

“Man Does Not Have An Immortal Soul!”

Lesson 6

INTRO:

- A. Jehovah's Witnesses have long argued against the existence of an immortal soul.
1. For example, the Watchtower states:
“[Most churches] hold to the unscriptural doctrine that man has an immortal soul. 'Is that teaching so bad?' some may wonder. Do not forget that Satan's first lie was that sin would not bring death. the teaching that man has an immortal soul tends to further Satan's lie. It has led millions of persons into fearful dealings with demons who pose as the souls of the dead. And the doctrine makes the Bible truth about a coming resurrection meaningless.”
(**Happiness - How to Find It**, Brooklyn, NY: The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1980, p. 171.
 2. “Man is a combination of two things, namely, the 'dust of the ground' and 'the breath of life.' The combining of these two things (or factors) produced a living soul or creature called man.... So we see that the claim of the religionists that man has an immortal soul and therefore differs from the beast is not scriptural.”
(**Let God Be True** (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1952), p. 68.)
 3. “At death man's spirit, his life-force, which is sustained by breathing, 'goes out.' It no longer exists.... When they are dead, both humans and animals are in this same state of complete unconsciousness.... That the soul lives after death is a lie started by the Devil.” (**You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth**, (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1982), p. 77.)
- B. Much misunderstanding centers around the word “soul”.
1. “Soul” can sometimes refer to the entire human being like in Peter’s statement concerning Noah and the flood: “*eight souls were saved by water*” (**1 Pet. 3:20**)
 2. “Soul” is used in reference to the immortal part of mankind. “*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth...*” (**1 Peter 1:22**)
 - a. What is purified when we obey the truth? It’s not the physical body because Peter also stated in **1 Peter 3:21** “...(*not the putting away of the filth of the flesh,...*)”.
 3. We also find where the word “soul” and “spirit” are used interchangeably”.
 - a. In **Acts 2:27-31** Peter uses the word “soul” in referring to Jesus’ death and Luke records Jesus saying, “*Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.*” in **Luke 23:46**.

I. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH?

- A. **The Scriptures Teach The Patriarchs Of The Old Testament Are Still Alive.**
1. God’s statement to Moses at the burning bush: **Exodus 3:6** “*Moreover He said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob....*”
 - a. “I am”; not “I was”!
 2. The appearance of Moses and Elijah at the Transfiguration also proves this point. (**Mark 9:4** “*And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.*”)

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B. Mankind Is Composed Of Two Beings: Body and Spirit/Soul. (Outward and Inward)

1. **Matthew 10:28** “*And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*”
2. **1 Corinthians 6:20** “*For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*”
3. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** - “*Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*”

C. The Soul And Body Depart At Death.

1. **Genesis 35:18** “*And so it was, as her [Rachel] soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin.*”
2. When Elijah resurrected the widow’s son, his soul came back to the body. **1 Kings 17:22** “*Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.*”
3. **Ecclesiastes 12:7** “*Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.*” (Genesis 2:7)
3. **James 2:26** “*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*”

QUESTIONS:

1. How does the story of Luke 16:19-31 answer this religious error?

2. Sometimes Ecclesiastes 3:19-20 and 9:5 are quoted as proof that we do not have an eternal soul/spirit. How would you answer?

3. True or False? God is the God of the dead; He is not the God of the living? (Prove your answer.)

Remember Ecclesiastes 12:7? (“*Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.*”) - Genesis 2:7