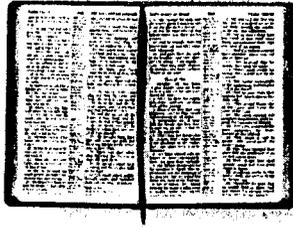


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

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DOES A "PUT AWAY" PERSON HAVE A SCRIPTURAL RIGHT TO MARRY ANOTHER?

There has been much discussion about the above question. The only standard by which we can determine the proper answer is the Word of God. It will instruct us in what is right. To it we now appeal.

In Luke 16:18 Jesus said: "Whoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery." NOTE: This passage deals specifically with the question in our subject. It says that *whosoever marries the one "put away" commits adultery!*

In Matthew 19:9 Jesus declared that "...Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and who marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." NOTE: This passage also deals specifically with our question stated in the title of this article. It says that *whoever marries the "put away" person commits adultery.*

In Mt. 5:32 Jesus said: "... whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." NOTE: Again Jesus plainly says that *whoever marries her that is "divorced" commits adultery.*

CONCLUSION: We must conclude from the above Scriptures that a "put away" person has no Scriptural right to marry another as long as her/his spouse lives. (See Rom. 7:2-3) NOTE: A person who is *put away* (divorced) "for the cause of fornication" may not have a Scriptural right to marry another although his/her spouse may be dead. I am not sure about this.

In an effort to justify *unscriptural* divorces and marriages some have

taken the position that it is *not essential* that a *person comply with civil law* in order for a person to *marry* or to *divorce* although Rom. 13:1-7; Titus 3:1 & 1 Peter 2:13-17 teach us that we should obey civil laws. Of course, if we are commanded by civil law to violate God's law, "we ought to obey God rather than men." (See Acts 5:29).

To get around civil law some define the words translated "put away" or "divorce" as *repudiate, dismiss or leave*. However, this does not help their case one bit. Substitute *repudiate, dismiss or leave* for the words "put away" or "divorces" in Luke 16:18; Mt. 19:9 & Mt. 5:32 and see what it says.

Luke 16:18 would say: *Whoever repudiates (dismisses or leaves) his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is repudiated (or dismissed or left) from (or by - Ed) her husband committeth adultery.* NOTE: *Whoever marries the repudiated, (or dismissed or left) wife would be guilty of adultery!*

Mt. 19:9 would say: "...Whosoever shall *repudiate, (dismiss or leave)* his wife, except for the cause of fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and who marrieth her which is *repudiated (or dismissed or left)* doth commit adultery." NOTE: *Who marries the repudiated, dismissed or left one would commit adultery!*

Mt. 5:32 would say: "...whosoever shall marry her that is *repudiated (or dismissed or left)* committeth adultery." NOTE: In each of the above cases the "put away" or repudiated or dismissed one would not have the right to marry another even if the civil laws are disregarded! (CRS)

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Editorial...

HELL! IS THERE A PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT FOR THE WICKED? (NO. 14)

In our prior studies of *Hell*, we have been dealing with the false doctrine that *the wicked will not be tormented eternally*, but that *they will be annihilated* and thus *will cease to exist*.

Let us resume our study of some *arguments* that are made in an effort to prove that there is not a place of eternal torment for the wicked.

VIII. ARGUMENT: "MAN DOES NOT HAVE AN IMMORTAL (or eternal) SOUL OR SPIRIT. THERE IS NOTHING ABOUT MAN THAT IS ETERNAL THAT COULD BE TORMENTED FOREVER SINCE MAN IS WHOLLY MORTAL."

Consider the following statements that show what materialists believe.

"Jehovah's Witnesses" say: "God did not create man and then give him an immortal soul... The word 'soul', 'creature' and 'man' mean the same thing. Every man is a soul, but no man can possess a soul." (Deliverance, IBSA Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society p. 17). "The word soul means being; living, breathing creature. Every man *is* a soul. No man *has* a soul. Every living creature is a soul. God called all moving creatures that have life souls. (See Genesis 1:20, margin) He de-

signates various animals as souls. - Numbers 31:28). " (The Harp of God, by J. F. Rutherford, p. 28). "There is not one Bible text that states the human soul is immortal." (Let God Be True, by Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, p. 69).

Others have made the same argument using similar words. Speaking of "what man *is*", Edward Fudge said, "He is dust - scooped from the earth. When God takes back man's breath of life, man returns to the clay from which he was taken." (The Fire That Consumes, p.79). He also said: "Man is not an eternal soul trapped in a crude body. He came from the earth, and to it he returns." (ibid., p. 81).

Curtis Dickinson said: "Nowhere does scripture suggest that God created man, then gave him a 'soul' - something immaterial and immortal and capable of private life apart from the body. What it says is that man, created by body, plus breath-of-life, is a living soul." (The Witness, June 1988).

Seventh-day Adventists say: "...The soul cannot exist apart from the body, for man is a unit." (Seventh-day Adventists Answer QUESTIONS on DOCTRINE, p. 515).

Al Maxey said: "...Man is entirely mortal in nature; no part of him is *inherently* immortal..." Maxey-Thrasher Debate, Maxey # 5, p. 17).

Al Maxey also said: "Yes, the doctrine of 'immortal soulism' is a pernicious doctrine of demons..." (ibid.)

