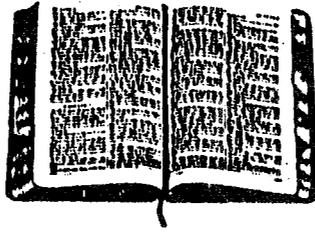


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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 37

August, 2000

Number 8

## **CHRIST IS BETTER THAN THE ANGELS!**

There are some (So-called *Jehovah's Witnesses* for example) who believe that *Jesus Christ was not and is not Deity*, but that He was a *created being*. They believe *He was an angel*. However, a candid study of the Scriptures will prove, without question, that *Jesus Christ was not an angel*. Please consider the following facts about Christ.

**THE SON (CHRIST) IS BETTER THAN THE ANGELS.** Referring to Christ Heb. 1:4 says: "Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." NOTE: Since Christ is *better* than the angels, *He is not an angel!* To prove this point the writer of Hebrews made the following statements.

Verse 5- "For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And a-gain, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son.?" NOTE: The *necessary implication* is that God never said to an angel "Thou art my Son, this day have

I begotten thee" or "I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son", but God did say these things to Christ. THEREFORE, *Christ the Son is not an angel!* (Also read verses 6-14; 2:7-18).

Verse 6 says: **And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him."** NOTE: Since God said "Let all the angels of God worship him" (referring to the Son) we must conclude *that the Son (Christ) was not an angel!*

Verse 8 says: "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever:.." NOTE: Since *God did not address an angel as God* and mention his kingdom, but He did address the Son as *God*, we must conclude that **the Son (Christ) is not an angel!**

Verse 13 says: "But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make mine enemies thy footstool." NOTE: Since this was said to the Son (Christ), but not to angels, we must conclude that **Christ, the Son, is not an angel!**

*No, Jesus Christ was and is not an angel, but He was and is much better than the angels!* (CRS)

# 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.

CARROL RAY SUTTON

Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the Editor, 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950

Phone: (256) 878-0920

Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, AL 35950

## Editorial...

### WRONG IS ALWAYS WRONG (No. 6)

In our previous studies we have shown by the Scriptures that *Wrong Is Always Wrong*. We pointed out the following. I. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN THOUGH MOST PEOPLE ACCEPT IT. II. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT. III. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN THOUGH IT MAY GIVE A PERSON PLEASURE. IV. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH A PERSON DOES IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE. V. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH A PERSON THINKS IT IS RIGHT. VI. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH IT IS DONE IN ANGER. VII. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH IT IS DONE TO PLEASE OTHERS. VIII. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF IT IS CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE. IX. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF OTHERS ARE DOING WORSE. X.. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF NO ONE CONDEMNES IT, and, XI. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH ONE IS PERSECUTED FOR CONDEMNING AND OPPOSING IT. Let us continue our study.

XII. WRONG IS WRONG  
ALTHOUGH IT IS AUTHO-

**RIZED (or in some case, even commanded) BY CIVIL RULERS.** Sometimes when a person does something that is wrong he will try to justify it by saying, "*it is legal under civil law.*" The fact that civil law says a thing is right does not necessarily mean that it is. If a thing is wrong according to God's law, it is still wrong although civil rulers may say that it is right.

We learn from such passages as Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-16 that Jesus commanded the apostles to teach and preach His Word. It was right to do so! It would have been wrong for them not to have done so. However, we learn from Acts 4:5-18 that some rulers "**commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.**" NOTE: It was wrong for the apostles not to speak and teach in the name of Jesus. Although the rulers told them not to speak nor teach in the name of Jesus it was still wrong not to do so. Peter and John said to the *rulers*: "**Whether it is right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**" (Acts 4:19-20). The fact that the *rulers* were trying to get the apostles to do something that was wrong (quit preaching Christ) did not make it right. It was still wrong for them not to preach.

We learn from Acts 5 that the apostles were put in prison, but the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and told them to "**Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people**

(Continued on next page)

**all the words of this life.”** (Verse 20). The apostles followed their instructions. They were brought before the council and the high priest asked them, saying, **“Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, *We ought to obey God rather than men.*”** (Verses 28-29). NOTE: The apostles did not do wrong just because the rulers imprisoned them for not doing wrong. Wrong was still wrong even though it was commanded by the rulers. Also read verses 40-42.

