

THE SIN OF DESPISING ONE OF “THESE LITTLE ONES”
(Matthew 18:10-14)

- I. The ADMONITION (Matt. 18:10a)
 - A. The OBJECT of the warning: “these LITTLE ONES”
 - 1. Often thought to be CHILDREN (18:2)
 - 2. Actually refers to BELIEVERS (18:3-6)
 - B. The NATURE of the warning: “see that you do not DESPISE one”
 - 1. By provoking VIOLATION of CONSCIENCE (cf. Rom. 14:3)
 - 2. By showing PARTIALITY (cf. James 2:1-8)
 - 3. By withholding HELP from those in NEED (cf. 1 Cor. 11:20-21)
 - 4. By MOCKING perceived DEFICIENCIES (cf. Gal. 4:14)
 - 5. By being responding BADLY when one SINS
 - a. INDIFFERENT or JUDGMENTAL toward failure (cf. Gal. 6:1-2)
 - b. RESENTFUL toward instruction (Titus 2:15)
 - 6. By taking ADVANTAGE for personal GAIN (cf. 1 Thes. 4:6)
- II. The EXPLANATION (Matt. 18:10b-13)
 - A. “Their ANGELS” (18:10b)
 - 1. IDENTIFYING the “angels”

- a. Could be INDIVIDUAL GUARDIAN angels (*Tobit 12:14-15*)
 - b. Could be their SPIRITS after DEATH (*Acts 12:15; 2 Baruch 51:5, 12; 1 Enoch 51:4*)
 - c. Could be GENERAL MINISTRY of the angels collectively (*Heb. 1:14*)
 - 2. Recognizing the POINT: They CONSTANTLY interact with “My FATHER in HEAVEN”
 - B. Their SHEPHERD (*18:11-13; cf. Lk 15:1-7*)
 - 1. The SAVIOR of the LOST (*cf. Lk. 19:10*)
 - 2. The GUARDIAN of His SHEEP
 - a. KNOWS when one STRAYS
 - b. FINDS and RESTORES it to the flock
 - c. REJOICES over its RECOVERY
- III. The AFFIRMATION (*Matt. 18:14*)
- A. Their FATHER
 - 1. MY Father is YOUR Father (*vv. 11, 14*)
 - 2. ALL of “these little ones” are HIS
 - B. Their SECURITY
 - 1. His WILL is SOVEREIGN
 - 2. NOT ONE of “these little ones” can PERISH