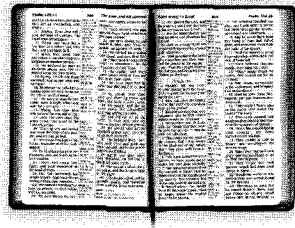


# THE INSTRUCTOR



***"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)***

**Volume 41**

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## **"FOR WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT"**

As Christians we must have a strong personal faith that is the result of our hearing **"the word of faith"** which is the gospel, the system of faith. (See Romans 10:8; 1:16; Gal. 1:23; Acts 6:7; Jude 3). To have proper faith we must hear the word of God because **"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (See Romans 10:17). We must allow proper faith to direct our lives. In Romans 1:17 Paul declared that **"...The just shall live by faith."**

In 2 Cor. 5:7 we read: **"...(For we walk be faith, not by sight:)..."** To walk by faith means that we allow **"the word of faith"** to have free course in our hearts and lives. We must agree with God's will as revealed in the Scriptures. A long time ago Amos the prophet asked: **"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"** (3:3) To walk with God we must first agree with God.

Today, most people will not walk with God because they do not agree with God. To become a child of God **"by faith"**, a penitent believer must be **"baptized into Christ"**. (See Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41; Galatians 3:26-27). Not many people are willing to do this. They try to get into Christ some other way.

In order for one to *walk by faith* as a child of God, he must *listen to God* and *follow God's instructions*. God warned Noah of the destruction that would come upon "all flesh" by a universal flood that would come upon the earth and told him to build an ark. God gave specific instructions relative to building the ark. Noah *listened to God* and **"by faith"** he very carefully followed God's instruct-

ions. See Genesis 6:5-22. Verse 22 says: **"And thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he."** Referring back to this the Hebrew writer said: **"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."** (Hebrews 11:7).

This is an example of one walking by faith. He listened to God and did **"according to all that God commanded him"**. To walk by faith means that we *please God*. In Hebrews 11:6 we read: **"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."**

To receive the kind of faith that pleases God, one must hear the Word of God because **"...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Romans 10:17). We learn from the Word of God what pleases God and we do it by faith.

In order to walk by faith a person must not walk by human opinions or human traditions, our likes or dislikes or by our preferences. None of these things constitute divine authority and none of these things will produce true faith in our hearts by which we should walk and live that we might truly please God.

Are you *walking by faith*? Did you truly *become* a child of God *by faith*? Are you truly *living by faith*? Are you *pleasing* God in your actions? In your works? In your deeds? Examine yourself in light of the Word of God!

(CRS)

# THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial...

### HELL! IS THERE A PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT FOR THE WICKED? (No. 27)

In previous studies of *Hell*, we have been exposing those who teach the *false doctrine* that the wicked will *not* be tormented eternally, but that they will be annihilated and thus cease to exist. Most of these also contend that the dead are in a state of non-existence and unconsciousness. Most of them also teach the doctrines that *man is wholly mortal* and that he does not have an eternal soul or spirit within his physical body.

Let us resume our study of some arguments that are made in an effort to prove that there is not a place of eternal torment for the wicked. At this time we are going to continue our consideration of *Argument XII* as listed below.

**XII. ARGUMENT:** "THERE CAN BE NO ETERNAL TORMENT FOR THE WICKED BECAUSE WHEN THEY DIE, ARE CUT OFF, OR DESTROYED, THEY CEASE TO EXIST. THEY BECOME EXTINCT. THEY ARE ANNIHILATED."

#### REPLY:

As we continue our examination of words that appear in a list of 25 or so, that Curtis Dickinson gives in his booklet that he thinks proves that there will be a total bringing to nothing or non-existence of the wicked, we are learning that the desired conclusion is

*not proven* by the verses that Dickinson lists. (The list is found on pages 20-21 of What the Bible Teaches About Immortality and Future Punishment and is taken from Professor L.E. Froom's monumental work,, "The Conditionalists' Faith of Our Fathers). Let us continue a study of the words listed and the passages given.

