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AMBASSADOR COLLEGE **Bible** LESSON 14

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

WHAT Is MAN?

"WHAT *is* man?" asked the psalmist David in Psalm 8:4.

Is man an immortal soul in a material body? Is DEATH the SEPARATION OF BODY AND SOUL? What really happens to a man at death?

And what about the atheist who believes that there is no HOPE OF LIFE AFTER DEATH?

These questions have puzzled—yes, FRIGHTENED—millions since the beginning of time! How can we *PROVE*—how can we really be *sure*—of what happens to a human being at death?

Death a Fearful Reality!

Death is a reality!—a *terrible* reality for many religious people. Death is often pictured as the inescapable *FINAL PLUNGE* INTO THE UNKNOWN—into the "next world" with its heaven, its hell or its purgatory.

But to the average man-on-the-street, death is a vague, far-off, *unreal* something that happens to someone else—a hazy, distant possibility which he feels he can worry about *later*.

Though many today like to shove it from their minds, like to escape having to think about it, death is *REAL!* It is the inevitable consequence of being *alive*. Every living organism follows the pattern of birth, growth, senility and death. Death befalls thousands every hour—through sickness, accidents, starvation, murder and war.

Isn't it about time we examined what is called life—and death? Isn't it about time we finally learned *what man is?*—and what hope there is of life after death?

No Immortal Soul?

All the ancient pagan philosophers and every heathen tribe and nation from antiquity have BELIEVED that man is essentially a spiritual being—some kind of vague IMMORTAL SPIRITUAL SOUL HOUSED IN A BODY OF FLESH—that the human body is merely the house we dwell in, or the cloak we put around us temporarily—that the *real* man is not the body, but an invisible, immaterial, immortal soul or spirit that thinks, that hears, that sees, and that will live on consciously forever.

At death, according to the SPECULATION of the ancient pagan philosophers, the *SOUL*—the real *you*—LEAVES THE BODY AND JOURNEYS TO A HEAVEN, TO A PURGATORY OR TO A HELL. The *body*, they observed, went to the grave.

A few philosophers speculated that the souls of the departed re-enter other kinds of bodies after death and live on earth again in the form of monkeys, cattle, serpents, or perhaps as human beings. This doctrine is called "transmigration of souls" or *reincarnation.*

But WHAT is the *AUTHORITY* for these beliefs? Do these doctrines come from the *Bible?*

The answer is: there is *no* authority for these speculations of the pagans! The BIBLE REVEALS NO SUCH THEORIES! What the Bible does reveal is exactly *opposite* to what most people have blindly assumed!

Consider this candid admission of the *Jewish Encyclopedia:* "The belief that the soul continues its existence after the dissolution of the body"—after death—"is a matter of philosophical or theological *speculation* rather than of simple faith, and is accordingly *nowhere taught in Holy Scripture*" (from article, "Immortality of the Soul").

The idea did not come from *God!*

THEN WHERE *did* the Jews, Catholics and Protestants ACQUIRE THEIR PRESENT BELIEF about the IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL?

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LESSON 14
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False Idea from PAGANISM

Here are the unbelievable words from this same article explaining where the doctrine of the immortality of the soul *did* originate: "The belief in the immortality of the soul came to the Jews FROM contact with GREEK thought and chiefly through the philosophy of Plato, its principal exponent, who was led to it through Orphic and Eleusinian mysteries in which BABYLONIAN and EGYPTIAN views were strangely blended."

It came from the *pagan Greek philosophers* who acquired it from Egypt and Babylon—NOT FROM THE BIBLE!

Let us trace how the speculations of the pagan world regarding the soul's immortality surreptitiously crept into the professing Christian church.

The speculations about the soul, remember, ENTERED the western world FROM EGYPT. Herodotus, the famous Greek historian, who lived in the fifth century before Jesus, admitted: "The Egyptians were also the first that asserted that the soul of man is immortal. . . . This opinion, some among the Greeks have at different periods of time adopted as their own" (*Euterpé*, chapter 123).

The GREEKS ADOPTED THIS DOCTRINE from the pagan Egyptians, not from the Bible!

