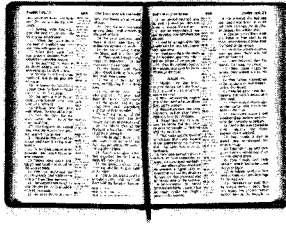


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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Number 9

HOW SHOULD WE WALK?

As we 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 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:25; 2 Cor. 5:7; Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17; 2 John 9-11; James 2:12). **WE SHOULD WALK:**

I. BY FAITH! In 2 Cor. 5:7 Paul said: **"(For we walk by faith, not by sight.)"** One cannot walk by faith unless he listens to and learns the Word of God because **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Romans 10:17). One cannot walk by faith unless he walks according to the teaching of God's word.

II. IN THE LIGHT. John said: **"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."** (1 John 1:7). To walk in the light is to walk according to God's Word. (See Psalms 119:105, 130; Acts 26:18; John 8:12; 2Cor.4:4)

III. IN TRUTH. John said: **"I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father."** (2 John 4). Since God's Word is truth, to walk in truth is to walk according to God's Word. (see John 17:17)

IV. AFTER HIS COMMANDMENTS. John said: **"And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it."** (2 John 2) To walk after them, one must know them. Study to learn them.

V. WALK AFTER THE SPIRIT. We learn from Romans 8:1-6 that **"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit...who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."** In Galatians 5:16 Paul said: **"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."** To walk after the Spirit is to walk according to the revelation of the Holy Spirit as written in the Scriptures. When one engages in the works of the flesh, he is walking after the flesh and not after the Spirit. When a person follows the teaching of the Holy Spirit as revealed in the Scriptures, he is walking after the Spirit and not the flesh.

VI. BY THE SAME RULE. Since we are following the same God, we should be walking by the same standard or rule of authority. Jesus Christ is our Lord and His Word should be our rule of faith and practice. Most denominational churches have their own rule of faith and practice. All who are a part of them are expected to accept and follow them. The apostle Paul said: **"...let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing."** (Phil. 3:16). As Christians we must all follow the same standard and rule of faith and practice if we expect to please God. (to be continued)

(CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial...

HELL! IS THERE A PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT FOR THE WICKED? (No. 30)

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, LOSE LIFE, DESTROYED, PERISH, OR NEVER SEE LIFE, 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.

16. Dickinson gives the word *perish* and lists Acts 13:41; 1 Cor. 3:17; Gal. 6:8; 2 Peter 1:4; 2:12 & Rev. 11:18 in an effort to prove that there will be no eternal torment in hell for the wicked, but that the wicked are annihilated and will cease to exist.

Acts 13:41 says: "**Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto thee.**" NOTE: The same basic word that is here translated "*perish*" is translated "*corrupt*" twice in Matthew 6:19-20 speaking of the "**earth, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt...**" and "**heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt...**" *Corrupt* as used here certainly does not mean *annihilate*. Moth and rust cause *ruin*, but they do not *annihilate*. They cause a certain appearance to *vanish*.

The same basic word that is here translated "*perish*" is translated "*disfigure*" in Matthew 6:16 where Jesus said: "**...when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast...**" NOTE: It would certainly take a wild imagination to believe that Jesus told the disciples to *annihilate* their faces. Believe it, who can? This is the type reasoning that men like Fudge, Dickinson, Maxey, etc. use in an effort to prove their false doctrine.

1 Corinthians 3:17 says: "**If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy...**" NOTE: I checked several translations (KJV, NKJV, ASV, NASV, RSV, and NIV) and not one of them used the word "*perish*". Neither The Emphatic Diaglott nor the New World Translation which were published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society used the word "*perish*" in this verse. It seems that L. E. Froom (in his book as referenced about) and Curtis Dickinson were not very careful in either citing the proper Scriptural references or in listing the appropriate words as we have previously pointed out.

Of course, the word "destroy" as used here does not mean *annihilate*. The same basic word translated "destroy" in 1 Cor. 3:17 is translated "*corrupt*" in such passages as 2 Cor. 7:2 where Paul said: **"...we have corrupted no man..."** QUESTION: Who (except someone like Fudge, Dickinson, Maxey, the Seventh Day Adventists, the J. W.'s, etc.) would even think that the word "*corrupted*" here means "*annihilated*"? Was Paul saying that **"...we have annihilated no man"**? Surely not!

Galatians 6:8 says: **"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."** NOTE: Although this passage is listed under "*perish*", it does not have the word in it. This is a frequent practice of either Dickinson or Froom or both. "*Corruption*" does not mean *extinction* or *annihilation*!

The *corruption* will be reaped by those who sow to the flesh at the same time that those who sow to the Spirit shall reap *life everlasting*. *Both have existence or they could not reap*. Neither will lose their *existence* or *being*. The wicked will not reap *well-being*, but he will suffer the loss of *well-being*. The righteous will not reap *existence* or *being*, but he will of the Spirit reap *well-being* which is *life everlasting*.

