

the
APOSTLES'
TEACHING

ἦσαν δὲ προσκατεροῦντες τῇ διδαχῇ τῶν ἀποστόλων

[ēsan de proskarterountes tē didachē tōn apostolōn]

And they devoted themselves steadfastly to the **teaching of the emissaries...**



CHAPTER 1 - "There Are Two Ways"

- 1:1** There are two ways: one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between the two ways.
- 1:2** The way of life is this: First, you shall love God who made you. And second, love your neighbor as yourself, and do not do to another what you would not want done to you.
- 1:3** The meaning of these sayings is this:
- Speak well of those who speak ill of you, and pray for your enemies, and fast for those who persecute you. For what reward is there for loving those who love you? Do not the heathens do the same? But you should love those who hate you, and then you will have no enemies.
- 1:4** Abstain from natural and physical inclinations: If someone strikes your right cheek, turn the other also, and be perfect. If someone forces you to go one mile, go two. If someone takes your cloak, give also your coat. If someone takes from you what is yours, don't ask for it back. You really cannot.
- 1:5** Give to everyone who asks you, and don't ask for it back. The Father wants his blessings shared. Happy is the giver who lives according to this rule, for that one is guiltless. But the receiver must beware; for if one receives who has need, he is guiltless, but if one receives not having need, he shall stand trial, answering why he received and for what use. If he is found guilty he shall not escape until he pays back the last penny.
- 1:6** However, concerning this, there is a saying: "Let your donation sweat in your hands until you know to whom to give it."

CHAPTER 2 - "The Second Commandment"

- 2:1** The second commandment of the teaching is this:
- 2:2** Do not commit murder; do not commit adultery; do not corrupt boys; do not commit sexual immorality; do not steal; do not practice magic; do not practice witchcraft; you shall not murder a child, whether it be born or unborn. Do not covet the things of your neighbor.
- 2:3** Do not swear falsely or bear false witness. Do not speak evil of others; do not hold grudges.
- 2:4** You should not be double-minded or double-tongued, for a double tongue is a deadly trap.
- 2:5** Your word should not be false nor empty, but fulfilled by action.
- 2:6** Do not be greedy, or predatory, or hypocritical, or malicious, or arrogant. Do not plot evil against your neighbor.
- 2:7** Hate no one; correct some, pray for others, and some you should love more than your own life.



CHAPTER 3 - "*My Child, Flee Evil*"

- 3:1** My child, flee evil of all kinds, and everything like it.
- 3:2** Don't be prone to anger, for anger leads to murder. Don't be envious or adversarial or hot-tempered, for all these things lead to murder.
- 3:3** My child, don't be lustful, for lust leads to sexual immorality. Don't be a filthy talker or one who looks up at women, for these lead to adultery.
- 3:4** My child, do not be a diviner, since it leads to idolatry. Don't be one who casts spells, nor an astrologer, nor one who performs purification rites, or be willing to see or hear about these things, for these all lead to idolatry.
- 3:5** My child, don't be a liar, since a lie leads to theft. Don't love money or seek glory, for these things lead to thievery.
- 3:6** My child, don't be a complainer, since it leads to blasphemy, and don't be egocentric or malevolent, for all these things lead to blasphemy.
- 3:7** On the contrary, be humble, since the humble will inherit the earth.
- 3:8** Be long-suffering and pitiful and guileless and gentle and good, and with trembling, treasure the words you have received.
- 3:9** Don't exalt yourself or open your heart to overconfidence. Don't be on intimate terms with mighty people, but with righteous and lowly ones.
- 3:10** Accept whatever happens to you as being for the good, knowing that nothing comes to pass apart from God.

CHAPTER 4 - "*My Child, Remember*"

- 4:1** My child, remember day and night him who speaks the word of God to you, and honor him as the Lord. For wherever his lordship is spoken of, there the Lord is.
- 4:2** Seek each day the presence of the righteous, in order that you may be lean upon their words.
- 4:3** Do not crave conflict, but rather bring peace to those who contend against one another. Judge righteously, and do not take social status into account when reproving for transgressions.
- 4:4** Do not waver in your decisions.
- 4:5** Do not be one who opens his hands to receive, or closes them when it is time to give.
- 4:6** If you have anything, by your hands you should give ransom for your sins.



- 4:7** Do not hesitate to give, and do not complain about it. You will know in time who is the good payer of wages.
- 4:8** Do not turn away from one who is in want; rather, share all things with your brother, and do not say that they are your own. For if you are sharers in what is imperishable, how much more in things which perish!
- 4:9** Do not remove your hand from your son or daughter; teach them the fear of God from their youth.
- 4:10** Do not give orders to your servants when you are angry, for they hope in the same God, and they may lose the fear of God, who is over both of you. God is surely not coming to call on us according to our outward appearance or station in life, but to them whom the Spirit has prepared.
- 4:11** And you, servants, be subject to your masters as to God's image, in humility and fear.
- 4:12** You should hate all hypocrisy and everything which is not pleasing to the Lord.
- 4:13** Do not in any way neglect the commandments of the Lord, but keep what you have received, neither adding nor taking away anything.
- 4:14** In your gatherings, confess your transgressions, and do not come for prayer with a guilty conscience. This is the way of life!

