



The Messenger

Messenger Project Newsletter

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Messenger Notes



William Jefferson sings "The Lord is My Shepherd."

William Jefferson has been reworking his melody for *Psalm 23 (The Lord is My Shepherd)* to better suit his vocal style. The song will have a nice R&B sound when it's finished.

Challenger's July 30th youth camp music ministry performance date was cancelled. We hope to set a new date for early next year.

Huntington Beach Community Bible Church Choir sang **Lionel De Leon's** choral arrangement of *The First Day (Genesis 1:1)* on June 12th and the worship team performed *Rejoice (Philippians 4:4)* on June 19th.

Huntington Beach Community Bible Church turns 100 years old in 2006 and a committee is working on celebration plans. **Lionel and Joie De Leon** volunteered for the committee and are hoping to include a couple of **Messenger Project** songs in the celebration.

Four demo songs from **Skip Hahn** are now available at messengerproject.com. These songs were slated for future Messenger Project recordings.

Tin Nguyen is adapting *The Word* rock opera into Vietnamese for a possible Christmas performance at his church in Houston, Texas.

The Didache

The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, or Didache (Greek *didaskhein*, "to teach") is considered the oldest manuscript from the apostolic age. Some scholars believe it was written during the first Apostolic Council around 50 A.D. (Acts 15) while others believe it was written in the 2nd century. The Didache is a compilation of regulations for Christians that wasn't added to the Bible, but was revered by early Christian writers of the 4th and 5th century (who quoted it extensively). The Didache was only known through these secondary sources until a Greek manuscript written in 1056 was discovered in Constantinople, Istanbul in 1873 by Philotheos Bryennios (who published it in 1883).

Chapter 1 reveals two paths (life and death) and the great distance between them. It restates many of Jesus' teachings about loving God and our neighbors (including our enemies). It praises those who give but woes those who receive when not in need.

Chapter 2 lists things that are forbidden: murder, adultery, corruption of youth, fornication, thievery, sorcery, predicting the future, abortion, infanticide, perjury, false witnessing, greed, coveting, hypocrisy, pride, malice, evil language, empty talk, evil planning, two-facedness, and hate.

Chapter 3 adds that Christians should flee from evil; don't be wrathful, jealous, contentious or quarrelsome; don't be lustful or a filthy talker; stay away from all forms of witchcraft; don't be conceited; don't lie or covet; don't be self-willed or evil-minded; refrain from complaining; be longsuffering, humble, peaceful, harmless, compassionate and good; accept all circumstances as good, knowing that without God nothing happens.

Chapter 4 says to honor teachers of the word and to seek out fellow Christians; to avoid conflict and seek peace among Christians; to give rather than receive; to share; teach our children the fear of God; don't be bitter nor cruel to servants or slaves; keep God's commandments and confess our sins in the Church.

Chapter 5 describes the path of death as doing things that God commands against (murder, adultery, etc.).

Chapter 6 tells us to strive for perfection but achieve what we can (knowing that we are sinful in nature).

Chapter 7 instructs in baptism, saying that it is ideally performed in running water (in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit). It says we should fast for one or two days prior to baptism.

Chapter 8 teaches when and how to fast and pray (to recite the Lord's prayer 3 times a day).

Chapter 9 instructs on communion (bread and wine) and recites Eucharist prayers.

Chapter 10 recites a prayer to follow communion.

Chapter 11 teaches discernment of preachers and prophets. It reveals false prophets as those who request money and don't live according to their teachings.

Chapter 12 teaches discernment among fellow Christians, saying to accept everyone who comes in the name of the Lord but avoid people who are not willing to work.

Chapter 13 states that our firstfruits belong to the prophets or the poor.

Chapter 14 says to give thanks, break bread and confess our sins on the Lords day so our offerings will be acceptable.

Chapter 15 tells us to elect leaders in the church, rebuke each other's sins and avoid unrepentant sinners.

Chapter 16 teaches about the end times when the Lord returns.

This early church manuscript was useful for new believers but was too legalistic to be canonized in the Bible. It is an inferior piece, but valuable to historians and theologians nonetheless. The Bible is perfect and complete, sowing love and reaping joy.