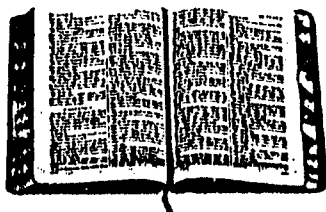


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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CRUCIFIXION

[Editor's Note: The following is a description of what is thought to have occurred when a person was crucified as quoted from Smith's Bible Dictionary.]

"...It was unanimously considered the most horrible form of death. Among the Romans the degradation was also a part of the infliction, and the punishment if applied to freeman was only used in the case of the vilest criminals. The one to be crucified was stripped naked of all his clothes, and then followed the most awful moment of all. He was laid down upon the implement of torture. His arms were stretched along the cross-beams, and at the centre of the open palms the point of a huge iron nail was placed, which, by the blow of a mallet, was driven home into the wood. Then through either foot separately, or possibly through both together, as they were placed one over the other, another huge nail tore its way through the quivering flesh. Whether the sufferer was also bound to the cross we do not know; but, to prevent the hands and feet from being torn away by the weight of the body, which could not 'rest

upon nothing but four great wounds,' there was, about the centre of the cross, a wooden projection strong enough to support, at least in part, a human body, which soon became a weight of agony. Then the 'accursed tree' with its living human burden was slowly heaved up and the end fixed firmly in a hole in the ground. The feet were but raised a little above the earth. The victim was in full sight of every hand that might choose to strike. A death by crucifixion seems to include all that pain and death can have of the horrible and ghastly, - dizziness, cramp, thirst, starvation, sleeplessness, traumatic fever, tetanus, publicity of shame, long continuance of torment, horror of anticipation, mortification of untended wounds, all intensified just up to the point at which they can be endured at all, but all stopping just short of the point which would give to the sufferer the relief of unconsciousness. The unnatural position made every movement painful; the lacerated veins and crushed tendons throbbed with incessant anguish; the wounds,

(Continued on page 4)

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Editorial...

SOME SINS OFTEN OVERLOOKED (NO. 4)

Many who claim to be Christians often overlook many sins. It may be because of ignorance due to a lack of study of the Scriptures or it may be because the seriousness of such is not realized. Let us continue our study of some sins often overlooked.

XVI. THE SIN OF "OVERMUCH SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS" IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED! The words "*self-righteous*" is defined by Webster as "*convinced of one's own righteousness esp. in contrast with the actions and beliefs of others.*" The word "*overmuch*" is defined as "*too great an amount; EXCESS.*" The idea that we are righteous and that everyone else is unrighteous is a form of "overmuch self-righteousness." The same is true if we think that we are right and could not be wrong about anything. Also if we trust in ourselves that we are righteous, boast about our righteousness and despise others we are "self-

righteous" and thus guilty of sin. (See Luke 18:9-14). In some sense we should "**Be not righteous over much...**" according to Eccl. 7:16.

Solomon declared that "**Most men will proclaim ever man his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?**" (Prov. 20:6). He also said: "**Let another praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.**" (Prov. 27:2).

There are many who are "self-righteous" but they are not right with God. "**There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.**" (Prov. 30:12). Isaiah 64:6-7 says, "**... But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags: and we do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.**" NOTE: All their righteousness was as filthy rags because their righteousness was not the righteousness of God. The same was true of the Israelites in Rom. 10:1-3 for whom Paul prayed that they might be saved. Being ignorant of God's righteousness they went about to establish their own righteousness and thus did not submit to the righteousness of God. Obviously they were self-righteous.

To be righteous we must do God's righteousness. (See 1 John 3:7). John declared, "**If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.**" (1 John 2:29). To be accepted with God we must work righteousness, but that does not make us "self-righteous". (See Acts 10:34-35).

Remember that Jesus indicated that the Pharisee who "**stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers,**

(Continued on next page)

or even as this publican..." was *not* justified as was the publican who humbled himself and said, "God be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:9-14).

We should be righteous in word and in deed, but we should not be "self-righteous" in the sense that we have been discussing. Let us not be guilty of overlooking this sin.

XVII. THE SIN OF COVETOUSNESS IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED. The sin of *covetousness* involves an eagerness or strong desire (usually an inordinate desire) to have something or to have more of something, esp. of things that belong to others. The word *covet* is generally used in an *evil sense* and usually involves material things but not always, although sometimes it is used in a good sense. (For a usage of *covet* in a good sense in the KJV see 1 Cor. 12:31).