13. Dickinson gives the expressions "*Kill Outright, Put to Death*" and lists Matt. 10:28; 21:41; 22:7; Mark 12:9; Luke 19:27; John 10:10; Rom. 7:11; 8:13; 2 Cor. 3:6; Col. 3:15; Rev. 2:23 in an effort to sustain his false positions.

In Matthew 10:28 Jesus said: "**And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both body and soul in hell.**" NOTE: These words of Jesus not only do *not* prove that man does not have an eternal soul and can *not* be tormented eternally in hell, but they prove that *man does* have a soul that can and *will* exist after the death of the body and if wicked *will* be cast into hell. (For additional information read Luke 12:4-5.)

The fact that man can *kill* (or put to death) the body, but cannot *kill* (or put to death) the soul proves that the soul *can* and *will* exist as an entity *after* the death of the body.

The word *kill* as used here cannot possibly mean to *annihilate* or to *cause one to cease* to exist, because after God has killed He has power to cast into hell (see Luke 12:5). NOTE: God has power to destroy both body and soul in hell by casting the body *and* soul into hell to be punished (tormented). See Mt. 25:41, 46; Rom. 2:2-11; Rev. 20:10; 21:8, etc.) *Killing* the body does not annihilate it because *after* it has been killed God is able to destroy it or cast it (along with *the soul*) into hell to be tormented. Isn't the truth simple?

Matthew 21:41 says: "**They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.**" NOTE: The chief priests and elders of the people told Jesus that the householder would "**miserably destroy those wicked men**", simply meaning that he would *kill* them. Neither the KJV, ASV nor NASV is translated "*kill outright*" or "*put to death*". They say "*destroy*". For a more detailed study of what is involved in "*destroy*", please see the discussion under number (12.) above that we discussed earlier.

Matthew 22:7 says: "**But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those mur-**

**derers, and burned up their city."** NOTE: Neither the KJV, NKJV, ASV nor the NASV is translated either "*kill outright*" or "*put to death*". They say "*destroyed*". Of course, in their being *destroyed* they were *killed, put to death*! There is absolutely nothing to suggest that they were *annihilated* or *ceased to exist*. For further discussion of "*destroyed*", see the discussion under number (12.) above.

Mark 12:9 says: "**What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others.**" NOTE: Again we have the word *destroy* which simply means to *kill*. There is nothing to indicate that the husbandmen (in the parable) would be *annihilated*! For further discussion of *destroy*, etc. see the discussion under number (12.) above.

Luke 19:27 says: "**But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.**" NOTE: There is nothing to indicate that "*slay*" means to *annihilate*. It means to *kill*, to *put to death*. We learn from Exodus 2:12 that *after* Moses "**slew the Egyptian**" he "**hid him in the sand.**" It is obvious from this that the Egyptian *was not annihilated* and *ceased to exist* when he was slain.

We also learn from such passages as Acts 2:23; 5:30; 10:38-39; Rev. 5:6, 9, 12 & 13:8 that Jesus Christ was *slain*. Will Dickinson, Fudge, Maxey & company *clearly* state that Jesus Christ *was annihilated* and thus *ceased to exist when* He was "**crucified and slain?**" Or will they *clearly* state that Jesus Christ *was not annihilated* and *did not cease to exist when* He was put to death? I seriously doubt that they will do either. If they do either I will pass it on to you in these studies.

John 10:10 says: "**The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**" NOTE: This verse is supposed to prove that "*kill outright*" or "*put to death*" means to *annihilate*. However, no such proof is found in this passage.

We learn from such passages as Mt. 16:21; 17:22-23; Acts 3:15; 1 Thess. 2:15 that Jesus would be and *was killed*, but *He was not annihilated*. No, to be killed or put to death does not mean to cease to exist except in the minds of those who are deceived.

