

I. Know the Plan - 2 Peter 3:16-18: Divine Academy vs. Cosmic Academy**THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE****I. Know the Plan:****A. The Divine Academy vs. the Cosmic Academy**

1. The Scriptures are very clear that there are two systems of thought which may be learned by the human mind.
2. There is the curriculum which is found in the Bible and is taught and understood through a system of grace.
3. The content of its subject matter is absolute truth.
4. The second curriculum is developed by Satan Himself and is taught and understood through a system of delusion.
5. The content of its subject matter is the unmitigated lie.
6. The delusion occurs because the lie is presented as if it were truth and is camouflaged by rhetorical and visual veils.
7. We call this the cosmic system and often refer to it by its Latin equivalent: *cosmos diabolicus*. **Bethel, Tom. "The New Comintern." *The American Spectator*. Nov. 1994, pp. 18-19.**
8. Thus, we have the Divine Academy of Grace Instruction versus the Satanic Academy of Cosmic Instruction.
9. Every member of the human race matriculates in one or the other of these academies of thought. (1 John 1:5, 1 John 1:6, 1 John 1:7, John 8:31, John 8:32, John 8:34, 1 Timothy 4:1)
10. Our functions as students in either of these academies is consistently defined in the Bible by the verb: *peripateo*

Literal: To walk around; to walk; to go about; to move along on foot; to advance by steps; the gait of a biped in which the feet are lifted alternately with one foot not clear of the ground before the other touches.

This literal process became a way of describing one's manner of life and thus we have the following figurative use of the word:

Figurative: To pursue a course of action or a way of life; behavior; personal conduct; the status in which one lives. There is a synonym of *peripateo* which has a military application: *stoicheo*

To march under a system of authority or under a principle of discipline.

These two words are used in the New Testament to describe the believer's daily lifestyle based on his enrollment in either the Grace or Cosmic Academy.

1. *Stoicheo* means to walk in line, or to keep step.
2. We see this word used in:

Galatians 5:25 - Since we live by the Spirit let us keep in step with the Holy Spirit.

11. All believers are required to march to the same cadence and under the leadership of the same Drill Instructor: The Holy Spirit.
12. Basic training is Bible class. This is where we learn the commands, the orders, and the code of conduct.

13. Our life becomes so ordered that we fulfill the command of Galatians 5:25 to “march in step with the Holy Spirit.”
14. The verb *peripateo* appears in such passages as:

Romans 6:4 - Walk in newness of life.

This is the first time *peripateo* is used in the New Testament epistles and obviously refers to a way of life.

Romans 8:4 - We do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Holy Spirit.

The word for flesh-sarx-indicates a lifestyle which is dictated by the sinful nature by means of its trends, lust pattern, strengths, and weaknesses.

The sin nature's trends are toward either lasciviousness or asceticism; its lust pattern is motivated by a desire for power, approbation, pleasure, murder, anger, money, et al.; its strengths are expressions of human good and evil; and its weaknesses are the commission of personal sins: mental attitude, verbal, and overt.

1 Corinthians 3:3 - Are you not carnal and walk as the unbeliever?

The old English word “carnal” is used to translate the word *sarx*: or flesh. It is another way to describe the way of life practiced by the believer who is out of fellowship due to unconfessed personal sin.

When a believer commits sins and fails to confess them, or worse, refuses to acknowledge that he is leading a life dictated by his sinful nature, then that person imitates the lifestyle of the unbeliever. He “walks” as an unbeliever.

1 Corinthians 7:17 - As the Lord assigned to each one whom He elected as status in life, so let him walk.

God has a perfect Plan for every believer. Through Bible study each person identifies his place in that Plan. It is the obligation of every believer to discern his function in the Plan of God and then “walk” in that status.

If you are a pastor, walk as a pastor; if you are a businessman, walk as a businessman; if you are a soldier, walk as a soldier; if you are a scientist, walk as a scientist.

Whatever you do, you are to conduct your daily affairs from a Biblical inventory of ideas. When you do you will be “walking in newness of life” and “by means of the Holy Spirit.”

In order to achieve such a lifestyle it is first of all required that you know the Plan. And knowing the Plan starts with a knowledge of Jesus Christ.