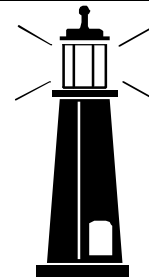


The Berryville church of Christ

# Bible Beacon



"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

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October 12th, 2003

## Does Man Have an Immortal Soul?

*Kevin Cauley*

The question of life after death is a common theme in many cultures today. It is a question that has been discussed by poets, artists, philosophers, and scientists. It is a question asked by each and every individual living upon the face of the earth. One of the first things that we are made aware of within life is the certainty of death. So what lies beyond death is naturally one of the most compelling questions a person can pose. Does the Bible teach that when a person dies that they are merely extinct? Lifeless? Soulless? Or does the Bible teach that after death our soul remains alive and exists independently of our bodies? Let's examine these questions in light of Bible teaching.

Does man even have a soul? There are some who state that the soul of man is nothing more than the life of man. By this they mean to suggest that there is nothing different between a man and an animal insofar as the soul is concerned. One of their favorite passages is Proverbs 12:10 which uses the same word that is translated "soul" to describe the life of a beast. By this they mean to suggest that "soul" is merely one's "life-force" and has nothing to do with anything other than the physical body. It is true that there are many passages within the Bible where "soul" means "life" and the two words can be used relatively interchangeably. However, the studious will do well to note that words often have more than one meaning and can be used in different senses. Such is the case for this word as well.

We find one such example in Leviticus 17:11. This passage says, "For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul." In this passage, the blood makes atonement for the soul. Was it merely for a person's life that

atonement was made? Since when does blood need to be shed to safeguard a person's life-force? It should be clear to the conscientious that "soul" in this passage means more than just a life-force because it is something that is in need of atonement. We find another example in Leviticus 26:11. God says in this passage, "And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you." Here the word has reference to God himself. Does the word merely describe God's "life-force?" To the contrary, the context is in regard to the presence of God among the children of Israel. We know that God is a Spirit (John 4:24), so "soul" in this context is not merely referring to some "life-force" as defined above since the word is attributed to God himself.

Perhaps the greatest demonstration that the soul is more than just man's "life-force" begins in the prophetic passage Psalm 16:10. This passage states, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." Peter quotes this passage in Acts 2:31 where he applies it to the soul of the resurrected Jesus. He says, "he (David) foreseeing *this* spake of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he left unto Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption."<sup>ASV</sup> Notice that Peter says that "he" was not left unto Hades and then he also says that his flesh did not see corruption. To Peter, the real Jesus was someone different from his flesh; Jesus had a soul. Now just exactly where was Jesus during this period of time that his body was in the tomb? Jesus' own words to the thief on the cross tell us exactly where Jesus was, a place known as paradise (Luke 23:43). How do we know that Jesus was not really in heaven with the thief? Notice these two facts: First, Jesus said that he would be with the thief "today" in paradise. Second, when Mary saw Jesus after his resurrection, Jesus said that he had not yet ascended to the Father (John 20:17). Now if Jesus had seen Lazarus in the same day that he had died and if Jesus had gone to heaven to see him after his death, then Jesus would have already have ascended into heaven and would have had to come back down to ascend

again. This is also confirmed for us in Ephesians 4:9 where it states, "Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?" This expression "lower parts of the earth" is a phrase that occurs in the Old Testament twice (Psalm 63:9; Isaiah 44:23) and refers to the place of the departed. Jesus descended to this place wherein is the realm of paradise and then Jesus ascended into heaven after having been resurrected from the dead. The inescapable conclusion is that the soul of Jesus was still alive and well while Jesus body was in the tomb.

