

was spoken of by the Lord; *In every place and at every time offer Me a pure sacrifice; for I am a great king, says the Lord, and My name is wonderful among the nations.*

15 Appoint for yourselves therefore bishops and deacons worthy of the Lord, men who are humble and not lovers of money, are true and approved; for they also perform for you the service of the prophets and teachers. ² Therefore do not despise them; for they are your honorable men along with the prophets and teachers. ³ And correct one another, not in anger but in peace, as you find in the Gospel; and let no one speak to anyone about what has gone wrong towards his neighbor, nor let him hear a word from you, until he repents. ⁴ But your prayers and your charitable giving and all your good deeds do as you find it in the Gospel of our Lord.

16 Be careful about your life; do not let your witness be ruined and your passions be uncontrolled, but be on guard; for you do not know the hour in which our Lord comes. ² And you should gather together frequently, striving for what is proper for your souls; for the whole time of your faith will not profit you if you are not being perfected in the last season of life. ³ For in the last days false prophets and perverters will be multiplied, and the sheep will turn into wolves, and love will turn into hate. ⁴ For as lawlessness increases, they will hate one another and will persecute and betray. And then the world-deceiver will appear as a son of God; and will work signs and miracles, and the earth will be delivered into his hands; and he will do unholy things that have never been since the world began. ⁵ Then all created mankind will pass through the fire of testing and many will be offended and perish; but those who endure in their faith will be saved by the One who took the curse on Himself. ⁶ And then the signs of the truth will appear; first a sign of the heavens opening, then a sign of a voice of a trumpet, and thirdly the resurrection of the dead; ⁷ but not of all, as it was said: The Lord shall come and all His saints with Him. ⁸ Then shall the world see the Lord coming upon the clouds of heaven.

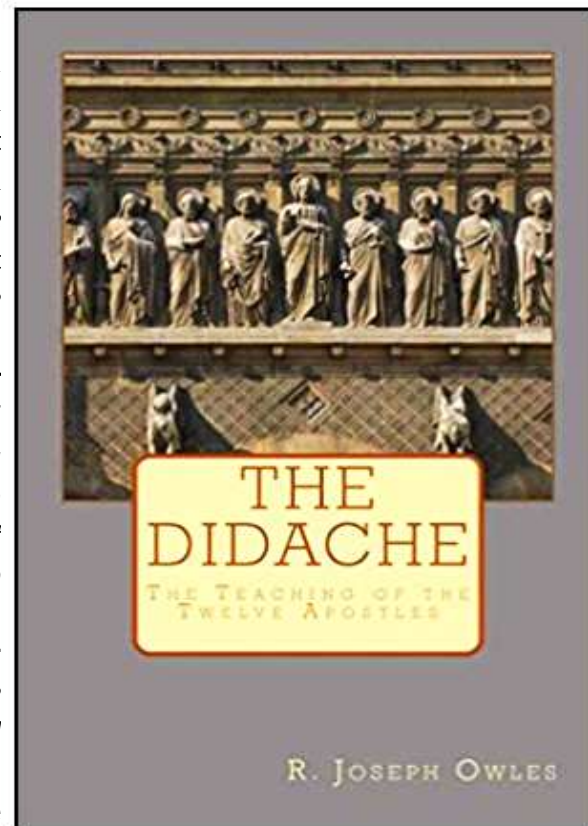
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THE DIDACHE, OR THE TEACHING OF THE LORD TO THE GENTILES BY THE TWELVE APOSTLES

Translated by J. B. Lightfoot, edited by R. D. Hosken

1 There are two ways, one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between the two ways. ² *The way of life* is this. First of all, *you shall love the God Who made you; secondly, your neighbor as yourself. And whatever you would not want to happen to yourself should you do to others.* ³ Now these are the words of our doctrine: *Bless those who curse you, and pray for your enemies and fast for those who persecute you;*

for how praiseworthy is it, if you love those who love you? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? But you should love those who hate you, and you shall not have an enemy. ⁴ Abstain from fleshly and bodily lusts. *If*



anyone strike you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also, and you shall be perfect; if a man compels you to go with him one mile, go with him two; if a man takes away your tunic, give him your coat as well; if a man takes away from you what is your own, do not ask for it back, for you aren't even able to get it. 5 To everyone who asks of you give, and do not ask for it back; for the Father desires that gifts be given to all from His own bounties. Blessed is he who gives according to the commandment; for he is guiltless. Woe to him who receives; for if a man receives when he has need, he is guiltless; but he who has no need must give a satisfactory reason why he received; and being put in confinement he shall be examined concerning the deeds that he has done, and he shall not come out there until he hath given back the last farthing. 6 Yes, concerning this it is also said; Let your alms sweat into your hands, until you will have learned to whom to give.