It was SOCRATES, the Greek philosopher and pervert, who traveled to Egypt and consulted the Egyptians on this very teaching. After his return to Greece, he imparted the error to Plato, his most famous pupil. Now compare the present-day doctrine of the churches with what PLATO wrote in his book, the Phaedo. Plato wrote: "The soul whose inseparable attribute is life will never admit of life's opposite, death. Thus the soul is shown to be immortal, and since immortal, indestructible. . . . Do we believe there is such a thing as death? To be sure. And is this anything but the separation of the soul and body? And being dead is the attainment of this separation, when the soul exists in herself and separate from the body, and the body is parted from the soul. That is death. . . . Death is merely the separation of soul and body."

Sounds like the ordinary CHURCH CATECHISM, doesn't it? Of course! The *doctrine* was *formulated by Plato! —not* the apostle Paul!

To Plato, the student and intimate acquaintance of Socrates, death did not really mean death! Rather, he conceived it to be the separation of the "soul" from the body.

You, too, were probably taught to assume this same doctrine. You were probably told it came straight from the Bible—but it did not! It came out of pagan speculation!

After Plato came Aristotle who perpetuated the theory. Then the ROMAN POET VIRGIL (70-19 B.C.) popularized it throughout the Roman world.

The Churches Succumb to Paganism

The INTRODUCTION OF THIS PAGAN SUPERSTITION INTO THE CHURCHES was a GRADUAL PROCESS lasting centuries. As apostacy spread, the early Catholic "fathers" became divided on this subject. As late as 160 A.D., Justin, the philosopher-turned-professing-Christian, wrote: "But our Jesus Christ, being crucified, and dead, and having ascended to heaven, reigned; and by those things which were published in His name among all nations by the apostles, there is joy offered to those who *expect* the immortality promised by Him" (*Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol I, p. 176*). The *early* Catholics *knew* they *did not have* immortality within themselves! It was something they expected to receive.

But Catholic doctrine gradually changed. Here is what John Nelson Darby, leader among the "Plymouth Brethren" Church later confesses: "I cannot show from Scripture that man is naturally immortal. I can only deduce it. The idea of the immortality of the soul has no source in the gospel; it comes, on the contrary, from the Platonists, and it is just when the second coming of Christ was denied in the Church, or at least began to be lost sight of, that the doctrine of the immortality of the soul came in to replace that of the resurrection. This was about the time of Origen" (from *Lectures*, vol. IV).

And who was ORIGEN? A Catholic teacher in Alexandria, Egypt! He joined the speculations of Plato with certain Bible doctrines and called his philosophy *neo-Platonism.* Here is what Origen wrote around 200 A.D.: "Souls are immortal, as God Himself is eternal and immortal"! He professed to be a true "Platonist, who believed in the immortality of the soul" (*Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. IV, pp. 314, 402).

Notice that Origen does not claim to be Christian in his belief, but a Platonist!

Another influential teacher at the close of the second century was TERTULLIAN of Phoenician North Africa. Here is what this professing Christian descendant of Baal-worshiping Phoenician ancestors wrote: "For some things are known, even by nature: the immortality of the soul, for instance, is held by many. . . . I may use, therefore the opinion of Plato, when he DECLARES: 'EVERY SOUL IS IMMORTAL'" (*Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. III, p. 547).

NO BIBLE QUOTATION AS PROOF of an immortal soul—only the opinion of Plato! *Imagine*

Plato, the pagan philosopher, SUPERSEDING THE TEACHING OF CHRIST the Creator! Yet that is exactly what happened!

Yet a few Catholic writers and teachers as late as the time of Constantine condemned the change in doctrine from Christ to Plato. Here is the clear testimony of Arnobias against those who were being "carried away with an extravagant opinion of themselves that souls are immortal. . . . Will you lay aside your habitual arrogance, O men, who claim God as your Father, and maintain that you are immortal just as He is?" (Vol. LV, p. 440).

After the time of Emperor Constantine—who forced the Catholic Church on the Roman Empire —AUGUSTINE of North Africa, another writer of Phoenician extraction, "SANCTIFIED" THE DOCTRINE OF THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL in his book *The City of God.* Along came other writers—all under the influence of Plato, Aristotle and Virgil—who dominated the philosophy of Western "Christian" theology during the early Middle Ages. THOMAS AQUINAS (about 1225-1274), Italian scholastic teacher and theologian, stamped the doctrine of the immortality of the soul permanently on the Catholic Church. Fifty years later, DURANTE ALIGHIERI, popularly known as DANTE, wrote the immensely famous poem *The Divine Comedy*, in which he PICTURED for the common people the *PAGAN* CONCEPT of *HELL, PURGATORY* and *PARADISE*—which FALSE DOCTRINES have been widely believed since that time.

