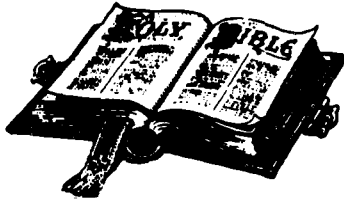


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 30

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Number 3

ANGELS — THEIR DESTINY

Jesus said: "The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage; but they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: **NEITHER CAN THEY DIE ANYMORE: FOR THEY ARE EQUAL UNTO THE ANGELS: and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.**" (Luke 20:34-36). Among the things we learn from this passage is that **ANGELS DO NOT DIE!**

Since angels **cannot** die, they will live (and thus exist) forever. In view of this fact, let us consider **where** will they live or exist forever? In other words, **what will be their destiny?** All the information we have on this subject is that which is revealed in the Scriptures.

Some angels have sinned! We learn from 2 Pet. 2:4 that God did spare the angels that sinned, "**but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved into judgment.**" Jude 6 says: "**And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under dark-**

ness unto the judgment of the great day."

We learn from Matthew 25:41 that the Lord will say to those on his left hand: "**Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and HIS ANGELS.**" Verse 46 informs us that "**these shall go away into everlasting punishment.**"

Men (mortal beings who are subject to death) have a plan of salvation provided for them and can become heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ although men sin. (See Romans 8:16-17). Jesus Christ is the mediator between **men** and **God!** (See 1 Timothy 2:5). The New Testament does not tell us that Jesus Christ is a mediator between **angels** and **God!** Angels who sin are destined for eternal punishment!

In Revelation 7:11-12 angels are pictured as falling on their faces and worshipping God saying, "**Amen, Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.**" It seems to be obvious that righteous angels will be worshipping God for ever

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CARROL R. SUTTON
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama 35950. Second-class postage paid in Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

"IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME . . ."

Jesus said: ". . . **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**" (Luke 9:23). Also read Matt. 16:24 and Mark 8:34. An honest study of this passage should prove beneficial to each of us.

I. "IF ANY MAN . . ." The account given in Mark 8:34 says: ". . . **who-soever . . .**" Every accountable person has a right and a responsibility to follow Jesus. No one is excluded. "**Whosoever will**" may follow Christ.

II. ". . . WILL COME AFTER ME, . . ." Following Christ is a matter of choice. No one is forced to follow Him. (Cf. Joshua 24:14-15; Acts 2:40; John 1:11-12; 5:40). The elements obeyed (and obeys) the Lord without choice. (See Matt. 8:23-27; 2 Peter 3:7). However, man was created in God's image with volition. He can choose to obey or disobey God. God wants men to obey Him. (Cf. 1 Tim. 2:3-4).

Man in sin is lost because he chose to sin. If man is saved it will be because he chose to follow Jesus. Some chose **not** to come to Jesus that they might have live.

III. ". . . LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, . . ." To truly follow Jesus there must be self denial. (Cf. Titus 2:11-12; 1 Peter 2:11). Self denial

demands that a person "**be not conformed to this world**" but to be "**transformed.**" (See Romans 12:1-12; 1 John 2:15-17). Self denial requires that one love God more than pleasures. (See 2 Tim. 3:4; 1 Tim. 5:6).

One cannot come after Jesus unless he is willing to **hear Jesus, believe Jesus and obey Jesus!** (See Matt. 17:5; Acts 3:22-23; John 8:24; 20:30-31; 3:36; 14:21, 23; 15:14; Luke 6:46; Heb. 5:8-9; John 14:6).

We must be on guard lest we believe and follow the teachings of some one other than Jesus Christ. (See Matt. 7:15-16; 1 John 4:1; Matt. 15:9; Gal. 1:6).

Self denial demands that one surrender to God his will, affections, body and soul. He must seek to please God. (Cf. Gal. 1:10).

The apostle Paul is an encouraging example of self denial. (See Phil. 3:4-8; 2 Cor. 11:21-28; 2 Tim. 3:10-12).

If a person would love life and see good days it is essential that he deny himself of sinful activities.

IV. ". . . AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY, . . ." It seems that persons who were condemned to be crucified were compelled to bear (or carry) the cross (on which they were to be crucified) to the place of execution. Such was an addition to the punishment of crucifixion. It was burdensome, tiresome and disgraceful.

The expression, "**take up his cross**" is a figurative statement, denoting that we must endure whatever is burdensome, tiresome, "disgraceful" or trying in following Jesus Christ. It suggests that we must bear our burdens and fulfill our responsibilities regardless of the cost.

Some men would want to drag the "cross" behind themselves. Although they wish to have the benefits of "cross-bearing," they are ashamed of their "cross" and also of the cross of Christ.

