

THE SHEPHERD OF
HERMAS

COMMANDMENTS

BOOK 1

Do Not Lust in Heart

2 And when I saw her **I thought with myself**, saying, How happy **should I be if I had such a wife**, both for beauty and manners. This I thought with myself; nor did I think any more. But not long after, as I was walking and **mus^{ing} on these thoughts**, I began to honour this creature of God, thinking with myself; **how noble and beautiful she was**.

Correction

9 Then she, smiling upon me, said: **the desire of naughtiness has risen up in thy heart. Does it not seem to thee to be an ill thing for a righteous man to have an evil desire rise up in his heart?**

10 It is indeed a sin, and that a very great one, to such a one; for a righteous man thinketh that which is righteous. And whilst he does so, and walketh uprightly, he shall have the Lord in heaven favorable unto him in all his business.

Correction

11 But **as for those who think wickedly in their hearts, they take to themselves death and captivity**; and especially those who love this present world, and glory in their riches, and regard not the good things that are to come; their souls wander up and down, and know not where to fix.

12 Now this is the case of such **as are double-minded**, who trust not in the Lord, and **despise and neglect their own life**.

19 She replied, Far be any such thing from the servant of God. But it may be **the desire of her has risen up in thy heart. For indeed such a thought maketh the servants of God guilty of sin.**

20 Nor ought such a detestable thought to be in the servant of God: nor should he who is approved by the Spirit desire that which is evil; but especially Hermas, who contains himself from all wicked lusts, and is full of all simplicity, and of great innocence.



Household Correction

9 Thy seed, O Hermas! hath sinned against the Lord, and have betrayed their parents, through their great wickedness. And they have been called the betrayers of their parents, and have gone on in their treachery.

10 And now have **they added lewdness** to their other sins, and the pollutions of their naughtiness: thus have they filled up the measure of their iniquities. But **do thou upbraid(correct) thy sons** with all these words; and **thy wife**, which shall be thy sister; and let her learn to refrain her tongue, with which she calumniates. (*make false and defamatory statements*)

11 And when she shall hear these things, she will refrain herself, and **shall obtain mercy.**

Repentance

15 For **the repentance of the righteous has its end**; the days of repentance are fulfilled to all the saints; **but to the heathen, there is repentance even unto the last day.**

16 Thou shalt **therefore say to those who are over the church; that they order their ways in righteousness,** that they may fully receive the promise with much glory.

17 **Stand fast therefore ye that work righteousness and continue to do it, that your departure may be with the holy angels.**

Do Not Remember Sins Committed Against you

21 ¶ But thou, O Hermas! remember not the [note: Injuries.] **evils which thy sons have done, neither neglect thy sister**, but take care that they amend of their former sins.

22 For they will be instructed by this doctrine, *if thou shalt not be mindful of what they have done wickedly.*

23 For the remembrance of evils worketh death, but the forgetting of them life eternal.

Different Elect

62 They are the children of iniquity, who believed only in hypocrisy, but departed not from their evil ways; for this cause they shall not be saved, because they are not of any use in the building by reason of their sins.

63 Wherefore they are cut out, and cast afar off, because of the anger of the Lord, and because they have provoked him to anger against them.

64 As for the great number of other stones which thou hast seen placed about the tower, but not put into the buildings; those which are rugged, are they who have known the truth, but have not continued in it, nor been joined to the saints, and therefore are unprofitable.

65 Those that have clefts in them, are they that keep up discord (disagreement) in their hearts against each other, and live not in peace; that are friendly when present with their brethren, but as soon as they are departed from one another, their wickedness still continues in their hearts: these are the clefts which are seen in those stones. 66 Those that are maimed and short, are they who have believed indeed, but still are in great measure full of wickedness: for this cause they are maimed and not whole.

Different Elect

73 ¶ As for the rest of the stones which thou sawest cast afar off from the tower, and running in the way, and tumbled out of the way into desert places, **they are such as have believed indeed, but through their doubting have forsaken the true way, thinking that they could find a better.** But they wander and are miserable, going into desolate ways.

74 Then for those stones which fell into the fire and were burnt, they are those who have [note: Finally.] **for ever departed from the living God; nor doth it ever come into their hearts to repent, by reason of the affection which they bear to their lusts and wickednesses which they commit.**

75 And what are the rest which fell by the water, and could not roll into the water?

76 They are such as **have heard the word, and were willing to be baptized in the name of the Lord;** but considering the great holiness which the truth requires, **have withdrawn themselves, and walked again after their wicked lusts.**

Do Not Doubt!

18 For this cause the Lord sent his angel, who is over the beast, whose name is Hegrin, and stopped his mouth, that he should not devour thee. **Thou hast escaped a great trial through thy faith, and because thou didst not doubt for such a terrible beast.**

19 Go therefore, and relate to the elect of God the great things that he hath done for thee. And thou shalt say unto them, that this beast is the figure of the trial that is about to come.

20 **If therefore, ye shall have prepared yourselves, ye may escape it, if your heart be pure and without spot; and if ye shall serve God all the rest of your days without complaint.**

21 **Cast all your cares upon the Lord, and he will direct them. Believe in God, ye doubtful, because he can do all things; he can both turn away his wrath from you, and send you help and security.**

22 **Woe to the doubtful, to those who shall hear these words, and shall despise them: it had been better for them that they had not been born.**

23 ¶ Then I asked her concerning the four colours which the beast had upon its head. But she answered me saying; Again thou art curious in that thou asketh concerning these things. But I said to her, Lady, shew me what they are.

Tell The Saints

26 **They therefore, that shall endure to the end, and be proved by them shall be purged.** And as gold, by this trial, is cleansed and loses its dross, so shall ye also cast away all sorrow and trouble, and be made pure for the building of the tower.

27 But the white colour denotes the time of the world which is to come, in which the elect of God shall dwell: because the elect of God shall be pure and without spot until life eternal.

28 **Wherefore do not thou cease to speak these things in the ears of the saints.** Here ye have the figure of the great tribulation that is about to come; which, if you please shall be nothing to you. Keep therefore in mind the things that I have said unto you.