False Idea Forced by Death Penalty

Just before the Protestant Reformation broke out in Europe, the Catholic Church imposed the DEATH PENALTY ON ALL WHO REFUSED to believe the pagan DOCTRINE of the SOUL'S IMMORTALITY. At the Lateran Council, held in 1513, this decree was issued:

"Whereas some have dared to assert concerning the nature of the reasonable soul that it is mortal, we, with the approbation of the *sacred council, do condemn and reprobate all those who assert that the intellectual soul is mortal*, seeing, according to the canon of Pope Clement V, that the soul is . . . immortal; . . . and we decree that all who adhere to like erroneous assertions shall be shunned and *punished as heretics.*"

Little wonder that the PROTESTANT REFORMERS found the people unwilling to change their doctrines. The reformers quickly took the popular road, rejected the faith once delivered for all time to the saints, and began to FOLLOW tradition—CATHOLIC TRADITION which has its roots in pagan philosophy and doctrines of demons!

And THAT IS WHY MOST OF YOU were reared to BELIEVE in the IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL!

Now we give you the startling CATHOLIC ADMISSION about the doctrine of the immortality of the soul: "It enshrines the principles of ANCIENT *SPECULATION*" (*THE CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA*, from article "Soul," p. 157).

Notice! The belief that man is essentially a spiritual soul housed in a material body is derived from *ANCIENT PAGAN SPECULATION!*

The apostle Paul wrote about this very kind of speculation: [redacted] after the tradition of men, after the rudiments"—or fundamental concepts—"of the world, and not after Christ" (Colossians 2:8).

The BIBLE CONDEMNS the philosophic SPECULATIONS of the pagans!—*and that includes their doctrine that man is an immortal soul in a material house of flesh!*

The Original Protestant View

Even the *ORIGINAL* LEADERS of the PROTESTANT reformation RECOGNIZED that the doctrine of the immortality of the soul did NOT COME FROM THE BIBLE. Martin Luther declared that it was the POPE, not the Bible, who TAUGHT that "the soul is immortal" (Defense, proposition §27).

The Catholic Cardinal Du Perron charged specifically that "Luther held that the soul died with the body, and that God would hereafter raise both the one and the other" (Historical View, p. 344).

How different were Luther's first teachings from the Protestant doctrine today. Here are Luther's early views as expressed about the year 1522:

"It is probable, in my opinion, that, with very few exceptions, indeed, the DEAD SLEEP IN UTTER INSENSIBILITY TILL THE DAY OF JUDGMENT. . . . On what authority can it be said that the souls of the dead may not sleep . . . in the same way that the living pass in profound slumber the interval between their downlying at night and their uprising in the morning?" (From *Michelet's Life of Luther*, Bohn's edition, p. 133.)

Luther's original teachings have never ceased to embarrass Protestant theologians who have since adopted the teachings of ancient PAGAN SPECULATION!

William Tyndale, the printer of the first New Testament in English, and one of the reformers, wrote: "In putting departed souls in heaven, hell, or purgatory you destroy the arguments wherewith Christ and Paul prove the resurrection. . . . The true faith putteth the resurrection; the *heathen* philosophers, denying that, did put that souls did ever live. And the POPE JOINETH the spiritual doctrine of Christ and the fleshly doctrine of the PHILOSOPHERS together—THINGS SO CONTRARY THAT THEY CANNOT AGREE. . . . And because the fleshly minded pope consenteth to heathen doctrine, therefore he corrupteth the Scripture to establish it. If the soul be in heaven, tell me what cause is there for the resurrection?"

Even *Lange's Commentary* admits: "The doctrine of the immortality of the soul, and the name, are alike unknown to the entire Bible" (Olshausen's

comment on I Cor. 15:19, 20).

