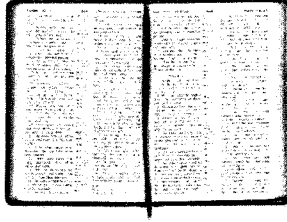


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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Number 10

HOW SHOULD WE WALK? (Concluded)

As we (as Christians) travel the journey from time to eternity, we have access to the Scriptures in which we have directions provided for us (in the Scriptures) as to how we should walk that we may be saved eternally. (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:25; 2 Cor. 5:7; Hebs. 11:6; Rom. 10:17; 2 John 9-11; James 2:12).

WE SHOULD WALK:

VII. IN NEWNESS OF LIFE. We learn from Romans 6:1-5 that one must die to sin in repentance and be buried with Christ by baptism and be raised to "walk in newness of life". We must "put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit" of our mind and "put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph. 4:22-24). As *new creatures* we must live lives of "newness". (See 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15).

VIII. IN GOOD WORKS. Paul says: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:10). We are "to be ready to every good work" and "always abounding in the work of the Lord" because we know our labour is not in vain in the Lord." Faith without works is dead. (See James 2:14-26).

IX. CIRCUMSPECTLY. Paul said: "See that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:15-16). The word *circumspectly* means *carefully*.

X. HONESTLY. "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and

wantonness, not in strife and envying." (Romans 13:13). (See Rom. 12:17; 2 Cor. 8:21)

XI. TO WALK IN CHRIST AND TO WALK AS HE WALKED. John said: "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." (1 John 2:6). Paul said: "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him..." (Col. 2:6). Also see Col. 4:5; 1 Thess. 2:12; 4:1; Col. 1:10; Eph. 5:8; Rom. 4:12).

XII. IN LOVE. Paul said: "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us..." (Eph. 5:2) 2 John 2:6 says: "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments..." To walk in love, we must agree with God. Amos 3:3 says: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

XIII. IN THE LIGHT. According to Paul in Col. 1:13 and Eph. 6:12 the world is in darkness. Darkness represents wickedness. Col. 3:5-7 teaches that we live in wickedness as we walk in it. Instead of walking in darkness, we should walk in the light. (See John 12:35; 8:12; 1 John 1:6-7; 2:11).

To walk acceptably in the sight of God it is essential that we give diligence to *learn* His will, *believe* and *obey* it from the heart! Are you walking with God? Is He pleased with your walk? Is your walk a good influence on others? It should be. (CRS)

SUNDAY SERVICES CAN BE HEARD LIVE OVER INTERNET. You can now hear our services on Sunday at 10:30 am & 6:00 pm by turning in to eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com

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Editorial...

HELL! IS THERE A PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT FOR THE WICKED? (No. 31)

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*.

We examined the list of more than 25 words and phrases that are used by false teachers in an effort to prove that the wicked will not be eternally tormented in hell. To even suggest that many of the words used when considered must mean *annihilation* shows either a the total lack of understanding of the meaning and usages of words or the desperation the advocates of such a doctrine must feel as they set forth their "arguments" in an effort to deceive the readers. We showed that none of the words listed prove the assumption and assertion that the wicked will be annihilated and cease to exist.

Let us resume our study of some false arguments that are made in an effort to prove that there is not a place of eternal torment for the wicked.

XIII. ARGUMENT: Edward Fudge said: "...JESUS AND PAUL BOTH TELL US THAT THE WICKED WILL BE EXPELLED FROM GOD'S PRESENCE (Matt. 25:41, 46; 2 Thess. 1:9). CONDITIONALISTS HAVE REASONED LIKE THIS: (1) GOD'S PRESENCE WILL FILL ALL THAT IS, IN EVERY PLACE; (2) THE WICKED WILL NOT BE IN HIS PRESENCE; (3) THEREFORE THE WICKED WILL NO LONGER EXIST." (The Fire That Consumes, page 249).

REPLY:

1. In Matt. 25:41, 46 we read: "**Then shall he** ['the Son of man', 'the King' - vv. 31, 40] **say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels**" and "**And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.**"

NOTES:

(A) The wicked are told to "**depart from me...into everlasting fire**". After departing from the King the wicked are in everlasting fire. Departing from the Son of man did not cause them to be annihilated or cease to exist.

(B) Everlasting punishment would be received by the wicked in the everlasting fire.

(C) The wicked will be in the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

(D) We learn that the punishment is *eternal torment* when we read Revelation 20:10 that says: "**And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**" Language could be no plainer. The expression "**...and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever**" can not mean *shall be annihilated and cease to exist*. Contrary to the claims of some so-called "scholars" or "intellectuals" we allow the Word of God to speak for itself. Only self-deception, it seems to this writer, keeps some from accepting these plain, simple unequivocal statements.

(E) According to Matt. 25:46 the punishment of the wicked will last as long as life lasts for the righteous - in both cases it is everlasting or eternal.

(F) Both wicked and righteous will continue to exist eternally in view of the fact that their "rewards" are *eternal* in duration.

2. In 2 Thess. 1:9 we read: **"Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power."**

NOTES:

(A) We learn from 2 Thess. 1:6-8 that the Lord will come **"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."** We learn from verse 6 that the Lord will **"recompense tribulation"** to the wicked.