Other men would saw off a part of their "cross" and also the cross

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of Christ. They, too, desire the blessings derived from "cross-bearing," but they think bearing their "cross" is too burdensome. So they would attempt to change the "cross" to fit themselves rather than to change themselves to fit their "cross." This is a very common practice by many religionists.

True disciples of Christ are true "cross bearers." They bear their "cross" and keep pace with Christ. He gives them strength to bear their burdens and to fulfil their responsibilities. When they fall under the load, Christ will lift up those who have their trust in Him.

Paul, the apostle, is an inspiring example of a true "cross bearer." (See 1 Cor. 11:1; 2 Cor. 11:22-30; Phil. 4:9; 2 Tim. 3:10-12).

This "cross" bearing is a **daily** affair. Jesus said: ". . . and take up his cross daily, . . ." The individual who follows Jesus has **daily** responsibilities. Disciples in the first century continued "**daily with one accord in the temple**" and broke bread from house to house and ate their food with gladness and singleness of heart. (Cf. Acts 2:46). In Acts 6:1 we read of "**the daily ministration**" among the disciples. In his letter to the Corinthians the apostle Paul said: ". . . **I die daily.**" (1 Cor. 15:31).

The inspired writer of Hebrews said: "**Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today: lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.**" (3:12-13).

Faith and courage are essential to following Christ on a **daily** basis.

V. "... **AND FOLLOW ME.**" In John 10:27 Jesus declared: "**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.**" Please consider the following facts.

1. **To follow Jesus a person must HEAR Him!** On the mountain of transfiguration, Peter, James and John heard the voice of God the Father declare: "**This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased HEAR ye him.**" (Matt. 17:5). We learn from Hebrews 1:1-2 that in these last days **God hath spoken unto us by his Son!**

Peter showed the necessity of **HEARING** Jesus in Acts 3:22-23 when he said: ". . . **Him shall ye HEAR in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.**"

2. **To follow Jesus a person must BELIEVE Him!** (See John 8:24; 3:36; 5:24; 5:38; 5:46; John 20:30-31 & Acts 16:31).

3. **To follow Jesus a person must OBEY Him!** The Hebrew writer declared that Jesus "**became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that OBEY him.**" (5:9). Matthew 7:21 says: "**Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that DOETH the will of my Father which is in heaven.**"

In Luke 6:46 Jesus said: "**And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?**"

Such passages as Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:38, John 14:21-23 and Rev. 22:14 also teach that one must **obey** Jesus in order to be a true follower of His.

4. **In following Jesus we must worship God in spirit and in truth!** (Cf. John 4:24).

5. **In following Jesus we must resist temptations!** (See Matt. 4:1-11; James 4:7; 1:12 & 1 Cor. 10:13).

6. **In following Jesus we must have the proper attitude toward and properly conduct ourselves toward others!** (See Matt. 7:12; Mark 11:25; Rom. 12:10 & Eph. 4:32).

7. **In following Jesus we must be stedfast and always abound in the work of the Lord!** (See 1 Cor. 15:58).

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**“IF ANY MAN WILL
COME AFTER ME. . .”**

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8. **In following Jesus we must walk by faith!** (See 2 Cor. 5:7).

9. **In following Jesus we must grow spiritually!** (See 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18; Eph. 4:15; Hebrews 5:12-14 and Hebrews 6:1-2).

10. **In following Jesus we must do good!** (Cf. Acts 10:38; Gal. 6:10; Rom. 12:20; 12:13 & Matt. 5:44).

11. **In following Jesus we must live by every word of God!** (See Matt. 4:4; 1 Peter 4:11 & 2 John 9).

12. **In following Jesus we must live in hope!** (See Rom. 8:24; 15:4; 2 Cor. 3:12; 1 Pet. 1:3; 1 John 3:3; Rom. 12:12 & Titus 1:2).

Are YOU following Christ?
(CRS)

ANGELS — THEIR DESTINY

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and ever! Wicked angels will be punished! Since angels can choose to sin (or not to sin) it is obvious that angels can determine their destiny by the choice they make. (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

There will be a series of GOSPEL MEETINGS in **East Albertville** April 4-7, 1993 at 7:30 each evening except on Sunday. There will be different speakers each service. **COME!**

HEAR THE GOSPEL over WAVU, 630 on the AM dial each Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

CORRECTION: In “A Voice From The Past” in THE INSTRUCTOR last month “1 John 1:1-2” should have been “John 1:1-2.”

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks his father is wrong.

* * * * *

Most footprints on the sands of time were made with work shoes.

* * * * *

Be like a postage stamp — stick to one thing until you reach your destination.

* * * * *

“No one ever listened himself out of a job.” — Calvin Coolidge

* * * * *

What we weave in time we will wear in eternity.

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