

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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ANGELS — MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS

There are a number of **similarities** between **men** and **angels**. Here are some of them.

1. **Both are (or have) spirits!** (See Numbers 16:22; Heb. 12:9; Psalms 104:4; Heb. 1:14).

2. **Both are live beings!** They can speak (talk), praise God, chase, persecute, smite, destroy, etc. (Cf. Luke 1:13; Zech. 1:19, Psa. 148:2; Psa. 35:5-6; Acts 12:23; 1 Chron. 21:13). **Note:** We observe that men do these things.

3. **Both are of a lower order than God!** **Note:** Since men and angels are God's creation they are lower than God the Creator.

4. **Both have tongues** (languages)! (Cf. 1 Cor. 13:1).

5. **Both have free will and can choose either good or evil, to be holy or unholy!** (Cf. Matthew 25:31; 1 Peter 1:16; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6).

Although there are some similarities between men and angels, there are a number of **differences** between **men** and **angels**. Here are some of them.

1. **Men (since Adam and Eve) are generated! Angels were created!** (Cf. Gen. 1:26-28; Neh. 9:6; Col. 1:16).

2. **Men can die, but angels cannot die!** (See Luke 20:34-38).

3. **Men marry and are given in marriage, but angels neither marry nor are given in marriage!** (Cf. Matthew 22:30).

4. **Men have redemption provided for them IN CHRIST when they sin,** (and thus can be heirs of God) **but there is no evidence that such is provided for angels!** **NOTE:** Jesus Christ is the **mediator** between God and **men**, **NOT** between God and **angels!** (See 1 Tim. 2:5).

OBSERVATIONS

1. **There is no evidence that an angel ever saved a sinner from his sins!**

2. **There is no evidence that an angel ever preached the gospel to a sinner! Note:** In Acts 8:36-39 “**the angel of the Lord**” gave directions to the preacher (Philip) to go to a sinner and in Acts 10:1-33 “**an angel of God**” told Cornelius to send for Peter who would tell him what he ought to do. In neither case did the angel tell the sinner what he must do in order to be saved. Neither did the angel assure the sinner that he was already saved. (Further note: The above cases occurred in the first century when God was showing “signs, and wonders, and divers miracles.”

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Editorial . . .

FEET WASHING

It has been suggested by some that the washing of the feet of guests (by the host) was a custom practiced in "Bible times" to show hospitality. However, a careful study of the Scriptures does **not** seem to necessarily substantiate that claim.

We learn from Exodus 30:17-21 and Exodus 40:30-32 that provisions were made for Aaron and his sons to **wash their hands and their feet when they ministered as priests**. Of course, this had nothing to do with showing hospitality.

In 1 Samuel 25:40-41 (in about B.C. 1060) we do read where Abigail said to the servants of David, "**Let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.**" This, no doubt, indicates **humility** but it may not necessarily indicate simply a matter of **showing hospitality**. We also read in Luke 7:36-50 that a sinful woman **washed the feet of Jesus with tears, wiped them with the hairs of her head, kissed them and anointed them** with ointment. This indicates **much love for Jesus**, not merely showing hospitality.

A careful consideration of Genesis 18:1-18; Genesis 19:1-2; Genesis 24:32; Genesis 43:24 and Judges 19:16-21 will show that **water was provided by the hosts to their guests to enable the guests to wash their own feet!**

THE HOSTS DID NOT WASH THE FEET OF THE GUESTS! It seems that it may have been customary for the host to provide water for the guest so **the guest could wash his OWN feet**. NOTE: In Luke 7:44 Jesus said to Simon, "**Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.**" Obviously the woman went beyond what was ordinarily practiced.

The evidence is lacking that **proves** that the washing of the feet of the guest by the host was a custom that was practiced in "**Bible times.**"

Please read carefully John 13:1-17. In this passage we have a record of **Jesus washing the feet of his disciples**. Their feet were dirty, hence needed washing. **Jesus washed their feet, fulfilling a need, as an act of humility**. It was NOT a mere custom, formality nor merely a "religious rite." **It was an act of service designed to teach a needed lesson on humility!**

Jesus said: "**If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.**" (Verses 14-15). Observe the fact that Jesus did NOT say that **disciples ought to wash one another's feet AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP IN THE PUBLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE SAINTS!** He simply said the disciples should follow His example and do to each other as He had done to them.

