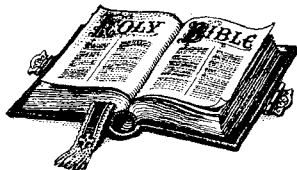


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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IS THE OLD TESTAMENT BINDING TODAY?

There are two main divisions in the Bible, viz. the Old Testament and the New Testament. Both of these are God's Word and should be studied by all Christians. But let us now raise this question: "Are both the Old and New Testaments given to us for authority in religion today?" Many say, "Yes," and go back to the Old Testament, the law of Moses, to find authority for the things they teach and practice in religion. There are two extreme views on this point. (1) Both Old and New Testaments are authority in religion today. (2) The Old Testament is of no value today. BOTH of these views are FALSE.

To claim that the Old Testament is of no value is erroneous. It is of value to us, but this does not make it God's law for us today. It is valuable because it is part of God's revelation. In 2 Peter 1:21, Peter said, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." The Old Testament is valuable to us because it was written for our example. In 1 Cor. 10 we notice Paul brings to the attention of the Christians at Corinth several things that happened in the Old Testament. Then in verse 11 he said, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come." Romans 15:4 teaches us that the Old Testament was written for our learning. There is no Scripture that teaches that the

Old Testament should be our law today.

We learn from a study of the Word of God that the Old Testament was not to continue always as a binding law. In Galatians 3:23-25 we learn that the purpose of the law was to BRING us to Christ. The law in this passage is called a schoolmaster, and Paul said since faith has come WE ARE NO LONGER UNDER THE SCHOOLMASTER. Read this passage and see how plain it is.

The purpose of the law was to bring us to Christ. After Christ came and established His law this put an end to the Old Testament as a LAW for people in religion. Notice the three statements Paul makes about the Old Testament law. (1) Blotted out. (2) Took it out of the way. (3) Nailed it to the cross. (Col. 2:14).

--Cecil F. Cox, Russellville, Ala.

THE PSALMIST SAID:

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down the the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountain of Zion: . . . Psalms 133:1-3)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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CARROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor, Route 3, Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

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Editorial — — — **DEATH**

Death! A sobering thought! As we stand in the presence and reality of death and miss the companionship of loved ones, we are prone to think how dreadful death is.

To us, death is an adverse circumstance, but in the New Testament death is spoken of as a positive benefit to a Christian. **Revelation 14:13** says: **"...Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."** Remember the words of the Psalmist in **Psalms 116:15**: **"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."**

To us, with our limitations, death never seems, under any circumstance, a precious thing. We look at death physically and consider only the immediate effects. However, God does not consider things as they appear to us, but at they stand in the eternal order.

The Christian need not look upon death with fear, as an enemy, but may face death courageously, regarding it as a friend.

WHAT IS DEATH?

Basically, the word **death** suggests a **separation**. **Death** is used in the Scripture of **"the separation of the soul** (the spiritual part of man) **from the body** (the material part), the latter ceasing to function and turning to dust" according to **VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS**, Vol 1, page 276. **Death** is also used to denote **"the separation of man from God."** **Death "never denotes non-existence."** Regarding the death of Rachel we read: **"And it came to pass as her soul was in departing, (for she died) . . ." (Gen. 35:18).** James says: **"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."** (James 2:26).

At death, there is a cessation of all earthly activities because the spirit that motivated and activated the body has departed from it, and the body begins to decay and return to dust.

DEATH IS A BLESSING TO THE RIGHTEOUS

Death is likened to sleep, (see Acts 7:60; 1 Thess. 4:14), and is rest and peace for the righteous. (See Psalms 37:37; Rev. 14:13). Death is not an ending or a going out of existence, but it is a departure for a better world and a new life. (See Phil. 1:21-23). The righteous dead have hope of eternal salvation. They have **"a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."** (See 2 Cor. 5:1-2; Col. 1:28; Titus 2:13).

In order for one to be righteous and thus be in position to be blessed in death one must obey the word of God. (See Matthew 7:21-23; James 1:21-25; Hebrews 5:8-9). Jesus said: **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."** (Mark 16:16). On the day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter said: **"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."** (Acts 2:38). Jesus also said: **"...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."** See also 2 Tim. 4:6-8; 1 Cor. 10:12; 15:58; 1 John 5:4; James 2:12.

DEATH IS A CURSE TO THE WICKED

A long time ago, God said to the house of Israel, **"... I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked. . ."** (Ezek. 33:11). The Psalmist tells us that **"God is angry with the wicked every day,"** (Psalms 7:11), and we learn from Isaiah 57:21 that **"There is no peace, saith**

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DEATH

my God, to the wicked."

We learn from Ephesians 2:12 that those who are wicked are lost in sin. They have "no hope," and are "without God in the world." The wicked will be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched and will be tormented forever and ever. See Mark 9:43-48; Matthews 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:10; 20:12-15; 21:8; 22:15.

