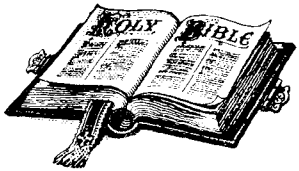
THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." . Timothy 3:16

Volume 17 NOVEMBER, 1980 Number 11

PRAISE

I suppose that at some time we all like to be praised. Those little words and gestures of appreciation are priceless to us. We often forget that those few words will do more to encourage others and to make their burden easier than all the money which might be offered. People need to feel that they are doing a good job and the price of praise is cheap indeed to keep people happily at their work. There is a sort of heirarchy of praise. We consider the praise of some, as much more valuable than that from others. Usually, we value praise from those we feel qualified to judge us in some respect, those we count as superior to us. This praise is seldom uttered. On the other hand, the repeated babblings of those whose opinion we do not value is lightly regarded. We shouldn't be found praising ourselves, but employers, husbands, parents, and friends should never forget the value of a well-considered compliment. The highest step in our heirarchy of praise should be God, who encourages us by telling us that our works will praise us, and that the most valuable praise will be from Him in the judgment. "... **then shall every man have praise of God."** (1 Corinthians 4:5).

But there were many things which I was not to praise. **"They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them."** (Proverbs 28:4). I am afraid when I hear Christians begin to praise various denominational speakers. I have often heard brethren speak of various denominational preachers, especially Billy Graham with words such as, "Well, he may not be completely right but he sure has a lot of good things to say." We should be careful with our praise. It is not the 50% of the truth that these men teach which will send their listeners to hell, but that 50% may provide the sugar coating disguise for the other half that is more bitter. I have witnessed many Christians as they began to drift away from the Lord. Gradually they began to brag on people outside the church and to deprecate its members. I am certain, brethren, that there is much in the Lord's church that is not pure as yet, but we should learn to put our appreciation and respect in the proper place lest we be in danger.

There are some people's praise that I do not want. In Acts 16:16-18, a woman with a spirit of divination followed Paul many days praising him. Paul was grieved at this and cast the spirit out of her. He did not desire praise from this source, realizing that it would do more harm than good in

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THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial . . .

MUST CHRISTIANS KEEP THE SABBATH DAY?

Several religious groups advocate the idea that **"the Scriptures teach that Christians must keep the sabbath** (the seventh day, i.e., Saturday) **today."** Is this idea OF FAITH? Can it be advocated BY FAITH? It cannot be OF FAITH nor advocated BY FAITH **unless** it is taught in God's Word since **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."** (Romans 10:17). Let us consider the following facts.

I. GOD THROUGH MOSES COMMANDED THE ISRAELITES TO "KEEP THE SABBATH DAY." The covenant that included "sabbath keeping" was made between God and Israel.

A. Exodus 20:1-17 records the ten commandments which includes the commandment to **"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."** (Verse 8). A careful reading of Exodus 19 and 20 will reveal that God was speaking to the children of Israel when he gave the ten commandments through Moses.

B. Deuteronomy 5:1 - : **And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them. The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day. The Lord talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire, ... saying, I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage."** Next we find a listing of the ten commandments. In verses 12-14 we can read "the sabbath command." Then verse 15 says: **"And remember that thou was a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and streched out arm: therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day."**

C. 1 Kings 8:9: **"There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt."**

D. Exodus 31:12-13 says **"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify thee."**

II. SABBATH KEEPING WAS GIVEN AS A SIGN BETWEEN GOD AND THE ISRAELITES. THEY HAD BEEN SERVANTS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT AND GOD BROUGHT THEM OUT. THEREFORE GOD COMMANDED THEM TO KEEP THE SABBATH!

A. Read Exodus 31:12-18 and Dt. 5:1-15.

B. Ezekiel 20:12 says: **"Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them."**

III. SABBATH KEEPING REQUIRED:

A. **Doing no work.** (See Exodus 20:8-10; 31:15; 35:2). NOTE: When a man violated the sabbath law by gathering sticks on the sabbath day, God commanded the congregation to stone him to death. (See Num. 15:32-36).

B. **Kindling no fire.** (See Exo. 35:3).

C. **No baking or seething** (boiling). (See Exo. 16:23).

D. **Bearing no burden.** (See Jer. 17:19-22).

E. **Offering two lambs.** (See Numbers 28:9-10).

NOTE: If "sabbath keeping is binding on Christians today," they would be

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EVOLUTION AT VARIANCE WITH BIBLE

The theory of organic evolution which says that life sprang originally from non-living matter and has since evolved into plants and animals, both living and extinct, can not be harmonized with the facts of science or the Bible. The theory of evolution is at variance with the Bible in at least the following points:

1. Evolution denies that life was **created.** Genesis 1.

2. It denies that the creative work **ceased.** Genesis 2:2; Hebrews 3:10.

3. It denies that God created man (male and female). Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 19:1-

4. It denies that man is the unique creature of God, distinct from animals. Genesis 1:26-27; Psalms 8:3-6.

5. It denies that man was originally in a **garden.** Genesis 2:8.

6. It denies the fixity of KINDS in Genesis 1. Evolution overlooks the fact that is physically impossible for man to cross with animals.