2 And this is the second commandment of the teaching. *2 You shall not commit murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not have sex with boys, you shall not commit fornication, you shall not steal, you shall not deal in magic, you shall not practice sorcery, you shall not murder a child by abortion or kill them when born, you shall not covet your neighbor's goods, 3 you shall not perjure thyself, you shall not bear false witness, you shalt not speak evil, you shall not hold a grudge, 4 you shall not be double-minded or double-tongued; for the double tongue is a snare of death. 5 Your word shall not be false or empty, but fulfilled by action. 6 You shall not be greedy or a destroyer of others' property or a hypocrite or ill-tempered or proud. You shall not entertain an evil plan against your neighbor. 7 You shall not hate any man, but some you should reprove, and for others you should pray, and others you should love more than your own life.*

3 My child, flee from every evil and everything that resembles it. *2 Do not be angry, for anger leads to murder, or be jealous or contentious or full of wrath; for all of these things engender murders. 3 My child, do not be lustful, for lust leads to fornication, do not tell dirty jokes or gaze upon one of the opposite sex: look down; for all these things lead to adultery. 4 My child, do not deal in omens, since it leads to idolatry,*

every prophet approved and found true, if he does anything as an outward mystery typical of the Church, and yet teaches you not to do all that he himself does, should not be judged before you; he has his judgment in the presence of God; for this is how the prophets also did in old times. *12 And whoever might say in the Spirit, Give me silver or anything else, you should not listen to him; but if he tells you to give on behalf of others who are in want, let no one judge him.*

12 But let every *one who comes in the name of the Lord* be received; and then when you have tested him you will know him, for you will have understanding on the right hand and on the left. *2 If the one who comes is a traveler, assist him, as much as you are able; but he should not stay with you more than two or three days, if it is really necessary. 3 But if he wishes to settle with you, being a craftsman, let him work for and eat his own bread. 4 But if he does not have a skill, according to your discernment provide how he should live as a Christian among you, but he must not be lazy. 5 If he will not do this, he is making a business out of Christ. Beware of such men.*

13 But every true prophet who desires to settle among you *is worthy of his food. 2 In like manner a true teacher is also worthy, like the workman, of his food. 3 Every firstfruit then of the produce of the wine vat and of the threshing floor, of your oxen and of your sheep you must take and give as the firstfruit to the true prophets; for they are your chief priests. 4 But if you do not have a prophet, give them to the poor. 5 If you make bread, take the firstfruit and give according to the commandment. 6 Likewise, when you open a jug of wine or of oil, take the firstfruit and give to the prophets; 7 also of money and clothing and every possession take the firstfruit, as it seems good to you, and give according to the commandment.*

14 And on the Lord's own day gather yourselves together and break bread and give thanks, first confessing your transgressions, that your sacrifice may be pure. *2 And let no one who has something against his fellow believer join your gathering until they have been reconciled, so that your sacrifice may not be defiled; 3 for this is the sacrifice that*

Holy Father, for Your holy name, which You have made to dwell in our hearts, and for the knowledge and faith and immortality, which You have made known to us through Your Son Jesus; Yours is the glory for ever and ever. 3 You, Almighty Master, created all things for Your name's sake, and gave food and drink to men for enjoyment, that they might give thanks to You; but You also granted us spiritual food and drink and eternal life through Your Son. 4 Before all things we give You thanks for You are powerful; Yours is the glory for ever and ever. 5 Remember, Lord, Your Church to deliver it from all evil and to perfect it in Your love; *and gather it together from the four winds* – even the Church which has been sanctified – into Your kingdom which You have prepared for it; for Yours is the power and the glory for ever and ever. 6 May grace come and may this world pass away. Hosanna to the God of David. If anyone is holy, let him come; if anyone is not, let him repent. Maranatha. Amen. 7 But permit the prophets to offer thanksgiving as much as they desire.

11 Whoever therefore might come and teach you all these things that have been said before, receive him; 2 but if the teacher himself is perverted and teaches a different doctrine to the destruction these things, do not listen to him; but if his teaching increases the righteousness and the knowledge of the Lord, receive him as the Lord. 3 But concerning the apostles and prophets, do according to the ordinance of the Gospel. 4 Let every apostle, when he comes to you, may he be received as the Lord; 5 but he should not stay more than a single day, or if needed, a second day as well; but if he stays three days, he is a false prophet. 6 And when he departs give the apostle nothing except bread, until he finds shelter; but if he asks for money, he is a false prophet. 7 And any prophet speaking in the Spirit you should not test nor discern; for every sin will be forgiven, but this sin will not be forgiven. 8 But not everyone who speaks in the Spirit is a prophet, but only if he has the ways of the Lord. From his ways therefore the false prophet and the true prophet can be recognized. 9 And no prophet when he orders in the Spirit to be set at table should eat of it; otherwise he is a false prophet. 10 And every prophet teaching the truth, if he does not do what he teaches, is a false prophet. 11 And

or be an enchanter or an astrologer or a magician, do not even be willing to look at them; for from all these things leads to idolatry. 5 My child, do not be a liar, since lying leads to theft, or be greedy or self-promoting; for all these things lead to theft. 6 My child, do not be a complainer, since it leads to blasphemy, or be self-willed or think evil thoughts; for all these things lead to blasphemies. 7 But be kind, *since the meek shall inherit the earth*. 8 Be patient and have pity and not deceiving and *quiet* and gentle *and always respect the words* that you have heard. 9 You must not think too much of yourself, nor should you push your way ahead of others. Your soul should not get stuck on people who are stuck on themselves, but you should keep company with the righteous and humble. 10 Any accidents that happen, you should receive as good, knowing that nothing is done without God.