Today, wrong is wrong although “it is legal” or it is authorized by civil rulers. It is wrong for a person (saint or sinner) to divorce his wife for any reason other than “for fornication”. If a divorce is granted by civil authorities for any other reason it is wrong. (See Mt. 19:9; 5:31-32). A divorce granted by civil authorities because of physical or mental cruelty, drunkenness or insanity, etc. is wrong although it is granted by civil authorities.

Selling and drinking intoxicants are wrong although it may be “legal” to do so. (Consider Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:18; 1 Peter 4:1-4; Mt. 7:16-20; 1 Tim. 5:22; Col. 3:1-7 & 2 John 11).

It is “legal” for a woman to publicly display her body in scanty attire but it is still wrong! (See 1 Tim. 2:9).

In many states it is “legal” to engage in gambling but it is still wrong to gamble. (Consider the principles stated in such passages as Luke 6:31; Rom. 12:17 and Gal. 5:19-21).

In some places prostitution may be “legal” but it is still wrong! (See 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8; Eph. 5:3-5 and Col. 3:1-6).

It is “legal” for a “put away” (i.e., divorced) person to marry, but it is still wrong! (See Mt. 19:9 and Mt., 5:31-32).

It is “legal” for a man to put away his wife for causes other than fornication, but it is still wrong when he does it. He causes his wife to commit adultery. (See Mt. 5:31-32).

It is “legal” for a person to file for “bankruptcy” in order to avoid paying his debts, but it is still wrong! (Consider the principles in such passages as Rom. 12:17; 2 Cor. 8:21; Rom. 13:8 and Luke 6:31).

Although civil rulers may command or allow people to do things that wrong, those things are still wrong! “Legalizing” a sin does not change it into a virtue. It is still wrong (sinful)!

It is “legal” for a Christian to be a soldier and intentionally kill people (even other Christians) because they are considered “enemies” (and may very well be) of the country in which the Christian lives. Even though it is commanded (or in some way authorized) by civil rulers, it is still wrong! (See Rom. 13:8-10; Galatians 5:19-23; Luke 6:31; Mt. 5:43-48; Acts 5:29).

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

It is "legal" (according to the law of the land) for preachers to preach and practice false doctrines, but it is still wrong! Jesus warned of false teachers when He said, **"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.** (Mt. 7:15-16; Also see Mt. 16:6-12; 1 John 4:1; 1 Thess. 5:21; Rev. 2:2).

Some preachers teach that *salvation is by faith only* although *there is no passage that says that*, but *there are passages that teach otherwise*. (See Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 10:34-35; James 2:24; etc.). All such preachers are false teachers! A false teacher does not become a true teacher even though it is "legal" for him to teach his false doctrine. Wrong is wrong

even though it may be "legal" according to the law of the land.

Some preachers teach that it is right for them to wear a religious title such as "Father" or "Rabbi" or "Reverend", etc. even though Jesus warned against such in Mt. 23:1-12. In verses 8-10 He said: **"But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.."** NOTE: Proper humility will keep a person from applying such religious titles to himself.

Yes, *wrong is still wrong even if it is authorized or even commanded by civil rulers!* Let us not try to justify wrong by saying "it is legal".

(To be continued) (CRS)

Beulah, Athens, AL August 16-17, 2000.  
Camden, TN August 27-Sept. 1, 2000.

## SENTENCE SERMONS

It is better to be alone than to be in evil company..

\* \* \* \* \*

If you truly believe it, you will sincerely strive to live it.

\* \* \* \* \*

God feeds the birds of the air, but he does not put the food in their nests.

\* \* \* \* \*

Liquor has never made a better leader, a better husband, a better father or a better son.

\* \* \* \* \*

We should preach and show the way of life by what we say and do.

CHURCH OF CHRIST  
4777 US Highway 431  
Albertville, AL 35950

Second-class postage