Finally, we see that Jesus himself argued for the existence of the soul after death. He did so to the religious sect of the time known as the Sadducees. Acts 23:8 tells us what the Sadducees believed in this regard. "For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit..." It is significant that the Sadducees believed that there were no spirits. In their view of things there were no "souls." Sadducee doctrine was that when a person was dead, he had no spirit-form to depart from his body, but that all that was left of him was the dust from whence he came. Hence, the dead no longer existed according to the Sadducees. We see these views addressed in Matthew 22:23-33, Mark 12:18-27, and Luke 20:27-38. It is significant that Jesus addressed the whole of the Sadducees doctrine about the resurrection. That is, in the view of the Sadducees, there was no resurrection because there were no souls to resurrect. Jesus also answers the question about angels as well. In these passages, Jesus first tells the Sadducees that they knew neither the scriptures nor the power of God. He then answers their question regarding marriage in the resurrection by telling them that men would be like angels in the resurrection, without gender. Finally he deals with the doctrine of whether the dead have souls that are still living. If they do, then the implication of that fact is that they will one day be raised. In Matthew, Jesus is recorded as saying, "But as touching the resurrection of the dead...." Mark records, "As touching the dead, that they rise...." Luke writes, "Now that the dead are raised...." In the next few verses, Jesus makes it clear that he is not talking about the raising of dead bodies, but of dead souls. How do we know this? Jesus takes God's statement to Moses from Exodus 3:6 where God says, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" and points out the tense of the verb, "I am." It is present tense, meaning that God was, during the time of Moses, the God of the very much alive and well Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But their bodies were

## Kevin's Korner



**T**oday I am shortening Kevin's Korner so I can get in this article on whether man has an immortal soul. Of the religious groups that teach man has no immortal soul, the Jehovah's Witnesses are the most prominent. They claim that the concept of man's soul is merely a tradition of men, but as you can see from the article, Jesus' teaching on the subject to the Sadducees indicates that it is a great error not to believe in the immortal soul. It is our duty as Christians to be helping people work through such issues as well as helping bring those who have wrong understandings into the truth. I hope that the article will help you in your personal work.

dead, so how could they be alive? They were alive because they had an immortal soul. And so Jesus concludes, "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." The implication is that the souls of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were still alive after their death in the time of Moses and that, in fact, they were still alive in the time of Christ.

Yes, there is an immortal soul. Yes, the immortal souls of all of those who have gone before live right now in the place of the dead. Yes, one day those immortal souls will be resurrected to be rejoined with a new and immortal body (Acts 24:15). Those who do not believe in the existence of the immortal soul in the words of Jesus, "do greatly err" (Mark 12:27). The righteous will go into eternal life and the wicked unto eternal condemnation. Your immortal soul, dear friend, will be among those resurrected in that day. Make sure that your life is right with God today. Don't "greatly err" from God's word. Tomorrow may never come and your immortal soul may be eternally lost if you heed not his will.

**Elders:** Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

**Deacons:** Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle.

**Preacher:** Kevin Cauley 870-423-6707

### Times of Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:.....9:30 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship: ..... 10:30 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship: .....6:00 PM  
 Ladies Bible Class:..... 10:30 AM  
 Wed. Evening Bible Class:.....7:00 PM

# No Admittance

Andy Cates

**T**he Tuscaloosa News recently reported that some counterfeit tickets had been sold to a number of people hoping to see the Alabama-Oklahoma football game. The unsuspecting ticket purchasers reached the gates of Bryant-Denny Stadium with their pricey imitations only to learn that they would not be admitted.

Those ticket buyers had been careless in purchasing the tickets from someone on the street. The tickets looked real at just a glance, but upon looking closely and studying the ticket one could see that the silver Alabama "A" on the left upper corner was not made of foil, as it is on an official ticket, but rather was the artwork of a steady hand and a silver paint pen. The color copier used by the counterfeiter had made the rest of the ticket look genuine.

These people must have been highly disappointed to learn of their error and carelessness. They would miss a game between two of the greatest traditions in college football. However, there is no way to compare their feeling with that of those who will find out that they will be denied admittance into the heavenly gates and be eternally separated from God (Matt. 7:21-23). They will not be able to just walk back to their car and drive home as did those on that game day. They will "be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched" (Mark 9:45), because they were careless, negligent, and did not "try the spirits whether they are of God" (I John 4:1). They did not study and obey God's inspired Word (II Tim. 2:15; John 12:48; I John 5:3; II Tim. 3:16, 17; et al.).