(B) Keep in mind expressions like **"recompense tribulation"**, **"in flaming fire taking vengeance"** and **"Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power"** and try to figure out the **"thinking"** and **"reasoning"** of men Fudge, Dickinson, Maxey, Hailey, "Jehovah's Witnesses", Adventists, etc. Surely, these expressions suggest suffering, affliction, punishment and everlasting ruin. They do not suggest the idea of *annihilation* or *non-existence*. That idea originated in an evil heart and is propagated by false teachers.

(C) The word translated *destruction* in this passage is defined simply as **"ruin, destruction"** by Vine's Expository Dictionary of NT Words and refers to the effect of the Divine judgments upon men at the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thayer's Lexicon (page 443) says that it is equivalent to *"the loss of a life of blessedness after death, future misery"*.

(D) The *destruction* or *ruin* upon the wicked will not be temporary, but it is *everlasting*. It is eternal!

(E) The fact that the *ruin* or *destruction* of the wicked is **"from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power"** indicates that the wicked will not be annihilated or cease to exist. Otherwise, these statements are superfluous.

3. In the syllogism set forth above by Conditionalists (like Fudge, etc.) they make some unproven assumptions and assertions. They assume, but do not prove, the major premise that "God's presence will fill all that is, in every place." Where does the Word of God prove this statement (if reference is being made to God's personal presence)? If God's personal presence will fill all that is, in every place, what passage or passages teach it? Of course,

the Scripture teaches what we call the "omnipresence" of God. That is the quality or power to be present at all places at all times in the sense of such statements as **"Can any man hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord."** (Jeremiah 23:24) and **"But who is able to build him a house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him..."** (2 Chron. 2:6) Also see Psalms 139:1-16; Proverbs 15:3; Psalms 33:13; Hebrews 4:13; etc.

(A) The fact that God is "omnipresent" does not mean (nor even suggest) that one cannot go forth *"from the presence of the Lord"* and *still exist* as a being. For a person to suggest otherwise reflects either on his "intelligence", or his honesty or both. It is simply absurd to so "reason". Listen to some plain, simple statements in the Scriptures.

(B) Gen. 2:8- **"...Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord among the trees of the garden."** QUESTION: Were they hidden **"from the presence of the Lord"**?

In Gen. 4:16 we read: **"And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the East of Eden."** QUESTION: Did Cain really go **"out from the presence of the Lord"**? Of course he did! We just read it in God's Word. If Cain could go **"out from the presence of the Lord"** and still exist, it is certainly possible for the wicked to be punished **"from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power"** and still exist. If not, why not?

Job 1:12 says: **"...So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord."** Job 2:7 says: **"So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord."** QUESTION: Did Satan go forth from the presence of the Lord? Yes indeed! Did Satan become non-existent? Of course not! Why would anyone with a sound mind think for a moment that the wicked will become non-existent because God's Word says that they **"shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power"**?

NOTE: Without question the Scriptures teach that the wicked can be punished from the presence of the Lord without being *annihilated* or *ceasing to exist*.

(C) The idea that the wicked will be annihilated

(Continued on page 4)

and cease to exist. because *the wicked will not be in the presence of God* (the minor premise) would be ludicrous if it was not dealing with such a serious and important subject.

(D) Since we have proven by the Scriptures that both the major premise and the minor premise are not true, it necessarily follows that the conclusion stated has not been proven. Thus we have answered another false argument.

4. Let us compare the statements in Matt. 25:41 ("**Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels**") and in 2 Thess. 1:8-9 ("**In flaming fire taking vengeance on them...**") NOTE: The "*everlasting fire*" and "*flaming fire*" are equivalent or you have two different "things" called "*fire*". Rev. 20:10 says: "**And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...**" NOTE: The "*everlasting fire*" of Matt. 25:41 and the "*lake of fire and brimstone*" are equivalent or you have two different places of "*fire*" in which the devil will be tormented.

(A) Compare the statements in

Matt. 25:46 ("**And these shall go away into everlasting punishment**") and 2 Thess. 1:8-9 ("**In flaming fire taking vengeance on them...Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power**") and Rev. 20:10 ("**...and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**")

(B) The expressions "*everlasting punishment*" (of Matt. 25:46) and "*everlasting destruction*" (of 2 Thess. 1:9) and "*shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever*" are obviously equivalent in meaning. There is no way that these expressions when used in their contexts and in the general context of the New Testament Scriptures could mean *annihilation* or *ceasing to exist*. We should allow the Word of God to simply inform us of the truth. We should accept these (and all other passages) to mean what they clearly state in their contexts.

Let us be content to believe and teach God's truth. (To be continued) CRS

GOSPEL MEETINGS at Winchester, Ohio
October 24 - 29, 2004. Carrol R. Sutton,
preacher. Make plans to attend. Tell others!

SENTENCE SERMONS

In disputes between two parties, we should listen to both sides and fairly consider the facts.

Kindness is reciprocal. Be sure to "put on" an ample supply of it.

The faults of our enemies always look greater than the faults of our friends.

Contentment, charity and cheerfulness should characterize every Christian.

Christians should smile often and give our frowns a rest,

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