7. It denies the historical character of the Genesis account. (Examples above and below).

8. It denies that man 'FELL." Genesis 3. Evolution will not admit that man is a sinner in need of a Saviour.

9. It overlooks the difference between human blood and animal blood. Acts 17:16.

10. It overlooks the distinction of the four kinds of flesh. 1 Corinthians 15:39.

11. The evolutionary geologic record differs with the Genesis account on two major points:

A. **EVOLUTION:** Water animals before land plants.
GENESIS: Plants on third day; water animals on fifth day.

B. **EVOLUTION:** Reptiles before birds.
GENESIS: Birds on fifth day; creeping things on sixth day.

12. It denies, by its emphasis on chance and natural selection, that every effect must have an adequate cause. Hebrews 3:4.

13. It denies that God governs or sustains all things. Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3; 2 Peter 3:7; Acts 17:28.

14. Evolution is not in harmony with at least three scientific laws:
A. First law of thermodynamics;
B. Second law of thermodynamics;
C. The law of Biogenesis. The Bible is in harmony with these facts.

15. Evolution demands rejections of Jesus' teaching on the treatment of others. Matthew 5:38-39, 44.

16. Evolution denies all Biblical miracles, including the virgin birth and resurrection of Jesus.

17. It denies that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. Matthew 16:16.

18. It denies that the Bible is the special, Divine revelation of the mind of God.

19. It denies the very existence of God!!!

--Summary by FERRELL JENKINS

JUST A LITTLE CONTAMINATION

One day a mother was scraping vegetables as her daughter came into the room to ask permission to go to an "adult" movie.

"But all the kids are going," she said, "and their folks don't think it will hurt them." As she talked, she saw her mother pick up a handful of scraps and throw them into the salad. Rather startled, she shouted, "Mother, you are putting garbage in the salad!"

"I know," her mother replied, "but I thought if you didn't mind garbage in your heart and mind that you wouldn't care about a little in your stomach."

Thoughtfully, the girl picked up the peelings from the salad and then smiled at her mother. "I guess I'll just tell them I'm staying at home tonight," she said as she went throught the kitchen door.

--Taken from THE REMINDER

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PRAISE

associating him with the wrong people. Similarly, we should be aware that there are many people whose praise we neither want nor need. Indeed when we begin appealing to the wrong sort of reasons, we had better be careful for danger is lurking near us. Do you not suppose that the Devil is aware that many hearts and minds can be swayed by a few well-chosen words of flattery, spoken at an opportune moment? Be careful, all that glitters on the tongue is not really a compliment.

--**John A. Welch** in THE WAY

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MUST CHRISTIANS KEEP THE SABBATH DAY?

required to do all these things. If a man violated the "sabbath law," the penalty for "sabbath violation" would be required and should be imposed.

QUESTION: Do "sabbath keepers" today impose the penalty for violations?

IV. THE LAW THAT INCLUDED SABBATH KEEPING WAS NEVER INTENDED FOR ALL PEOPLES NOR FOR ALL AGES. IT WAS THUS NAILED TO THE CROSS AND TAKEN OUT OF THE WAY. IT WAS ABOLISHED. IT IS NO LONGER IN FORCE!

A. Please read and consider Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:6-13; Matthew 5:17-18; 2 Corinthians 3:6-14.

B. Please read and meditate on the following Scriptures: Hebrews 9:16-17;

(Continued in right column)

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7:12, 19: Romans 7:16; 8:2; Col. 2:14-17; Eph. 2:14-16; Gal. 3:19-27; Gal. 5:4.

No, the idea that "Christians must keep the sabbath today" is NOT OF FAITH and can **not** be advocated BY FAITH! "Sabbath keeping" is bound on Christians today by those who are either ignorant of God's righteousness or who desire to cause Christians to fall away from grace! Let us rejoice in **"truth and grace"** that "came by Jesus Christ!"

(CRS)

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Sentence Sermons

Right action springs from right thinking - so think right!

Don't say "Our Father" on Sunday if you intend to go around acting like an orphan.

Take a tip from nature. Man's ears aren't made to shut but his mouth is.

Lost men have to find the truth, not because it is lost, but because they are.

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