We learn from 2 Peter 1:4 that saints have **"escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."** NOTE: The *corruption* that saints have escaped that "*is in the world through lust*" is certainly not *annihilation*. If it is, how is *annihilation* in the world through lust? Why not let *corruption* mean *corruption*? Saints certainly escape *moral corruption* that is in the world through lust when they were set apart to be, as it were, exclusively God's.

2 Peter 2:12 says: **"But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption."** NOTE: This verse has "*perish*" in it although it does not mean nor suggest the idea of *annihilation*. It also has "*corruption*" which was found in Gal. 6:8 and 2 Peter 1:4, but it does not mean *annihilation*, as it was shown above.

If "*shall perish*" means "*shall be annihilated*" and "*corruption*" means *annihilation*, this verse would mean that the wicked shall be *annihilated* in their own *annihilation*. Is that what it is saying?

Surely not. Speaking of these wicked ones, 2 Peter 2:17 says: **"to whom" ("for whom"-ASV) the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.** In existence forever.

Revelation 11:18 says (the twenty-four elders worshipped God saying): **"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead. That they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth."** NOTE: Again, instead of citing a passage in which the English word "*perish*" (in the most commonly accepted translations) is found, Dickinson cites a passage in which the word "*destroy*" is found. The word translated "*destroy*" here is the same word translated "*corrupt*" in such passages as 1 Tim. 6:5 where Paul speaks of **"men of corrupt minds"** and Luke 12:33 where Jesus speaks of **"a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth."** Neither the word *destroy*, *corrupt* nor *perish* necessarily mean *annihilate*.

The expression, "*men of corrupt minds*", does not mean men whose minds have been *annihilated*. When a garment is corrupted by a moth, it is destroyed, or ruined, but it is not *annihilated* by the moth.

Although the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society printed the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, in the last part of Rev. 11:18 it says: **"and to bring to ruin those ruining the earth."** NOTE: The idea of *annihilation* is not suggested in this reading.

The idea that the word *perish*, as used in the Scriptures must mean *cessation of existence* or *annihilation* only exist in the fertile imagination of men like Dickinson, Fudge, Maxey, Russell, etc.

Not only are we told in the Scriptures that the wicked *perish*, but we are also told that the righteous *perish*. For exam-ples, see the following.

Ecclesiastes 7:15 says: **"...and there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness..."** QUESTION: Does this mean that a just man is *annihilated* in his righteousness? Of course not. Isaiah 57:1 says: **"The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart..."** QUESTION: Does this mean that the righteous are *annihilated* and *cease to exist*? No, the word *perish* does not mean that the wicked will be *annihilated* (Continued on page 4)

(Cont'd from page 3) and *cease to exist*.

John 3:36 says: "**He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**"

NOTE: The expression "*shall not see life*" certainly does not mean the *annihilation*. There is absolutely nothing in this passage to suggest the *annihilation* of the wicked. Let us notice some things that this verse does teach. It teaches: (1) That both believers and unbelievers have existence. (2) Believers have spiritual life now. They have everlasting life (*in hope*, Titus 1:2, *in the world to come*, Mark 10:30). (3) Unbelievers shall not see (eternal) life in the world to come. (4) Unbelievers are spiritually dead now and the wrath of God *abides* on them. There is no indication that it will stop abiding on them. (5) The fact that the wrath of God *abides* on the unbelievers in contrast with believers having eternal life seems to indicate that the wrath of God will abide on unbelievers just as long as believers have eternal life.

John 5:40 says: "**And ye will not come to me that ye might have life.**"

NOTE: This passage is not dealing with *annihilation* of the wicked. Jesus did not say that they would not come to him that they might have *existence*, or *being*, but *life*. He was referring to "*eternal life*", (verse 39), i.e., eternal well-being, not mere eternal being or existence.

Acts 13:46 tells us that some judged themselves "**unworthy of everlasting life**". NOTE: It says absolutely nothing about any everlasting existence or being. It says absolutely nothing about the *annihilation* of the wicked.

1 John 3:15 tells us that "**no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.**" NOTE: It says nothing about the *annihilation* of the wicked. It does not say that no murderer has eternal existence or being.

1 John 5:12 says: "**He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**" NOTE: Both "*he that hath the Son*" and "*he that hath not the Son of God*" have *being* or *existence* but only "*he that hath the Son has life*, (i.e., *well-being*). Both have existence. CRS

GOSPEL MEETINGS at Moundville, AL
October 7-9, 2004 @ 7:30pm. Carrol R. Sutton,
preacher. Make plans to attend. Tell others!

SENTENCE SERMONS

The lost sinner should ask, "*What must I do to be saved?*" not "What must I feel or get?"

* * * * *

Living water comes only from the living Christ.

* * * * *

If you are not thankful for the blessings you have, would you be thankful if you had more?

* * * * *

Faith is believing God what God said because He said it, when there is no other reason.

* * * * *

Sometimes people with dull minds have sharp tongues.

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