CHAPTER 5 - "The Way of Death"

- 5:1** The way of death, on the other hand, is this, which is evil and full of curses: murder, adultery, lust, sexual immorality, theft, idolatry, magic, use of potions, robbery, false witness, hypocrisy, duplicity, deceit, arrogance, malice, egocentrism, greed, foul speech, jealousy, overconfidence, loftiness, and pretension.
- 5:2** The way of death is the way of those who persecute the good, hate the truth, love lies, and do not understand the reward for righteousness. They do not cleave to good or righteous judgment; they do not watch for what is good, but for what is evil. They are strangers to meekness and patience, loving vanities, pursuing revenge, without pity for the needy and oppressed. They do not know their Creator; they are murderers of children, destroyers of God's image. They turn away from those who are in need, making matters worse for those who are distressed. They are advocates for the rich, unjust judges of the poor. In a word, the way of death is full of those who are steeped in sin. Be delivered, children, from all of this!

CHAPTER 6 - "See That No One Leads You Astray"

- 6:1** See that no one leads you astray from the way of this teaching, since all other teachings train you without God.



- 6:2** For if you are able to bear the whole yoke of the Lord, you will be complete; but if you are not able, then at least do what you can.
- 6:3** Concerning food, do what you are able to do and be on guard against meat offered to idols, for that is to worship dead gods.

CHAPTER 7 - "Concerning Immersion"

- 7:1** Concerning immersion, you should immerse in this way: Having first said all these things, immerse in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit in flowing water.
- 7:2** But if you have no flowing water, immerse in other water; and if you cannot do so in cold water, then in warm.
- 7:3** If you have very little, pour water three times on the head in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- 7:4** Before immersion, both the immerser and the one being immersed, should fast, plus any others who can. The one being immersed should fast for one or two days beforehand.

CHAPTER 8 - "Your Fast Days"

- 8:1** Your fast days should not coincide with those of the hypocrites, for they fast on the second day of the week and on the fifth day. You should fast on the fourth day and on the preparation day.
- 8:2** And do not pray like the hypocrites, but rather as the Lord commanded in the good news:
*Our Father, who is in heaven,
Let your name be sanctified.
Let your kingdom come;
Let your will be done—as in heaven, so on earth.
Our bread of tomorrow, immediately give us today,
And pardon us our debt,
As we also pardon those indebted to us.
And do not bring us into testing,
But rescue us from what is evil.
For yours is the power and the glory, forever and ever.*
- 8:3** Pray this three times each day.



CHAPTER 9 - "Concerning the Giving of Thanks"

9:1 Concerning the giving of thanks, give thanks this way.

9:2 First, concerning the cup:

We thank you, our Father, for the holy vine of your servant David, which you made known to us through your servant Yeshua. Yours is the glory forever.

9:3 Next, concerning the broken bread:

We thank you, our Father, for the life and knowledge which you made known to us through your servant Yeshua. Yours is the glory forever.

9:4 *Just as this broken bread was scattered over the hills, and was gathered together and became one, so let your assembly be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. For yours is the glory and the power through Yeshua the Messiah forever.*

9:5 Allow no one to eat or drink by means of your giving of thanks, unless they have been immersed in the name of the Lord. For concerning this, the Lord has said, "Do not give what is holy to the dogs."

CHAPTER 10 - "After the Giving of Thanks"

10:1 After the giving of thanks when you are filled, give thanks this way:

10:2 *We thank you, holy Father, for your holy name which you enshrined in our hearts, and for the knowledge and faith and immortality that you made known to us through your servant Yeshua. Yours is the glory forever.*

10:3 *You, O Lord of Legions, have created all things for your name's sake. You gave food and drink to all people for enjoyment, that they might give thanks to you; but to us you freely give spiritual food and drink and eternal life through your servant.*

10:4 *And for all things we thank you because you are mighty. Yours is the glory forever.*

10:5 *Remember, O Lord, your congregation. Deliver her from all evil and make her complete in your love, and gather her, the sanctified, from the four winds to your kingdom which you have prepared for her. For Yours is the power and the glory forever.*

10:6 *Let grace come, and let this world pass away! Hoshanna to the Son of David! Everyone who is holy, let him come. Everyone who is not holy, let him repent. Maran etha! Amen.*

10:7 Permit the prophets to lead the giving of thanks as much as they desire.