THEN WHY DO MOST PROTESTANTS TODAY BELIEVE THE DOCTRINE OF THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL? Because they, too, have been deceived by the speculations of the ancient pagan philosophers! The Bible is not the source of the religion of Protestants any more than of Catholics or Jews! Christianity today is little more than the name of Christ attached to the traditions and customs and beliefs of the ancient *pagans!*

Now is HIGH TIME you opened your own Bibles to SEE WHAT *YOUR BIBLE* HAS TO SAY *about the soul*—about what man *is!*

Final Instruction

The reason the world does not know what the Bible actually reveals about this most important subject is that the Bible is not the source of this world's religion! It is TIME WE *MADE* the *BIBLE* THE SOURCE OF OUR RELIGION!

OPEN YOUR *BIBLE* in front of you as you begin this lesson. Have one or more different translations at hand—and a concordance. And do you have your PAPER AND PENCIL OR PEN—or *typewriter?* If not, get them before you read another word.

Remember that you must open your Bible to every passage we give you in this vital Lesson. You must read, and re-read, and thoroughly *STUDY* every passage in your Bible. This is a Bible study course—a study of the Bible, not just a study of these words we have sent you. These words are intended to point you to the verses in the Bible which explain this vital subject.

Also, ASK GOD FOR UNDERSTANDING of His revealed answer to this all-important question about the soul.

Now you are ready to write down, neatly, on your paper, the TITLE and the first number—just as you have done in previous lessons. Be sure to WRITE DOWN THE ANSWER and write out in full every new verse as you come to it. That will impress it doubly on your mind!

DON'T SEND US THE ANSWERS. Keep them for reference. We will send you TESTS after each group of four lessons to see how well you have been progressing.

LESSON 14

God Reveals What Man Truly Consists of!

Only one man has ever returned from the other side of the dead and left an unchallengeable record of what the other side of death is like. That man is Jesus Christ! Others may have momentarily died on an operating table, or even been resurrected from the dead—but only Jesus Christ has left full and complete testimony of what death is and of what lies on beyond. Jesus Christ is the Word of GOD, the Spokesman of God the Supreme Creator. Unless He had revealed His knowledge to us, we would have had no possible way to find out what man is, what death is, and what lies on beyond! And UNLESS YOU ACCEPT HIS REVELATION of that knowledge, you have NO basis whatsoever for any KNOWLEDGE or belief as to what you really are!

No other book, besides the Bible, claims to be the recorded revealed word of the very Creator. Only the BIBLE has the complete and INFALLIBLE record of Jesus Christ's testimony about life and death.

Here are Christ's own words: "I am He that liveth, *and was dead*"—Christ, then, has returned from the dead, come back to life to REVEAL what happened ON THE OTHER SIDE OF DEATH. "I am alive for evermore," He continues, "and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:18).

Christ has the keys of death and hell. There is nothing that can be hid from Him, or kept back from His almighty power! He has *all* knowledge; *science* can only reveal *part* of the truth Christ knows. Yet science can contribute something. What do experiments lead scientists to believe?

SCIENCE DEALS ONLY WITH *MATERIAL SUBSTANCE*—matter, force, energy. Matter is either inorganic or organic—dead or living. Science knows of no life apart from matter, because science is limited entirely to the material world that can be weighed and measured—what can be perceived by the five senses. All that a man can know *naturally* is *material.*

NO SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY BELIEVES THAT *LIFE* IN PLANTS OR ANIMALS IS A SEPARATE ENTITY *which may exist apart from, or outside of that plant or animal.* Not even the philosophers of the *western* world believe that.

Do *you* believe that the life of a plant is some mysterious something that existed prior to the plant, then came into the matter that composed the plant and gave it life and made it grow?—and then at "death" leaves the plant and continues to live elsewhere—possibly in another plant?

Do *you* think there is some mysterious source of life in the lower animals that lives apart from the decayed carcass of an animal after death?

Do *you* believe that man must necessarily have a different source of life than plants or animals? No. And neither does science.

Let's CONSIDER THE UNDENIABLE EVIDENCE OF SCIENCE about WHAT LIFE IS.

ALL *LIVING* MATTER, in its SIMPLEST FORM, is PROTOPLASM. So far as is known, every living material thing is composed of protoplasm, and APART FROM PROTOPLASM — *separate from* protoplasm (of which *human* flesh consists also!)—there is *NO* material *LIFE* MANIFESTED IN EITHER PLANTS OR ANIMALS.

