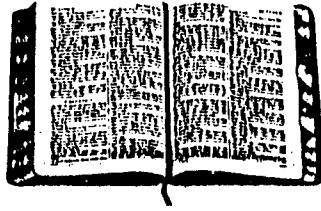


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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"SOME CALLS WHICH COME TO ALL" (NO. 2)

Mankind receives many calls. They may be physical or they may be divine. We can accept some calls or reject them, but there are other calls, which we have over which we have no control. Last month we discussed the *call of death*. Let us now consider another call that comes to man.

II. THE CALL FROM THE DEAD! Since Solomon said, "...A time to die..." and "For the living know that they shall die..." and Heb. 9:27 says, "...it is appointed unto men once to die..." we recognize that the *call of death* is coming. (Ecc. 3:2; 9:5). However, death does not end us! We will not go out of existence. We will exist forever.

There will be a call from the dead! We will be called from the state of death. There will be a resurrection! Jesus said, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; that they have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John :28-29). NOTE: Jesus taught *all* (those

who do good and those who do evil) *will be resurrected* from the dead.

In giving his defense against accusations brought against him, before the governor in Caesarea, Paul said: "And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust." (Acts 24:15). Paul not only believed in the resurrection of the dead but he taught it to others. In his defense before king Agrippa, Paul said: "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" (Acts 26:8). Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 and be impressed with the argumentation that Paul makes in presenting the fact that there will be a resurrection from the dead. To learn *how* the dead are raised up and with what body do they come, read 1 Cor. 15:35-55. (See 2 Cor. 4:14; Rev. 20:12-13; 1 Thes. 4:16).

Without question, Jesus and the apostle Paul taught that *there will be a universal resurrection of the dead*. The hour is coming in which it will occur. *The dead will hear the voice of Jesus and come forth from the dead!*

(CRS)

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Editorial...

WRONG IS ALWAYS WRONG? (Concluded)

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 EVEN THOUGH A PERSON THINKS IT IS RIGHT. VI. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH IT IS DONE IN ANGER. VII. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN THOUGH 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 CONDEMNS IT. XI. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH ONE IS PERSECUTED FOR CONDEMNING AND OPPOSING IT. XII. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH IT IS AUTHORIZED (or in some cases, even commanded) BY CIVIL RULERS. XIII.

WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF IT IS DONE FOR A "GOOD" CAUSE. XIV. WRONG IS WRONG E-V-E-N IF A POLITICAL LEADER OR A RELIGIOUS LEADER DOES IT. XV. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF IT IS DONE IN IGNORANCE. XVI. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH IT IS DONE TO HELP OTHERS. XVII. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF IT IS DONE IN WEAKNESS. XVIII. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE DONE IN AN EFFORT TO "FEEL GOOD AND BE HAPPY" and, XIX. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF IT IS DONE TO PROVIDE FOR SELF AND PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY. Let us continue our study.

XX. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE DONE WITH A GOOD CONSCIENCE!

Many people who do wrong will try to justify their wrong doing by saying, "*It didn't violate my conscience. I have a clear conscience*" or a person may say, "*I let my conscience be my guide.*" Another person may say, "*If you have a good conscience, that is all that matters*" or "*You should just let your conscience be your guide.*" Of course, none of these statements are neither found in the Scriptures nor taught in the Scriptures in principle.

The *conscience* of man is very important. No doubt, John referred to the conscience when he said: "**For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.**" (1 John 3:20-21). NOTE: The *conscience* (heart) can either *condemn us* or *condemn us not*.

Our *conscience* can *convict us* according to John 8:9. Our *conscience* may *be weak*. (See 1 Cor. 8:7; 8:12). A person's *conscience* may be *defiled* and it may *be evil*. (See 1 Cor. 8:7; Heb. 10:22). It is possible for a person to have a *conscience seared with a hot iron*. (See 1 Tim. 4:2).

On the other hand, a person may have a *good conscience*. (See Acts 23:1; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; Heb. 13:18; 1 Peter 3:16 & 3:21). My *conscience* is able to *bear witness* or give *testimony*. (See Romans 2:15; 9:1; 2 Cor. 1:12). A person's *conscience* may be *pure*. (See 1 Tim. 3:9). A person should exercise himself so as to have a *conscience void of offence* toward God and toward man. (See Acts 24:16).