"**Feet washing**" is mentioned **one** time after the ascension of Christ and the beginning of the church on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. It is NOT mentioned in connection with **any act of public worship**. It is mentioned in connection with a widow meeting certain qualifications in order for her to "**be taken into the**

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GODLINESS - HOW IT PROFITS

Often times this question is raised: **"Does it really profit us to be godly? If so, how?"**

Many people would be interested in serving God if they were **really** convinced that it **pays** to be godly. We learn from 1 Timothy 6:11 that we **should follow after godliness**. From 2 Peter 1:6-7 we learn that we **should add godliness to patience**. It is certainly in order that we consider such a question as posed above. **Does godliness really profit us? If so, how does it profit us?** Paul declared in I Timothy 6:5-6 that **"... godliness with contentment is great gain."** Yes, **it profits us to be godly! How does it profit us? Here's how.**

1. **GODLINESS PROFITS US MATERIALLY!** An abundance of riches or a life of ease may **not** necessarily be ours, but God promises us that **we will have the essentials of life** (i.e., food, drink, etc.) if we will seek Him and His kingdom first. (cf. Matthew 6:25-33; Mark 10:28-30).

2. **GODLINESS PROFITS US PHYSICALLY!** Bodily exercise profits temporarily but **"godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."** (See 1 Tim. 6:8). If we are godly we will control our bodies. We will **not** harm or defile them by strong drink, drugs, tobacco, etc. We will thus be healthier physically.

3. **GODLINESS PROFITS US MENTALLY!** If we are godly, we will be free from the burden of anxiety. (Cf. Matthew 6:25-34). We will be free, content and happy. (Cf. Phil. 3:1; 4:4; 1 Thess. 5:16; 1 Tim. 6:6-8; Heb. 13:5-6).

4. **GODLINESS PROFITS US SOCIALLY!** We should shun the appearance of evil. (See 1 Thess. 5:22). Evil companionship corrupts good manners! (Cf. 1 Cor. 15:33). If we choose proper associates we will be well adjusted socially.

FEET WASHING

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number" or **"enrolled."** Paul said: **"Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, IF SHE HAVE WASHED THE SAINTS' FEET, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work."** (1 Timothy 5:9-10). We can readily see that **"washing the saints' feet"** is in the same category as other **"good works"** such as **rearing children, lodging strangers and relieving the afflicted**. **NONE** of these **"good works"** are acts of worship to be performed in the public assemblies! They are private, individual duties (and privileges) that are fulfilled without public fanfare. Devotion to God and love for others will prompt disciples to engage in such **"good works."** We have **no right** to take any of these **"good works"** and **make them acts of public assembly worship**.

In washing the disciples' feet Jesus not only fulfilled a need, but He also manifested **humility** and in so doing taught the early disciples (and us) a needed lesson on **humility**. We should be willing and humble enough to fulfill any duty and perform any needed service! Are you?

(CRS)

5. **GODLINESS PROFITS US SPIRITUALLY!** Paul declared that **"... godliness is profitable unto ALL things, having promise of the life that now is, and OF THAT WHICH IS TO COME."** (1 Tim. 4:8). Also see Phil. 4:13; Titus 2:11-12; 2 Pet. 1:5-11.

Godliness pays great dividends! You cannot afford to be **ungodly!** Are you godly?

(CRS)

ANGELS — MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS

(Continued from page 1)

3. There is **no evidence** that an angel will appear to men today and speak to them a message from God. **Note:** There is no need for such because we have the complete, confirmed revelation from God in the Scriptures. (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:25; 2:12 and Gal. 1:8-9).

4. There is **no evidence** that an angel of God will speak to a preacher and direct him to a sinner, or to a sinner and tell him to send for a certain preacher, or deliver a person from prison, or speak to a person and assure him of a safe journey. **Note:** These things served a useful purpose in the first century when God was in the process of **revealing and confirming His Word**. We **now** have that **confirmed revelation!** There is **no need** for such today. (Cf. Heb. 1:1-4; James 1:25; 2:12; Gal. 3:15).

5. Angels **do** still exist! They **do** still behold the face of the Father in heaven! They **are** ministering spirits! Women **ought** to have power (i.e., a sign of authority) on their heads because of the angels!

6. Angels **will** accompany the Lord when he returns. The voice of the arch-angel **will** be heard when the Lord descends. When Christ judges the world, **all** his holy angels **will** be with Him!

7. We should **respect** the angels but we should **not** worship them! Neither should we expect an angel to appear unto us and speak to us!
(CRS)

CORRECTION: The second sentence in the third paragraph of THE INSTRUCTOR last month should read: "...God did not spare the angels that sinned..."

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Not what we gain, but what we give, measures the worth of the life we live.

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If you are not kind, you are the wrong kind.

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Wild oats thrive during a spiritual drought.

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No one is truly educated who lacks a knowledge of God's Word.

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The Bible does not need to be re-written, but re-read.

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