REPLY:

1. The above statements are made by materialists in an effort to prove that man does not have a *soul* or *spirit* that is immortal or eternal. They do not believe that there is anything to man except dust and breath. They argue that men and animals *are* souls, but they do not *have* or *possess* souls. Obviously, *the only difference* the materialists can see between animals and men is that *men* are more *intelligent* and have a *sense of morality* that *animals do not have*. NOTE: They assume and assert! They are not able to sustain their assertions by the Scriptures *Scriptural proof* is lacking.

2. After suggesting the idea that man is *wholly material* (and does not have anything about him that is eternal in nature), they conclude that it is impossible for the Lord to eternally torment (Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

the wicked because there is nothing there to torment after the physical body dies and ceases to exist in death (according to them). NOTE: Their position is filled with *assumptions* that have *no true Scriptural foundation*.

3. Of course, we readily admit that there is no verse in the Scriptures that states the exact wording that "the human soul is immortal." Neither can we find a statement that says, "the soul is mortal." Since we find neither of those statements (worded as given) does that mean that neither one of them is true? Of course not! Honest truth-seekers desire to learn what the Word of God teaches and do not try to evade the truth by demanding a certain wording of the truth.

4. We must always keep in mind that *every statement of truth* must betaken into consideration as we give diligence in our study of the Scriptures. We must *never array one Scripture against another one*.

In Gen. 2:7 we are told that "the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." NOTE: The body of man was formed from the dust of the earth and when God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, man became a living soul. It is obvious from this verse that man consisted of physical material (dust) and "breath of life". However, this is not all the information we have on the subject.

NOTE: Although a distinction can be made in them, the words "soul" and "spirit" are often used interchangeably in the Scriptures. We learn from Zechariah 12:1 that the Lord "...formeth the spirit of man within him.". Daniel 7:15 says: "I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body..." In Job 14:22 we read: "But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn." The Psalmist said: "... O my God, my soul is cast down within me..." (Psalms 42:6). Jonah said: "When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord..." (2:7).

The apostle Paul said: "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save

the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." (1 Cor. 2:11). NOTE: From a reading of these Scriptures we must conclude that *there is a soul or spirit with the physical body of man!*

5. The word (*nephesh*) translated "soul" (like most if not all words) has different meanings as used in different contexts. It is used to refer to "man" in Gen. 2:7 and in Gen. 1:20,21,24 it is used in reference to "creatures" or animals. Sometimes the word "soul" is used to refer to a human being, a person, a man. For examples see Gen. 46:18; 1 Pet. 3:20; Rom. 13:1; Acts 7:14. NOTE: According to YOUNG'S Analytical Concordance to the Bible the word is sometimes translated life, heart, mind, self, will, desire,, etc. It is translated *soul* 428 times, *life* 119 times, *person* 30 times, *mind* 15 times, *heart* 15 times, *self* 19 times and *creature* 9 times acc. to YOUNG. In view of these facts it would be ludicrous for a person to insist that since the word translated *soul* is sometimes used to refer to "creatures" or "animals" as well as to man that man is wholly mortal because the "creatures" or "animals" are.

6. Yes, man *is* a soul. But what about the assertions that "No man *has* a soul" and "no man can possess a soul"? Are these statements true? Of course not! They are mere assertions without Scriptural proof. The passages given in the left column (under 4. Paragraph three) *prove* without a doubt that *there is a soul within man's body*. So *man does have a soul*.

Is it possible for man to *possess a soul*? It certainly is according to Jesus Christ. Speaking to His disciples He said: "In your patience possess ye your souls." (Luke 21:19). The truth about this is plain and simple! Even highly educated "scholars" should be able to grasp this truth after reading it several times.

7. Above we read from Seventh-day Adventists who say that "the soul cannot exist apart from the body, for man is a unit." NOTE: They did not give a passage that teaches that assertion. In fact, that statement lies in the face of the statement by John (Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

in Revelation 6:9-10 that says: "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they had. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth" In Rev. 20:4 John also mentions "the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God."

NOTE: John saw "the souls" of people (not animals) who had been killed. Although their bodies had been slain "the souls" did not go out of existence. Neither were these "souls" unconscious. They conversed with the Lord. The materialists are point blank wrong on their position and arguments along this line. It is certainly true that man is a unit, but *it is not true* that the soul cannot exist apart from the body!

The fact that man is "a living soul" certainly *does not* negate the fact that man also *has* or *possesses* a soul. We should be content to accept what the Word of God says.

We should never add to God's Word.

7. The fact that the word *soul* (nephesh) refers to *man* (in Gen. 2:7), sometimes means *creature* (referring to *animals* like in Gen. 1:20) *does not prove* that *man* will not have an eternal existence anymore than the fact that God has a "soul" proves that He does not have an eternal existence. Jeremiah 5:9 says: "Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: and shall not *my soul* be avenged on such a nation as this?" (Emphasis mine- Ed.) Also see Jeremiah 5:29.

NOTE: Does the fact that the word (nephesh) translated soul is also translated *appetite* two times in the Scriptures (see Prov. 23:2 & Eccl. 6:7) *prove* that *man, animals* and the *LORD* are only *appetites*? Of course not! "Scholars" should learn how to read the Scriptures and take all the information that God has given on a subject.

Yes, man is much more than dust and wind! (To be continued)

GOSPEL MEETINGS at EAST ALBERTVILLE
June 15-20, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. - T. N. Thrasher

SENTENCE SERMONS

Man did not come from monkeys, but many men have gone to the dogs.

* * * * *

Christians should never give up, give in, or give out.

* * * * *

Greatness does not depend upon size. It depends on humility, determination and true service.

* * * * *

People who never change their minds never make any true growth.

* * * * *

Once time is lost, we can never find it.

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