The point is that the physical *life* of man is manifested *only* in protoplasm, which is a viscous, translucent substance composing the nucleus of cells of both plants and animals, including man.

The next important contribution of science to the study of what man is, is the LAW OF BIOGENESIS. This is the scientific demonstration that all living substance, or matter, arises only from other substance already living. We discussed this in Lesson 11, page 3 of this Course. LIFE can come ONLY FROM LIFE. When life ceases, the plant or animal or man becomes dead matter—inorganic matter.

Nothing is more certainly proved by science than the UTTER IMPOSSIBILITY of the REAPPEARANCE OF LIFE—whether of plant, animal or MAN—in a resurrection THROUGH ANY POWERS INHERENT WITHIN MATTER. That is one of the reasons why *science assumes* there *could be no resurrection.* Science is *able to observe only what is material.* All living material is MORTAL MATTER—matter with a TEMPORARY EXISTENCE. Flesh is matter, and man is flesh!

What about the doctrine of the immortality of the soul? What has science to say about it? *Nothing!* SCIENCE HAS NEVER FOUND ANY IMMORTAL SOUL WITHIN MAN because there is no way for *science* to observe any such thing. There is no evidence in the entire realm of scientific investigation of any such thing as an immortal soul that leaves the body at death, and that departs with all the store of knowledge that has been accumulated in the lifetime of the individual. All that science has proved is that individuals who have DIED on an operating table, and who have been revived after a few minutes through heart massage after quickly opening the chest, have KNOWN *NOTHING* about the intervening time! *They have "GONE" NOWHERE!* They merely reawaken on the operating table. If too many minutes have elapsed, the deterioration of the brain is so rapid that the person is thereafter deprived of some of his thinking faculties, and of his store of previous knowledge. But certainly here is no evidence of any thinking soul being able to exist apart from the body!

Science can reveal no more than this. *Human philosophy* cannot reveal even this much, because philosophy has no way to prove any of its speculations apart from the tools of science.

ONLY THE BIBLE—the Revelation of Jesus Christ—*CAN REVEAL WHAT SCIENCE IS UNABLE TO KNOW!* Here is what the Bible reveals about *what man really is!*

1. Of what is MAN COMPOSED, according to Jesus Christ? John 3:6, first part. Is man born OF the FLESH in this life? Then is he *flesh*? Since man is born of fleshly parents, he is *NOT* composed of SPIRIT.

COMMENT: Jesus here plainly points out that if we are born of flesh, we *cannot* be composed of spirit. The natural MAN, THEN, IS *NOT* COMPOSED OF AN *IMMORTAL SPIRITUAL SOUL* IN A BODY OF MORTAL FLESH. HE IS COMPOSED *ENTIRELY* OF MORTAL FLESH—of protoplasm; and when that FLESH or protoplasm DIES, the MAN IS *DEAD—ALL* OF HIM! Science proves that!

2. Was Jesus Christ born of the flesh? Romans 1:3. Then Christ was composed of flesh, wasn't He? Compare this with Colossians 1:22. Jesus certainly knew what flesh was—because he was composed of flesh!

3. Was Paul composed of flesh? Romans 7:18. Was Paul a SOUL *CLOTHED* IN A BODY OF FLESH?—or did Paul speak of *himself* as his flesh? Then is it NOT TRUE the real Paul, *the personality*, was flesh and not spirit?

4. Is the mind of the natural man also a fleshly mind? Colossians 2:18, last part. Then the MIND, as well as the BODY of man, is DERIVED FROM FLESH, isn't it?

COMMENT: Just as inorganic matter is manifest in the forms of solid, liquid and gas and in light and other forms of energy, so does organic matter—*living* matter—exist in the form of physical cells and of the physical mind! Man is plainly not a spiritual entity, but *FLESH*, PURE AND SIMPLE.

How Man Was Created

God created the first man. God tells us how He did it so we could know what we are. THE ONE WHO DID THE WORK OF CREATION was Jesus Christ. (Col. 1:16). Here is HOW HE SAYS HE CREATED MAN:

1. Out of what did God form man? Genesis 2:7. Notice that it was the MAN—*NOT MERELY THE BODY*—that was FORMED! Does it say that *man* was formed out OF DUST or out of *spirit?*

2. Was merely the *body* composed of dust—*or* was *the man* composed of dust? Genesis 3:19, last part. Whom does God address in this verse?—the body, or the man? Then it is the man, not merely the body, who is composed of dust, isn't it?