CHAPTER 11 - "Welcome the Teacher"

- 11:1** Welcome the teacher when he comes to instruct you in all that has been said.
- 11:2** But if he turns aside and trains you in another tradition to the destruction of this teaching, do not listen. If he teaches so as to increase righteousness and the knowledge of the Lord, receive him as the Lord.
- 11:3** This is what you should do, concerning the emissaries, according to the ordinance of the good news:
- 11:4** Let every emissary who comes to you be received as the Lord.
- 11:5** But he must not remain more than one day—two if there's a need. If he stays three days, he is a false prophet.
- 11:6** And when the emissary goes away, let him take nothing but bread to last him until his next night of lodging. If he asks for money, he is a false prophet.
- 11:7** In addition, if any prophet speaks in the Spirit, you shall not put to test or judge him; for every sin will be forgiven, but this sin cannot be forgiven.
- 11:8** But not everyone who speaks in the Spirit is a prophet; only if he is a prophet who has the conduct of the Lord about him. By their ways will the false prophet and the prophet be known.
- 11:9** Any prophet who orders a meal in the Spirit does not eat it; if he does, he is indeed a false prophet.
- 11:10** And any prophet who teaches the truth, but does not do what he teaches, is a false prophet.
- 11:11** When a prophet, proved true, works for the earthly mystery of the assembly but does not teach others to do what he himself does, he will not be judged among you, for his judgment is already before God. The ancient prophets acted in this way also.
- 11:12** But whoever says in the Spirit, "Give me money," or something else like this, you must not listen to him. But if he tells you to give for the sake of others who are in need, let no one judge him.

CHAPTER 12 - "Welcome Anyone Coming in the Name of the Lord"

- 12:1** Welcome anyone coming in the name of the Lord. Receive everyone who comes in the name of the Lord, but then, scrutinize them and use your discretion.
- 12:2** If he who comes is a transient, assist him as far as you are able; but he should not remain with you more than two or three days, if need be.
- 12:3** If he wants to stay with you, and is a craftsman, let him work for his living.



12:4 But if he has no trade, use your judgment in providing for him; for a follower of Messiah should not live idle in your midst.

12:5 If he is dissatisfied with this sort of an arrangement, he is a Messiah peddler. Watch that you keep away from such people.

CHAPTER 13 - "Every True Prophet"

13:1 Every true prophet who wants to live among you is entitled to his sustenance.

13:2 So also, every true teacher is, like a workman, entitled to his sustenance.

13:3 Every first fruit, therefore, of the products of the wine press and threshing floor, and of both cattle and of sheep, should be given to the prophets, because they are your high priests.

13:4 But if you have no prophet, give it all to the poor.

13:5 If you bake bread, take the first part and give it according to the commandment.

13:6 If you open a new vessel of wine or of oil, take the first part and give it to the prophets.

13:7 If you acquire money or cloth or any other possession, set aside the first part as it seems fitting to you, and give it according to the commandment.

CHAPTER 14 - "On the Day of the Lord"

14:1 On the day of the Lord, gather yourselves together and break bread, give thanks after having confessed your transgressions, so that your sacrifice may be pure.

14:2 However, let no one who has a quarrel with his fellow come together with you until they have reconciled, so that your sacrifice may not be impure.

14:3 For this is what the Lord has said: "In every place and time, offer me a pure sacrifice ... because I am a great king," says the Lord, "and my name is awesome among the Gentiles."

CHAPTER 15 - "Appoint Overseers for Yourselves"

15:1 Appoint overseers for yourselves, as well as administrators, worthy of the Lord—humble men, not lovers of money, truthful and proven; for they also perform the service of the prophets and teachers.

15:2 Do not look down on them, for they are your honored ones, together with the prophets and teachers.



- 15:3** Do not rebuke one another in anger, but in peace, as you have been taught in the good news. And if anyone has wronged another person, let no one speak to him, nor let him hear anything from you until he repents.
- 15:4** Carry out your prayers and donations and all your good deeds just as you have been taught in the good news of our Lord.

CHAPTER 16 - "*Be Vigilant for Your Life*"

- 16:1** Be vigilant for your life, that your lamps are never snuffed out, and that your loins are never ungirded. Be ready, for you do not know the hour in which your Lord is coming.
- 16:2** Come together often, seeking the things that are good for your souls. A life of faith will not profit you if you are not made complete at the end of time.
- 16:3** For in the end of days false prophets and corrupters will increase in number, and the sheep will be changed into wolves, and love will be changed into hate.
- 16:4** When lawlessness increases, those who have fallen away will hate and persecute and betray one another. And then the deceiver of the world will appear as a son of God, and he will perform signs and wonders, and the earth will be delivered into his power, and he will commit disgusting acts that have not been seen since the beginning of time.
- 16:5** Then humankind will enter the trial by fire, and many will be made to stumble and will perish; but those who endure in their faithfulness will be saved by the very one who is cursed.
- 16:6** And then the signs of the truth will appear: the first sign, an opening of the heavens; the second sign, the sounding of the trumpet; and the third sign, the resurrection of the dead.
- 16:7** However, not the resurrection of every one, but as it is said: "Then the Lord my God will come, and all the righteous along with him."
- 16:8** Then the world will behold the Lord coming upon the clouds of heaven.

