

A Quarterly Journal

(A presentation by email)

“LIGHT FOR OUR AGE”

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*“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”
Psalm 119:105*

Feature One: Editorial



Robert Oliver

Sitting in the Pew and Watching

As you stand looking at the congregation you notice that the room is nearly full. Members and visitors are talking in hushed tones as they enjoy visiting before the church service begins. Looking around you see members smiling, relaxed, and waiting to begin.

As the song leader begins his first song there is a great sound that startles everyone. It is the trump of God. The time has come, Jesus has returned. As the judgment scene unfolds the members of the congregation stand before the Lord. You are amazed to see many of the members you know and love placed on the left side. As they realize the meaning of where they are standing, they cry out in distress.

Then they hear Jesus look to his left and repeat the words as he warned his listeners when he lived upon the earth.

Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. (Matthew

25:41-43)

These people to whom Jesus spoke were shocked and surprised at the judgment of Jesus. Yet they should not have been. Listen to some of the other words of the Lord and the writers of the New Testament:

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness....

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

This article does not need to be long. The words of the Bible are clear. If we are not involved in doing the work of the Lord we will be on the left side in Judgment.

The blood of Jesus will cover our sins IF we follow him not only in word but also in obedience. Are you working for the Lord, or just sitting in a pew. Once we become Christians we have much to do. Worshipping God is a marvelous thing, but that is not the work of Christians, that is the worship the God that allows us to work for Him.

Feature Two: *an article by R. C. Oliver*



R C Oliver

“The Law Was Our Schoolmaster”

Taken from: “Light” Vol. 1 September 1955 Number 8

In Galatians 3:24 it is written: *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”*

I am convinced that a proper understanding of this passage will forever settle the question: Are Christians to be subject to the law which was given at Sinai or which the ten commandments might well be thought of as its constitution or are thy to look to another law?

That Christians are not subject to the ten commandments law, but that they are to look to another law, is obvious to those who have analyzed the above text, particularly the term “schoolmaster,” which, to the average reader, means simply a school teacher, But to so understand this term is to misunderstand it. What, then, I ask, is the meaning of the term?

The word which we have translated *schoolmaster* is from the Greek word *paidagogos* and means “a child conductor,” and not a school

teacher. The *paidogogos* was one who conducted the child from the home to the school, but never was he allowed to enter the schoolroom, For the *paidogogs* to have entered the schoolroom would have meant his death, That this is true may be seen from a quotation from *Barnes General History*, page 178, which is as follows:

“The *Athenian Boy* of good family was sent to school when seven years old, the school-hours being from sunrise to sunset. Until he was sixteen he was attended in his walks by a *pedagogue*, --usually some trusty, intelligent slave, too old for hard work,--who never entered the study room, no visitors, except near relatives of the aster, being allowed therein on penalty of death.”

From this quotation it is obvious to all that the schoolmaster's work was not that of teaching but of conducting---conducting the child from the home to the school. His function began at the home, and ended upon his arrival with the boy at the school. Now to the application.

The purpose or function of *the* law was that of leading the children of God from shaking Sinai to Christ and the church, but under no consideration is the law to be allowed admittance into the church as a guide or instructor there; this prerogative belongs only to Christ"! The work of the law began at Sinai, and it ended at the church, It must not be allowed to enter the church! And with this view the scriptures are in agreement, for it is written: “*Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made...wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*” *Galatians 3:19, 24-25.*

But someone objects by saying: “Why, if we are not to be subject to the ten commandment law, then we can bear false witness, take God’s name in vain, commit adultery *et cetera*.” But this is a false conclusion, drawn from false premises; for though it is true that Christians are not amenable to the law given on Mt. Sinai, yet that does not argue that they are not to be amenable to any law at all. In fact, the very opposite of this is true: Christians are continually “*under* the law to Christ.” (1 Corinthians 9:21). And though this law, which is “the law of the Spirit of life,” prohibits many of the same acts that the former law prohibited, yet it is not the same law, but is an entirely different law, which has been given to a different people, and which serves a different purpose.

I unhesitatingly admit that the two laws, the law from Sinai and the law from Jerusalem, are similar; however, similarity does not prove identity. The two laws are similar, but not identical! A good illustration may be seen in the laws of the different states: The law of Kentucky and the law of West Virginia are similar, but they are not identical, They are two different laws, for two different groups of people. And so it is with the law from Sinai, and the law from Zion. “*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*”

Feature Three: Sandy's Women's Corner



Sandra Oliver

“I Want To Come To Bible Class”

I have had a boy in my Wednesday evening Bible class for almost a year. He has come faithfully every Wednesday with his grandparents, but he never came on Sunday.

I watched this boy struggle because he wasn't there on Sunday to get the lesson, and Wednesdays are used for review. His frustration was obvious, and he hated not being able to answer questions.

One Sunday morning he appeared at the door with a big smile on his face. He said, “Mrs. Sandy, I am going to be here on Sundays from now on. I have been going with my other grandparents, but they are letting me change when I visit them so I can come to Bible class”.

I was so excited! This is such a sweet boy, one that seems to take in everything that is said and done. He has only missed a time or two since then, and he still comes on Wednesday evenings.

I give special awards at the end of each year for those that learn all the memory work. This young man started this quarter in September by learning his memory verse and proudly saying it every week since without a single mistake. He is working toward receiving that award.

I have such a special feeling toward this student because I know he is there because he wants to be in Bible class. He makes me proud to be a Bible class teacher. He makes me work harder on my lesson. He makes me know that is what teaching God's word is all about.

There are such blessings in teaching God's word, and there are special blessings in teaching children. It scares me though, because it is such a responsibility. James warns us about being teachers. He said, "*My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment*" (James 3:1 NKJV).

I have fourteen precious souls that I teach every Sunday morning. I am grateful for the opportunity, and I thank God that I can share His word. I want to go to Bible class every Sunday and Wednesday. Do you?

Feature Four: Our Communication:

Have One Conversation at a Time

Multitasking may be fine for some, but people rarely want your divided attention. If too many things are going on, you're likely to miss important details that might make the difference between success and failure. Whether you are having a conversation in person or on the phone, give the other person focused time. You'll make them feel important and worthy. Plus your conversations will actually be shorter. [http://www.inc.com/kevin-](http://www.inc.com/kevin-daum/8-ways-to-improve-your-communication-right-now.html)

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Feature Five: Bible Question

Answered in *Light*, October, 1955

“Is it true that sins were forgiven under the former dispensation, and if so what does the scripture mean that says: ‘For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins’?—Mrs. C

Yes, it is true that sins were forgiven under the former dispensation; for it is written: “*The priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them.*” ---Leviticus 4:20. Jesus lived and died under the former dispensation and during his life he forgave men of sins. —Mark 2:5. John the baptist also baptized “for the remission of sins” prior to Christ’s death, and therefore during the former dispensation – Mark 1:4. How then, our querist asks, are we to harmonize this idea with the text that affirms: “*It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins?*” This text is to be harmonized with the above passages by asking: In what manner were the people forgiven during the former dispensation? Certainly they could not have been forgiven in the *absolute* sense,--Hebrews 10:4. We conclude therefore that it was in *anticipation* that sins were forgiven during the former dispensations, and not in the *absolute*.

Humor:

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," he called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. "With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

In Closing:

This ends our seventh year together. That seems impossible. During that time I retired from one job (teaching at the McCallie school) and this year began another. Yet I still enjoy so much the ability to share God's word with you each quarter. I trust for you the rest of the year will be enjoyable, and I hope to visit you again by this medium next year.

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Bob Oliver