

Didache Notes for Chapter 1

For the First Week of April (1-7) 2018

Please read the text of the Didache. If you are in a group (congregation) or a family, participants can take turns reading the verses; otherwise a reader should be appointed. After completing the the reading of the chapter, someone who has been appointed should read a verse that is accompanied by a study note. Discussion should follow.

The Didache – Chapter 1

1. There are two ways, one of life and one of death; but there is certainly a great difference between these two ways.
2. The way of life, then, is this: First, you shall love God who made you; second, your neighbor as yourself; and you should never do to others, what you yourself would not want done to you by others.
3. And of these sayings the teaching is this: Bless all those who curse you, and pray for your enemies, and fast for all those who persecute you. For what good is it then if you love only those who love you? Do the gentiles not also do the same? But you should love those who hate you; and you shall not have an enemy.
4. Abstain from fleshly and worldly desires. If someone strikes your right cheek, turn to him the other also; this practice shall lead to perfection. If one asks you to go for one mile, go with him two instead. If someone takes away your cloak, you should also give him your coat. If someone takes anything of your own, do not ask to have it back for what good can you do with it in the first place?
5. Give to every one that asks of you, and do not ask for anything in return; for the Father wills that to all should be given of our own blessings which are free gifts. Happy is he that gives according to the Commandment; for he is blameless. Woe to him that receives; for if one having need receives, he is blameless; but he that receives without having a genuine need, shall pay the penalty, why he received and for what, and, coming into confinement, he shall be examined concerning the things which he has done, and he shall not escape until he pays back the last penny.
6. But also now concerning this, it has been said, Let your alms sweat in the tight grasp of the palm of your hands, until you know to whom you should give.

Notes

Verse 2. Other version say, “love Yahweh your God.” The four Hebrew letters "YHWH" - the Name of God. This is rendered as "Yah" or "Mar Yah" (the Lord YHWH) in Aramaic (Syriac). Others translate the Name as "Yahweh," "Yehovah," "Yehowah," "Jehovah" or “Jehovih”. The most scholarly rendition of the Divine Name is “Yahweh”.

These two statements are directly from the Bible. "You shall love YHWH your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." (Deuteronomy 6:4)

Yeshua quoted these passages as can be seen in Matthew 22:34-40... "But the Pharisees, when they heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, gathered themselves together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, trying him: Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, You shall love YHWH your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second like it is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments the whole Law hangs, and the Prophets."

Verse 3. "But I say to you: Love your enemies; and bless him that curses you; and do good to him that hates you; and pray for them that lead you in bonds, and that persecute you." (Matthew 5:44) **Verse 4.** Compare Matthew 5:47

Verse. 6. "Blessed is the man who endures temptations; so that when he is proved he may receive a crown of life, which God has promised to them that love him...The spirit dwelling in us lusts with envy." (James 1:12; 4:5)

"The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes." (Proverbs 21:10)

Verse 7. "If a person strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also." (Matthew 5:39)

Verse 15. "Truly I say to you, You will not come out from there until you have paid the last cent." (Matthew 5:26)

Verse 16. "But when making alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand does: that your alms may be in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you openly." (Matthew 6:3,4)

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Acknowledgments

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