

## ML302 Scales and Fins

**Y**ou should read “Chewing the Cud” [ML301] before reading this lesson because it teaches the doctrine of eating meat. Yet, here’s a brief review of that doctrine:

*In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of Joh 4:31-32).*

Recall that *eat* and *meat* represent DO and WORKS. In this lesson, *scales* and *fins* represent FAITH and WORKS.

*These shall ye eat of all that are in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat” [Le 11:9].*

Each small scale on a fish is a tiny shield in itself, too small to offer much defense against an enemy. However, joined by dozens if not hundreds more, scales represent one of the six weapons in the armor of God: “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” [Eph 6:11-16].

To be clean, a fish must have a tight-knitted-shield of scales. It must also move about with fins. Shields protect; fins propel, i.e., they work to move the fish through the water. Thus, “fins and scales” represent “works of faith.”

Fish with “scales and no fins” represent those who say they have faith but have no works [Jas 2:26]. Like camels, they “talk the talk” but don’t “walk the walk.” They are unclean — like eels and snakes.

Fish that have “fins but no scales” represent those who do works without faith. Like swine, they “walk the walk” but don’t “talk the talk.”

And like camels and swine, they clean only the outside of the cup. Put these thoughts together and you understand where James may have gotten his revelation that works without faith are dead.

Finally, being water creatures, fish represents spiritual concepts — the counterparts of beasts of flesh.

[“All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds” 1Co 15:39.]