3. What was to happen to man if he disobeyed His Creator? Gen. 3:19, last part. Who was to RETURN TO DUST, the body or *the man?* Does God say "thy body" shall return to dust, or "THOU"—*THE CONSCIOUS MAN*—shall return to dust—which?

4. After God had formed the lifeless man and made every cell in his body, what did God do to MAKE THE MAN *ALIVE?* Genesis 2:7, middle part of verse. Did God breathe something into man's nostrils? What was it that He BREATHED INTO the man?

COMMENT: God did not breathe spirit into the man, but breath—"the breath of life"—the breath—*AIR* or *wind*—that GAVE THE MAN LIFE! It does *not* say the man had an immortal soul or spirit because God breathed one into the man! It was breath—the same breath we breathe today—that imparted life to the first man. God blew air or wind

into the man's lungs through the nostrils, and the man lived!

5. Is the same breath of life passing through the nostrils of the lower animals and fowl and rodents? Genesis 7:21-22. Then the SOURCE OF *LIFE* OF MAN, OF ANIMALS AND OF BIRDS IS THE *SAME* BREATH OF *LIFE*, isn't it? Since there is NO IMMORTAL SOUL imparting life to the lower animals and to the fowl of the air, therefore, there is no immortal soul imparting life to man, is there?

6. What happens if men or animals are DEPRIVED OF the BREATH of life? Psalm 104:29, last part. Do they DIE? Do *they*—or only their bodies—return to the dust? Same verse.

7. What does Psalm 146:4 reveal about the life of man? WHAT is it that RETURNS TO THE EARTH when the breath leaves? Is it only the body—or IS it the MAN—"he"? *ALL* OF HIM. What happens to man's thoughts when death overtakes man? Same verse, last part. Do his thoughts continue to exist in an immortal soul—or do his thoughts *perish?* Does *PERISH* mean to exist forever, or to *cease* to exist? (Look up the meaning in your dictionary.)

Man IS a Soul

1. When God had breathed—blew—air or BREATH INTO the MAN'S NOSTRILS, what did the man Adam BECOME? Genesis 2:7, last part.

COMMENT: The original Hebrew word here translated "soul" is *nephesh. Young's Concordance* defines it as a "breathing creature." *Strong's Concordance* also defines it as a "BREATHING CREATURE, i.e., an animal." In Genesis 1:21,24; 2:19; 9:10,12,15,16 and Lev. 11:46 the same word *nephesh* is translated "*creature*" when referring to animals and "soul" when referring to man. Man is a creature; MAN *IS* A SOUL. ANIMALS ARE creatures or SOULS, too! Notice the same word *nephesh* is translated nine different times as "dead body" or "the dead"—in Lev. 19:28; 21:1,11; 22:4; Num. 5:2; 6:6,11; 19:13 and Hag. 2:13. *The soul, then, is animal life, SUBJECT TO DECAY AND DEATH. It is NOT IMMORTAL.*

The SOUL IS COMPOSED OF THE DUST of the ground—it is material, not spiritual. It is matter. WHEN THE MAN *BREATHES*, HE IS A *LIVING* SOUL. When man ceases to breathe, he becomes a non-living or dead soul. That's what your BIBLE REVEALS!

2. Can the soul die? Ezekiel 18:4 and 20. If the soul were immortal, it could not die, could it? Then the soul is plainly *mortal*, isn't it?

COMMENT: Since the soul is mortal, and man is a soul, then man is *mortal*—subject to *death*. That is why the Scripture calls a human being "*MORTAL MAN*" (Job 4:17).

3. Was Adam subject to the death penalty? Genesis 2:17, last part. Was it the body only that would die, or was it the *CONSCIOUS* MAN—Adam—"*THOU*"—that would DIE?

4. In some passages of Scripture, the Hebrew word for breath is translated "spirit." When translated SPIRIT, it REFERS TO *BOTH MEN* AND *ANIMALS*—to evil and righteous human beings alike. Open your Bible now to Ecclesiastes 3:19-21. Is this passage a part of Scripture? How much of Scripture is given by inspiration? II Timothy 3:16. Then this passage in Ecclesiastes *is inspired*, isn't it?