In Rom. 1:29 Paul mentions some who were filled with "**covetousness**" (along with other sins) and stated that those who "**commit such things are worthy of death**". In Eph. 5:3 Paul again mentions *covetousness* and says, "**let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints.**" In Eph. 5:5 Paul mentions a "**covetous man, who is an idolater**" and in Col. 3:5 he says, "**...and covetousness, which is idolatry.**" The apostle Peter warned of *false teachers* "**who through covetousness shall...with feigned words make merchandise of you...**" (2 Peter 2:3).

We learn from the words of Jesus in Mark 7:20-23 that the sin of covetousness comes from "**within, out of the heart of men**" and *will defile a man*.

In 1 Cor. 5:11 Paul said: "**But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with**

such an one no not to eat." NOTE: This command to *not to keep company nor eat with certain ones includes a brother who is covetous*.

In 1 Cor. 6:9-11 we learn that those who are guilty of certain sins including *covetousness* shall *not inherit the kingdom of God*.

There are very serious consequences that follow the sin of covetousness. It is imperative that we take heed and examine our hearts and make sure that we do not overlook the sin of covetousness.

XVIII. THE SIN OF BEING PROUD IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED. The word translated "*proud*" in such passages as Luke 1:51 "**signifies showing oneself above others, pre-eminent...It is always used in the Scripture in the bad sense of arrogant, disdainful, proud.**" according to Vine's Expository Dict. of NT Words.

We learn from Luke 1:51 that God "**hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**" In Rom. 1:30-32 the "**proud**" are mentioned among those who are "**worthy of death**". In 2 Tim. 3:1-2 Paul declared: "**This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud...**"

NOTE: The reason for the perilous or difficult times is because men shall be *evil* which includes being *proud*. Writing to brethren James said: "**...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble.**" (4:6). Writing to the elect Peter said: "**...and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.**" (1 Peter 5:6).

Solomon said that "**An high look, and a proud heart...is sin**" and that God hates a *proud look*. (Prov. 6:17: 21:4). (To be continued) (CRS)

(Continued from page 1)

inflamed by exposure, gradually gangrened; the arteries, especially of the head and stomach, became swollen and oppressed with surcharged blood; and, while each variety of misery went on gradually increasing, there was added to them the intolerable pang of a burning and raging thirst. Such was the death to which Christ was doomed. --'Farrar's *'Life of Christ.'* The crucified was watched, according to custom, by a party of four soldiers, John 19:23, with their centurion, Mt. 27:66, whose express office was to prevent the stealing of the body. This was necessary from the lingering character of the death, which sometimes did not supervene even for three days, and was at last the result of gradual benumbing and starvation. But for this guard, the persons might have been taken down and recovered, as was actually done in the case of a friend of Josephus. Fracture of the legs was especially adopted by the Jews to

hasten death. John 19:32. In most cases the body was suffered to rot on the cross by the action of sun and rain, or to be devoured by birds and beasts. Sepulture was generally therefore forbidden; but in consequence of Deut. 21:22, 23, an express national exception was made in favor of the Jews. Matt. 27:58. This accursed and awful mode of punishment was happily abolished by Constantine."

--Smith's Bible Dictionary, pp. 129-130

Lam. 3:27- "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth."

NOTICE TO ALL WHO RECEIVED THE LAST BOUND VOLUMES OF THE INSTRUCTOR: There was a mistake made by the printers. They reprinted "'Must We Keep The Sabbath Today?' (No.12) *instead of* (No. 15) in the August 1998 issue. The rest of that issue is correct. We are making copies of the August, 1998 issue of The Instructor available to all who desire a copy to enable you to have the complete series on "Must We Keep The Sabbath Today?"

GOSPEL MEETINGS

EAST ALBERTVILLE, Albertville, Al - September 16-21, 2001 - Steve Klein preaching @ 7 PM.
NEW LEBANON, Ohio - October 7-12, 2001.

SENTENCE SERMONS

Instead of saying, "I must do *nothing* to be saved", sinners *should ask*, "What must I do to be saved?" NOTE: The answer to that question is found in the New Testament of Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

We should never forget our blessings nor remember our works of charity.

* * * * *

Your strength is seen in what you stand for and your weakness is seen in what you fall for.

* * * * *

To go to heaven we must carefully study the road map (the New Testament) and follow it.

* * * * *

"...O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." (Psa. 106:1).

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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