3 My child, *you should remember him who speaks the word of God to you* night and day, and should honor him as you do the Lord; for from whomever the Lordship speaks, there is the Lord. 2 Even more you should seek out every day those people who lead holy lives, so that you might find comfort in their words. 3 You should not start a schism, but you should make peace between those who are arguing; you should judge fairly, you should not discriminate against a person by scolding him for his faults. 4 You should not question the existence of a thing that you do not understand. 5 *Do not be found holding out your hands to receive, but hold them in a way ready to give*. 6 If you have anything passing through your hands, you should give a portion of it in repentance for your sins. 7 You should not hesitate to give, nor should you complain when giving; for you should keep in mind Who is the good paymaster of your reward. 8 You should not look the other way when you come across someone who is in need, but you should share all things with your brother, and you should not be stingy with *anything you own*. For if you are fellow-partakers in what is imperishable, how much more in the things that are perishable? 9 You should not be negligent toward your son or your daughter, but from their youth you should teach them the fear of God. 10 You should not be bossy with workers or waitresses in your sour attitude when they trust in the same God as yourself, so that they might happen to stop

honoring the God who is over both of you; for He is coming, not to call people in high positions, but He is coming to those whom the Spirit has prepared. 11 But you, workers, should be respectful of your leaders, as toward a type of God, in humility and respect. 12 You should hate all hypocrisy, and everything that is not pleasing to the Lord. 13 You should never forsake the commandments of the Lord; but should keep those things that you have received, not adding to them or taking away from them. 14 In church you should confess your transgressions, and should not even begin to pray with a troubled conscience. This is the way of life.

5 But this is the way of death: First of all, it is evil and full of cursing; murders, adulteries, lusts, fornication, thefts, idolatry, magic spells, witchcraft, destroying others' property, false witnessing, hypocrisy, deceitfulness, treachery, pride, malice, stubbornness, greed, filthy language, jealousy, boldness, self-promotion, boasting; 2 persecutors of good men, hating the truth, loving a lie, not perceiving the reward of righteousness, not holding to the good or to fair judgment, looking not for what is good but for what is evil; being one whom gentle and patient people avoid; loving vain things, pursuing retribution, not pitying the poor man, not intervening for him who is burdened down with toil, not seeing in them Him Who made them, murderers of children, perverters of these creatures of God, turning away from people who are in want, oppressing those who are suffering, taking the side of the wealthy, unfairly judging the poor, sinful through and through. May you be delivered, my children, from all these things.

6 Beware of those who might lead you astray from this way of righteousness, for he teaches you to depart from God. 2 For if you are able to bear the whole yoke of the Lord, you shall be perfect; but if you are not able, do what you are able to do. 3 But concerning eating, bear what you are able; but by all means abstain from meat sacrificed to idols; for it is the worship of dead gods.

7 But concerning baptism, this is how you should baptize. Having first recited all these things, baptize *in the name of the Father and of the Son*

and of the Holy Spirit in living (running) water. 2 But if you do not have living water, then baptize in other water; and if you are not able to baptize in cold water, then in warm. 3 But if you have neither, then pour water on the head three times in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. 4 But before the baptism he who baptizes and the one who is being baptized should fast, and any others also who are able; and you should order the one who is being baptized to fast a day or two beforehand.

8 And do not let your fasting be with the hypocrites, for they fast on the second and the fifth day of the week [as do Jews]; but you should fast on the fourth and on the preparation (the sixth) day. 2 Do not pray as *the hypocrites*, but as the Lord commanded in His Gospel, *this is how to pray: Our Father, Who are in heaven, hallowed be Your name; Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors; you do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one; for Yours is the power and the glory for ever and ever.* 3 Three times in the day you should pray in this way.

9 But as touching the Eucharist, the thanksgiving, give thanks thus. 2 First, as regards the cup: We give You thanks, O our Father, for the holy vine of Your son David, which You made known unto us through Your Son Jesus; Yours is the glory for ever and ever. 3 Then regarding the broken bread: We give You thanks, O our Father, for the life and knowledge which You made known unto us through Your Son Jesus; Yours is the glory for ever and ever. 4 Just as this broken bread was scattered upon the mountains and being gathered together became one, so may Your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into Your kingdom; for Yours is the power and the glory through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. 5 But let no one eat or drink of this Eucharist, this thanksgiving, except those who have been baptized into the name of the Lord; for concerning this also the Lord has said: *Give not that which is holy to the dogs.*

10 And after you are satisfied give thanks thus: 2 We give You thanks,