

Elder Bobby Willis



### **Fear God - Not Man**

Matthew 10:28, “**...fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**”

Our study verse is often used to bring fear into the hearts of God’s children in an attempt to scare them into joining the church and being baptized. The part of the verse most emphasized is the last few words, “**...able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**” Before we can understand the latter part, we must first know who Christ is speaking to and why. Jesus is speaking unto the twelve disciples (apostles) and warns them of the impending dangers of speaking in His name. In Matthew 10:28 He tells them he is sending them “**...forth as sheep in the midst of wolves:...**” Then, in verse 17 the warning bell is sounded, “**But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;...**”

Christ strongly exhorts and instructs the apostles to fear God, for He is the only one that can destroy both body and soul in hell.” Eleven of them had nothing to fear with this statement, only Judas. They were not to even worry about what they were to speak for it “**shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak**” (vs. 19).

It would do all of us well if we could remember the teachings of Jesus to His disciples as He was equipping them for what they would face as disciples of Christ. Likewise, we “**...shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake:..**”, it is profitable for us to overcome all adversities, no matter what manner in which they may come. At the end of verse 22 we find the Lord giving them and us the comfort we need to be steadfast, “**But he that endureth to the end shall be saved.**” Please understand this is not an eternal saving (which is by the grace of God), but rather a saving in time while we are facing the trials and tribulations of this life. If our eternal salvation depended on our enduring to the end in order to be saved eternally, then it would cause our eternal salvation to be by works. Consider

the words of truth in God's word and view the context of each set of scriptures to determine the timely or eternal application.

May the Lord bless each of us to endure the hardships of life while fearing God and keeping His commandments, rather than fearing Satan and his devices. **Think About It!**