

# THE TRUE GOSPEL

## 100 SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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### **BODY PARTS GOING INTO THE KINGDOM VS GOING INTO HELL FIRE**

Mar 9:43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to ENTER INTO LIFE maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

Mar 9:44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mar 9:45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt Into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

Mar 9:46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mar 9:47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to ENTER INTO THE **KINGDOM OF GOD** with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast Into HELL FIRE:

Mar 9:48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Note: Verse 43 compared with verse 48 tells us that the Kingdom is the 'LIFE' we 'GO INTO' as the alternative to going into 'HELL FIRE'. The Greek word for Hell here is 'geenna' Gehenna was originally the valley of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, where the filth and dead animals of the city were cast out and burned. It was a fit symbol of the future destruction of the wicked. Other scriptures tell us more about this fire.

It is a fire that shall 'burn up' the wicked as chaff.

\* Mat 3:12 Whose fan [is] in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

This fire will take place at the end of this world.

\* Mat 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked [one];

Mat 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

Mat 13:40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

Mat 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

Mat 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The wicked shall not 'burn forever' in this fire, but shall become ashes.

\* Mal 4:3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do [this], saith the Lord of hosts.

The lake of fire is called the 'second death'.

\* Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

### THE LESSON OF THE BODY PARTS

1 Cor 12 is the beginning of the lesson about the body parts, explaining that spiritually speaking, Christians are baptized into one body which is Christ's body. Also Rom 12:5 says, "So we, [being] many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." In Christ's body the many members symbolize the different body parts, the feet, the hands, the eyes. We should never have the attitude that, "I have no need of you" toward other members of the body. But here we are told that there are occasions when it is better to cut off an offending body part because if we do not cut it off, the whole body will be cast into the fire. We know that if one of our own physical body parts becomes sick or diseased, it may be necessary to amputate or remove it so that our whole body does not become infected and die. It is the same with the spiritual body parts of the church members.

Here are other scriptures where the lesson of the offending body parts is used showing the reasons why those part may have to be removed.

1.

\* Mat 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

Mat 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Mat 5:29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Mat 5:30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast into hell.

"The offending body parts is here used in context of looking on a woman to lust after her which is breaking God's commandment against adultery. So this body part is offensive because it is drawn easily into sin. And it is better to get rid of the sinning body part so that the whole body will not perish in the lake of fire. The Apostle Paul applied this principle in 1Cor 5:1-6 to remove the church member whom everyone knew was committing fornication with his father's wife. Paul also used the symbolism of leaven in verse 6 saying that just as a little leaven will leaven the whole lump, so allowing one person to sin will corrupt the whole church.

2.

\* Mat 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 18:5 And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

Mat 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and [that] he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Mat 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Mat 18:8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast [them] from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

Mat 18:9 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast [it] from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

Mat 18:10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

In these scriptures a Christian is said to be a child of God who believes in Christ. Each Christian is so important to God that he is said to have angels always appearing on his behalf before the face of God the Father in Heaven. The eye, hand or foot that offends is likened to a member of the same body who is despising and offending rather than receiving the child of God who believes in Christ.

The word 'offend' is the Greek 'skandalizo' and has these meanings:

(From <http://www.blueletterbible.org/>)

- 1) to put a stumbling block or impediment in the way, upon which another may trip and fall
  - a) to entice to sin
  - b) to cause a person to begin to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey
    - 1) to cause to fall away
    - 2) to be offended in one, i.e. to see in another what I disapprove of and what hinders me from acknowledging his authority
    - 3) to cause one to judge unfavorably or unjustly of another
  - c) since one who stumbles or whose foot gets entangled feels annoyed
    - 1) to cause one displeasure at a thing
    - 2) to make indignant
    - 3) to be displeased, indignant

The word despise is the Greek 'kataphroneo' and means to condemn, despise, disdain, think little or nothing of

With this in mind we all ought to examine our heartfelt attitudes toward our fellow-Christians. The child of God is told to cut off the offending body part.

Notice this example of one who was offending and not receiving his fellow-brethren in the church:

\* 3Jo 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrefes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

3Jo 1:10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth [them] out of the church.

3Jo 1:11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Luke repeats the warning of Mat 18:7 telling us how to deal with offenses committed against us by other members of the body. This shows that cutting off of offensive body parts should be done only as a matter of last resort.

\* Luk 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe [unto him], through whom they come!

Luk 17:2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

Luk 17:3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

Luk 17:4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him

3.

\* Mar 9:37 Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

Mar 9:38 And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us.

Mar 9:39 But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.

Mar 9:40 For he that is not against us is on our part.

Mar 9:41 For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.

Mar 9:42 And whosoever shall offend one of [these] little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

Mar 9:43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

In Mar 9:38 we are not told why this other group did not wish to walk with the 12 disciples. Yet they still honored Christ and did miracles in his name. The Lord here shows how we must rightly discern the character of the Lord's body parts based on their good Christian works because there is a difference between those who are 'AGAINST US' whom we are to cut off as offensive body parts, and those who are 'FOR US' even though they are not part of our own group.

Mar 9:41 tells us that we will be rewarded if we recognize and receive another person as part of the same Christian body and treat him kindly because we know he belongs to Christ. And we are not to 'forbid' those who are faithful body parts even though they are not of our group. The word 'forbid' is the Greek 'kolyo' meaning to hinder, prevent, to withhold a thing from anyone, to deny or refuse one a thing.

We must not only recognize others as fellow-Christians, but Mar 9:42 tells us that the punishment for offending them will be WORSE than being drowned with a millstone tied around our neck.

We are reminded to examine ourselves, especially as we take the annual Passover, that we properly 'discern' the Lord's body which includes judging ourselves as part of the body.

\* 1Cor 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink [this] cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

1Cor 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of [that] bread, and drink of [that] cup.

1Cor 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

1Cor 11:30 For this cause many [are] weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

1Cor 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

The Greek for discern is 'diakrino' and has these meanings:

(From <http://www.blueletterbible.org/>)

1) to separate, make a distinction, discriminate, to prefer

2) to learn by discrimination, to try, decide

a) to determine, give judgment, decide a dispute

3) to withdraw from one, desert

4) to separate one's self in a hostile spirit, to oppose, strive with dispute, contend

5) to be at variance with one's self, hesitate, doubt

In the physical body autoimmune diseases arise from an overactive immune response against substances and tissues normally present in the body. In other words, the body mistakes some part or substance of the body as a pathogen and attacks it. Not discerning, misjudging or mistaking a part of the spiritual body of Christ (including ourselves) can likewise result in a variety of spiritual sicknesses and even spiritual death.

In all these lessons it is obvious that the offender is in danger of losing his eternal life in the Kingdom of God and cast into the lake of fire. But the one offended can also lose his eternal life if he is not willing to forgive an offending brother who repents, or if he is allowing an unrepentant offending brother to remain and be a corrupting influence on the whole body or if he falls away from his relationship with God because he is so offended.

The Apostle Paul gives this example of how a weaker Christian can be destroyed because a stronger Christian wounds his brother's conscience by eating meat sacrificed to an idol.

\* Rom 14:14 I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that [there is] nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him [it is] unclean.

Rom 14:15 But if thy brother be grieved with [thy] meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.

\* 1Cor 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

1Cor 8:10 For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;

1Cor 8:11 And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?

1Cor 8:12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.

1Cor 8:13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

The end of the lesson about the body parts is that we are to focus on edifying each part of the body in love as we grow up into Christ our head.

\* Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ:

Eph 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.