3). We are ready and willing to "dispute and persuade" the things concerning the kingdom of God as the apostle Paul did in

(Continued on page 4)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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CARROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

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Editorial . . .

LEGALIZING LIQUOR

In a previous article the sinfulness of **drunkenness** and **social drinking** was clearly shown from the Scriptures. All who truly understand and believe God's word recognize that **neither drunkenness nor social drinking are of faith! Neither can they be practiced by faith!**

There are some people who claim that it is right to "legalize" the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors. (Of course, I am not referring to the taking of alcohol medicinally as prescribed by a physician.) Is this OF FAITH? Can it be done BY FAITH? It is NOT OF FAITH and it can NOT be done BY FAITH unless it is authorized in God's word since "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17). Let us honestly and candidly consider the following:

I. UNDER THE OLD TESTAMENT MEN WHO GAVE THEIR NEIGHBOR TO DRINK WERE CONDEMNED. Habbukkuk said: "**Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him,...**" (Habbukkuk 2:15). Since it was a sin to give drink, would God have held those "innocent" who sold his neighbor drink? What about people today who do the same thing? Can you honestly say that you

believe that with such God is well pleased? Can You?

II. UNDER THE OLD TESTAMENT MEN WHO MINGLED STRONG DRINK AND JUSTIFIED THE WICKED FOR REWARD WERE CONDEMNED. Isaiah said: "**Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: which justify the wicked for reward,...**" (Isaiah 5:22-23). Since it was wrong to drink wine and mingle strong drink and justify the wicked for reward, would God have held those "innocent" who sold the wicked strong drink and justified them in buying and drinking strong drink? What about people today who do the same? Can you honestly say that you believe that with such God is well pleased?

III. IT IS SINFUL TO LEGALIZE THE SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS BECAUSE:

A. It is sanctioning, encouraging and promoting what God condemns. This places a person in direct opposition to God's will. Since **drunkenness** and **social drinking** is sinful we are sanctioning, encouraging and promoting what God condemns when we "legalize" the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors.

B. Legalizing liquor will NOT "make for peace" nor "edify" Christians, but it will cause trouble, strife, sorrows, woes, pain, deaths and will weaken and cause many to stumble. THIS IS SINFUL! Please read Romans 14:19-21; Eph. 4:29; Matt. 18:6 and 1 Corinthians 8:9-13.

C. One can NOT put forth efforts to "legalize liquors" and be "an example of the believers" not be "a pattern of good works" in all things. 1 Tim. 4:12 says: "**Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.**" In Titus 2:7-8 Paul exhorted Titus saying: "**In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works:...**" Jesus said to his disciples: "**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**" (Matthew 5:16). In writing to the saints at Philippi the apostle Paul said: "**Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among who ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life;...**" (Phil. 2:14-16).

D. Legalizing liquors can NOT be done
(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

LEGALIZING LIQUOR

"in the name of", i.e., by the authority of, Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul said: "**And whatsoever ye do in the word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**" (Col. 3:17). **THEREFORE, IT IS SINFUL!**

E. Legalizing liquors can NOT be done "to the glory of God." In writing to saints of God, the apostle Paul said: "**Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**" (1 Cor. 10:31). **THEREFORE, LEGALIZING LIQUOR IS SINFUL!**

F. One can NOT legalize liquors and be absolutely sure that such is right in the sight of God. Romans 14:23 teaches that if one engages in something while doubting that it is right, **he commits sin and will be damned!**

G. All who use their influence to legalize liquors are "**partakers of other men's sins!**" Paul said: "**Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.**" (1 Tim. 5:22).

If we have the right to legalize one sin (the sale of liquor or the consumption of liquor), we also have the right to legalize **every sin**. This would include lying, stealing, gambling, prostitution and murder. Will the

*The "Legal Control"
motive in a nutshell..*



IF MY COMPANION WERE NOT A CHRISTIAN

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear." (1 Peter 3:1-2).

The greatest desire of a believer should be the conversion of his companion who is not a Christian. If they are truly converted themselves, if they are completely devoted Christians, then they will want the unbelieving husband or wife to be a Christian, then I would do certain things that would assist in converting that companion to Christ.

I would see that the right kind of literature and study material was in the home.

I would show my love of the Bible and my consideration of its importance by reading it and studying it daily. And I would try to get my companion to study with me.

I would be faithful to the church in its every assembly. I would allow nothing to interfere with my attendance at every worship service.

I would be Christ-like in the home with all conduct being governed by the gospel of Christ. In this behavior I would exemplify the joy and happiness to be gained in living the Christian life.

I would show the importance of Christian work by working in whatever capacity I was

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from left column)

LEGALIZING LIQUOR

"liquor bunch" use the "increased revenue" argument (which is palpably false) in an effort to legalize these sins?

The diagram in the left column gives a factual picture of the "Legal Control" motive.

NO, the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors can NOT BE ADVOCATED BY FAITH! It is not of God! It is of the Devil! It will not result in an abundant life here nor eternal bliss! It will result in financial loss and untold miseries and heartaches here, and it will cause millions to be eternally tormented! No one will be able to "undo" the damage that results from the legalization of the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors. **Need we say more?**

(CRS)

THE NEMESIS OF GREED

Have we not some cause to fear the clutch of some men on their earthly possessions has been so frenzied that they will be unable to loosen it, as was the case with this eagle in the following story?

A gentleman standing by Niagara saw an eagle swoop down upon a frozen lamb incased in a floating piece of ice. The eagle stood upon it as it was drifting on towards the rapids. When he neared the falls he stooped and spread his wings and leaped for his flight; but, alas, while he was feasting on the carcass, his feet had frozen to its fleece. He leaped and shrieked and beat upon the ice with his wings until the frozen lamb and eagle went over the falls and down into the chasm and darkness below.

—THE MINISTER'S MONTHLY

(Continued from page 3)

IF MY COMPANION WERE NOT A CHRISTIAN

able so that the kingdom of Christ might advance and be successful.

I would make it possible for my companion to be associated with those who were Christians and who exalted the church in their living.

—Foster L. Ramsey in THE WATCHMAN

The SUTTON-HILL DEBATE still has not been re-scheduled because of the reluctance of the opposition.

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PS Form 3526 (May 79)

(Continued from page 1)

A CHALLENGE TO THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

Ephesus as recorded in Acts 19:8-10. Are you Adventists ready and willing? Time will tell. (Ed. note: We placed the above ad in THE HUNTSVILLE TIMES, September 22, 1979).

Sentence Sermons

We all can't be apostles, but we can be "living epistles."

Talking too much usually follows thinking too little.

Are you a reflection of or on pure religion?

Supervising evil does not make it good.

Some people do odd things to get even.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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