DIFFERENT CLASSES OF WICKED

The **atheist** is a wicked person. He says in his heart: "**there is no God.**" He denies both revelation and reason. He has no hope whatever of being saved eternally. He is lost!

Materialists say that man is wholly mortal; that man does not have an eternal spirit. They reject such passages as Zechariah 12:1; Matthew 10:28; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Eccl. 12:7; 1 Peter 1:9; Revelation 6:9-11. They emphasize material things. They have no hope of eternal salvation. They will be lost forever.

Universalists contend that all people will be saved, but Jesus said: "**Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**" (Matthews 7:13-14). To be a universalist, one must reject the words of Jesus Christ. One can not be a universalist without rejecting Jesus Christ and thus being eternally lost.

Moralists will be lost eternally because they are in sin and are not willing to obey Jesus Christ. They place their trust in their own goodness and feel no need for Christ. The gospel is God's plan and power to save the lost. (See Romans 1:16; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). If morality alone could save a person, then Jesus Christ died in vain.

Alien sinners and all unfaithful children of God will be lost forever and ever. (See 2 Thess. 1:7-9; 1 Cor. 10:12; Matthew 25:30; Revelation 2:7; 2:10; 21:8). Yes, "**the wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God.**" (Psalms 9:17).

The appearance of Jesus Christ will be glorious for the righteous because they have "**that blessed hope.**"

WHAT DOES DEATH HOLD FOR YOU?

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CONSTANT COMPLAINERS

Some people are forever and eternally complaining. They criticize nearly everything that is said and done. They are constant complainers. Nobody ever exactly suits them. Jesus condemned the mote-hunter as possession of a disposition contrary to that which should characterize a citizen of His kingdom. "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye." (Matthews 7:3). Notice the harm done by the constant complainer.

1. **He has the wrong outlook on life.** He sets himself up as a judge of others. In so doing he manifests an arrogant attitude unworthy of one who claims to follow Jesus. The constant complainer is always ready-whether bidden or not-to offer his criticism of the words and deeds of others. He judges where Jesus said, "Judge not." (Matthew 7:1). This kind of judgment can in no wise be called righteous because its very roots are in the fault-finding spirit which is itself evil.

2. **He is the most self-centered of persons.** He expects every one to listen patiently to his complaints, but if some one complains of him, he becomes highly offended and deeply hurt. The constant complainer is very often one who is trying to cover his own insecurity by tearing down every one else. But one thing is sure, if one is going to be a mote-hunter, he may as well expect to be "mote-hunted." Jesus said, "For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." (Matt. 7:2)

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DEATH

Your attitudes and actions will determine whether you die the death of the righteous or the death of the wicked. If you want to be blessed of the Lord and live with the redeemed of all ages in eternal bliss, you must live in such a way that you can die the death of the righteous. But if you love cursing, so shall it come unto you. Which will it be for YOU?

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CONSTANT COMPLAINERS

3. **He is blinded to his own faults.** The mote-hunter is so busy condemning what others say and do that he doesn't see the "beam" in his own eye. In reality he is blind to his faults, the chief of which may well be his fault-finding disposition. Mote-hunters commonly mistake their complaining of others to be simply a matter of being "frank and honest." They take pride in saying what they "think." But there is no virtue in being unable to control one's tongue.

4. **He is obnoxious.** Nobody wants to hear complaining constantly. A nagging wife may run off a good husband (some have.) People are just not going to listen to one who complains eternally and they will avoid the company of such persons as much as possible. The mote-hunter will find himself cut off and left out and he can blame none but himself for his isolation.

5. **He discourages others.** Many good plans have been ruined by the ever-present complainer. I have had many good days ruined by having to listen to such. (That is, until I learned to file such complaints where they belong—in the garbage pail—and forget them.) But many weak persons in

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THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

We are still waiting to hear from **Albert Hill** and the West Hobbs Street "elders" about when we are going to re-schedule the HILL-SUTTON DEBATE that was supposed to have been conducted more than two years ago. Due to an injury to Sutton in an automobile accident, the debate was postponed with the agreement that it would be re-scheduled in the near future. There are many who doubt the debate will ever be re-scheduled. Time will tell.

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CONSTANT COMPLAINERS

the church are discouraged and even depart from the faith because of the fault-finders. The harm one does in hunting motes is untold.

We all perhaps are guilty of too much complaining, but if all of us complained and found fault as much as some do, the church would fall apart. Examine yourself! Are you one who criticizes too much and too often for your own good and for the good of the church? "Judge not, that ye be not judged."

—Earl Kimbrough

Sentence Sermons

Some folks who are inclined to criticize their neighbor would do well to step aside and watch themselves go by.

A narrow mind and a long tongue usually go together.

True charity is the desire to be useful to others without the thought of recompense.

The troubles of yesterday added to the worries of tomorrow are too heavy to be carried today.

Some people can make a cloak out of the smallest piece of religion.

A good way to forget your troubles is to help others to forget theirs.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Route 3, Highway 431 South
Albertville, Alabama