Romans 7:11 says: "**For sin, taking occasion by the commandment deceived me, and by it slew me.**" NOTE: Since *sin*

deceived Paul and slew him it must have been a *spiritual death* to which he refers since Paul was still alive physically when this occurred. He must have been "**dead in trespasses and sins**" and he became *dead to sin* when he became a Christian. (Read Eph. 2:1-9 & Rom. 6:1-23).

There is nothing in this verse to prove that *kill* or *put to death* (being slain) means to cease to exist or be annihilated. This verse proves the very opposite.

Romans 8:13 says: "**For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**" NOTE: It is obvious from the reading of this verse that physical death and physical life are not under consideration, but spiritual death and life. Living after fleshly lust and desires will bring spiritual death. To live spiritually it is essential that we mortify the sinful deeds of the body. If a person lives after the flesh he may not necessarily die physically because of that. Neither shall a person necessarily live physically just because he mortifies the deeds of the body.

A person does not cease to exist just because he lives after the flesh. However, at the judgment he will receive "**the wages of sin**" which "**is death**". He will have his "**part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**" (See Rom. 6:23; Rev. 21:8).

2 Cor. 3:6 says: **Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.** NOTE: Contextually there is a contrast between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Such expressions as "**the letter that killeth**" and "**the ministration of death**" suggest or refer to the Old Testament. Such expressions "**as the spirit that giveth life**" and "**the ministration of the spirit**" suggest or refer to the New Testament. The Old Testament was "**the letter that killeth**" in that physical death was enjoined upon many who violated it and also in the fact that it could not give eternal life. It was also described as "**the ministration of condemnation**" but the New Testament was spoken of under the expression of "**the ministration of righteousness.**" There is absolutely nothing in this verse that would even suggest that *killeth* means to *annihilate* or to *cause to go out of existence*.

Col. 3:15 says: "**And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.**" NOTE: Like a number of other verses that Dickinson gives (Cont'd on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

in an effort to prove a point, this passage does not even have either of the expressions, "kill outright" or "put to death" in it or the equivalent. It makes one wonder as to why this has happened a number of times.

Revelation 2:23 says: **"And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."** NOTE: Referring to these (and other) statements, Edward Fudge said: *"All these statements may refer to temporal judgments, perhaps of lingering or even terminal disease..."* (The Fire That Consumes, page 294) The NASV says: **"I will kill her children with pestilence.."** instead of **"I will kill her children with death..."** In either case, the children of Jezebel would be *killed*. There is nothing to indicate that they would be *annihilated* and *cease to exist*.

Since *Jesus Christ was not annihilated and did not go out of existence* when He was *killed*, we know of a certainty that *kill* does not necessarily mean to annihilate or to cause one to go out of existence. (See paragraph under John 10:10 for passages and comments concerning this.)

It should be obvious to every sincere truth seeker that the passages listed by Dickinson do not teach his doctrines.

(To be continued) (CRS)

### DONAHUE—PRATT DEBATE

Pat Donahue, a Christian, will discuss the Bible with Charlie Pratt, President of "The Church of God of the Union Assembly" denomination on July 29 - 31, 2004 at 7:00 pm at the Knoxville, TN Exposition Center, 5441 Clinton Hwy.

The topics will be the Frequency of the Lord's Supper, Miraculous gifts and the "Sinful nature" of man.

This public discussion will be conducted as part of the above mentioned denomination's annual national convention. Based upon previous conventions, about 2,000 members of this denomination are expected to attend. To avoid being vastly out-numbered (which is key to this group being willing to schedule future studies), Pat requests your attendance if you are within reasonable driving distance.

For more information about the debate, contact Pat Donahue at (256) 721-0726 or <PatDonahue@gtcinternet.com>. Tell others!

## SENTENCE SERMONS

You can never ascertain your real wealth by consulting your bank account.

\* \* \* \* \*

Calling attention to the faults of others never rid us of our faults.

\* \* \* \* \*

"It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth". (Lamentations 3:27).

\* \* \* \* \*

Some people, like tea, never know their real strength until they get into hot water.

\* \* \* \* \*

The influence of affluence is very dangerous. We should be sober and take heed.

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