We should endeavor not to have a *weak conscience*. We should always make sure that our *conscience is not defiled, is not evil and is not seared with a hot iron*. We should put forth all the effort necessary to see that our *conscience is good, pure and void of offence toward God and man*.

Obviously, when we act according to our understanding of what is proper and right, our *conscience is good, pure and void of offence*. However, when we act contrary to our understanding of what is proper and right, our *conscience is violated and may be defiled and evil*. If we continue to violate our conscience by doing things contrary to our understanding of what is proper and right, our *conscience may become seared with a hot iron*.

Our *conscience is not* the standard of what is right and what is wrong. *The word of God is the one and only standard of what is right and what is wrong!* (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:25; 2:12; John 12:48; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9-11; 1 John 3:4).

A person with a *good conscience* may violate the law of Christ. When he does, he sins (does wrong). The fact that he does so with a good conscience does not mean that he has not done wrong. If our conscience has been taught wrong we will not violate it when we do wrong. However, *it is still wrong!*

Saul of Tarsus is a good exam-

ple of a person who had a *good conscience* even while he was doing wrong (sinning). We learn from Acts 9:1-2 that Saul was **"breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord."** He desired of the high priest **"letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem."** When Stephen was stoned to death Saul stood by and held the raiment of those who killed him. Saul said he consented to the death of Stephen. (See Acts 22:20). In Acts 26:9-11 Saul declared: **"I verily thought with myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities."**

After committing all those sinful things mentioned above, Saul (in Acts 23:1) said: **"...I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."** NOTE: The fact that Paul had a *good conscience while doing wrong* did not make his wrongs (sins) right. Neither did it justify Saul in what he did. Remember: ***Wrong is always wrong al-though it may be done with a good con-science!*** The fact that Saul **"verily thought"** that he ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth did not make his wrong right! ***Wrong is always wrong al-though it may be done with a good conscience!***

A person with a *good conscience* may sincerely

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believe that he was saved from his alien sins by "praying through at an altar", but he is still lost in spite of his good conscience. [Cf. Saul who after praying was told to "**Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**" (Acts 22:16).] It is still wrong to teach or "practice" a "pray through" type of salvation. (See Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27).

A person with a *good conscience* may join the Islam religion, Catholic, Baptist, Seventh Day Adventist, Pentecostal, Mormon church or the Watchtower Society, but they are all still *wrong* and are destined to be rooted up! (See Mt. 15:14).

A man with a *good conscience* may divorce his wife for some cause other than fornication, and marry another but *it is still wrong!* (See Mt. 19:1-9; 5:32).

A person with a *good conscience* may marry a person who has been put away by his/her spouse, but *it is still wrong!* (See Mt. 5:32; Mt. 19:9).

A man who has been put away by his wife, may with a *good conscience* marry another, but *it is still wrong!* (Mt. 5:32; 19:1-9).

A person with a *good conscience* may believe that the blood of Christ will automatically (without repentance, confession and prayer) cleanse sins committed through weakness or ignorance by a child of God, but *it is still wrong!* (See Acts 8:18-24; 1 John 1:6-9; James 5:16).

A person with a *good conscience* may work and worship with a congregation (being a part of that group) that harbor, fellowship and thus encourage those who have been Scripturally "withdrawn from", but *it is still wrong!* (See 1 Cor. 5; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:11; 1 Tim. 5:22).

Please do not try to justify your sin (or that of anyone else) by saying, "My conscience is clear" or "He has a good conscience." A *good conscience* does *not* justify wrong doing.

Wrong is always wrong regardless of why it is done! (CRS)

SENTENCE SERMONS

If there is n'o thirst for righteousness there is no love for the truth.

* * * * *

If you *know* the truth but do not *live* the truth, the truth is *worthless to you*.

* * * * *

The person who brags about his humility does not have any.

* * * * *

To avoid drunkenness, never take the drink just before the second one.

* * * * *

Legalizing alcohol and gambling does not lesson the sin involved in them.

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