Today, there are literally thousands of counterfeits of the Lord's church. That alone points to

the genuineness of the church. One does not produce a counterfeit of that which is not real. Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell (Hades ASV) shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). The gates of Hades could not hold Him. He rose from the dead, ascended to the Father, and finished the work of establishing His church.

The counterfeit game tickets were different in only one area, the "A", but that made the entire ticket vain, without merit, worthless. A church that does not follow the New Testament pattern in even one area is without merit, worthless, and will be rooted up (Matt. 15: 9,13). It is not the Lord's. For example, unscriptural name, instrumental music in worship, sprinkling instead of immersion, quarterly observance of the Lord's Supper, woman preachers, etc. Where is the Biblical authority for these? "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." (Col. 3:17).

Are you a member of the church that our Lord established? There is only one (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4; 5:23; etc.). "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47). To what church were these baptized believers added? It was the Lord's; no denominations or man-made religious organizations existed in that day. They were founded by mere men centuries later.

Let us be confident that we will be admitted into the gates that really matter, the heavenly gates of pearl, the dwelling place of "the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb" (Rev. 21:21,22). Do not place your trust in anything that is counterfeit. We do not ever want to hear the words "No admittance", "Depart from me"!

## Sunday's Sermons

For October 12th, 2003

Morning..... Examples of Sacrifice  
Scripture ..... Romans 12:1, 2  
Evening..... Q&A  
Scripture ..... NA

## Our Record

Week of 10/5

Sunday Class.....	59
Sunday A.M.....	71
Sunday P.M. ....	78
Wednesday.....	74
Contribution.....	\$1616.61
Budget.....	\$1760.00

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Alexa, Michael Collins, William Craig, Curtis and Opal Hull, Preston Jones, Katie Williams.

- We express our deepest sympathies to the family of Tiffany Windle at the passing of her grandmother.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- Things are coming together for the next trip to Costa Rica. If you are interested in going or helping out with anything on the trip, please see Bill Fort.
- We still have a few Truth for Today commentaries in the back foyer. They are \$28.50 each. If you would like to have one please put your check in the contribution plate.
- Next Sunday is the monthly elders and deacons meeting. If you have something that you would like to have discussed, please let someone who attends know.
- Our monthly questions and answers session is tonight. We hope that you will come and study God's word with us. Bring a friend who wants to know more about the word of God too. It would be a great way for you to study with them.
- Our monthly potluck is scheduled for next Sunday. Let's all come and invite a friend for lunch next week.
- A skeptic visiting the jungle came across a native reading the Bible. He told him "people no longer read that old Book." The native responded in a broken dialect, "This old Book teach me not to EAT you!" *From The Green Forest Bulletin*
- The Pantry Item for this week is Syrup.



**Those to Serve**

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	<b>October 12th, 2003</b>	<b>October 19th, 2003</b>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Bill Fort	Bruce Foster
<b>Scripture:</b>	Perry Foster	Leon Duncan
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Leon Duncan	Larry Elliott
	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
<b>(assist)</b>	Brandon Foster	John Gass
	Sandy Nieves	Matt Bassing
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Brent Stevens	Glenn Williams
<b>Sunday Night:</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Bruce Foster	Rusty Windle
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Glenn Williams	Larry Elliott
<b>Scripture:</b>	Sandy Nieves	Brent Moore
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Dale Pinkley	Leon Duncan
	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Matt Bassing	John Gass
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Glenn Quigley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Dale Pinkley	Leon Duncan
<b>Invitation:</b>	Rusty Windle	Bob Moore
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Brandon Foster	Sandy Nieves
<b>Monthly Assignments</b>		
<b>Announcements</b>	Matt Bassing	
<b>Worship Coordinator</b>	Ken Smith	
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Pam Pinkley	Debbie Smith
<b>Communion Carry</b>	Leon Duncan	Ray Duncan

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