COMMENT: Some contend that this passage in Ecclesiastes is merely what *Solomon* thought, but that it is not the truth. The Bible plainly proves this idea false.

5. Does the SAME THING happen to men that happens to beasts? Ecc. 3:19. What one thing BEFALLS BOTH MAN AND BEAST alike? Same verse. Why?—because they all have the same *TEMPORARY* SOURCE OF LIFE, the BREATH of air? Do men and animals all breathe air from the same source? When it comes to physical life, man has no preeminence above a beast, does he?

6. Do all go to the same place at death? Ecc. 3:20. Does this include *all*—men and animals alike? When an ANIMAL DIES, it is DEAD; *SO DIES MAN* also. When man dies, he is completely dead, too.

What is the place that all men and animals return to? Same verse. Do they *ALL* RETURN TO DUST? Does this verse say that only the body returns to dust? Was it only the body, or was it the *entire conscious man* that was originally made of dust? Gen. 3:19. Since the man, and not merely the body, is composed of dust, then it is the man who dies and returns to dust, isn't it?

7. Now what does Ecclesiastes 3:21 ask? Does this verse make a positive statement, or does it rather ask a question?

COMMENT: Notice that the beast, as well as the man, has a spirit. This word "spirit" comes from the Hebrew word *ruach* and is translated 28 times as "breath": for example, in Genesis 6:17; 7:15,22; Lamentations 4:20. The same word is translated 90 times as "wind" in the King James Version.

8. Does Solomon answer the question he asked in Ecc. 3:21? Turn to Ecc. 12:7 for the answer. Does this Scripture plainly say that what is dust—the CONSCIOUS MAN—shall RETURN TO the EARTH again? And what happens to the spirit—or breath—that was breathed into the man? Does it return to God who gave it? When did God give it originally to the first man? Gen. 2:7.

COMMENT: While a man is still alive, the Bible speaks of his breath as being in the hand of God—"In whose hand is the soul [*nephesh*, material, physical life] of every living thing, and the *breath* of all mankind" (Job 12:10). In other words, when a man dies, whether he be wicked or righteous, he GIVES UP THE *BREATH* TO GOD AGAIN.

9. Is man like the beasts that PERISH? Psalm 49:12.

What Is the LIFE of Man?

MAN IS A living, BREATHING mortal crea-

ture—a *nephesh*, or SOUL, in whose nostrils is AIR, sometimes MISTRANSLATED "SPIRIT." Let us understand the function of the breath of *air* that goes into your lungs. The blood flows through the wall of the lungs on the way back to the heart, as it is pumped through the veins and arteries of the body. The breath of AIR, upon CONTACT WITH the surface of the LUNGS, gives up OXYGEN. This oxygen is absorbed into the bloodstream, and is quickly burned up in creating the energy needed to keep up body heat and other functions of the internal organs and muscles. The LIFE OF MAN is IN THE BLOOD and the blood NEEDS the BREATH of life TO KEEP the body active and ALIVE. Now compare I Kings 17:17, 21-22 with II Kings 4:18-20, 32-35.

1. *Where does the life of man reside?* Genesis 9:4. Is the LIFE of man and animals found IN THE *BLOODSTREAM?*—or in an immortal soul?

2. Do we find the same definition of life in Leviticus 17:11 and 14?

3. Does Deut. 12:23 corroborate this?

COMMENT: In these verses, the Hebrew word *nephesh* is translated "life." The word *NEPHESH* OR SOUL, then, CAN MEAN EITHER THE *FLESHLY PART* OF MAN OR THE *LIFE BLOOD* OF MAN.

4. Did Christ make His soul an offering for sin? Isaiah 53:10. How did He accomplish this? Verse 12.

COMMENT: CHRIST GAVE Himself for our sins (I Cor. 15:3)—offered up His soul or BODY to be crucified, and allowed his life-BLOOD or soul to be poured out!

5. When a person dies—BECOMES LIFELESS—what happens to him? Ecclesiastes 9:5. How much do the dead know?

COMMENT: If the dead are not conscious of anything, then man is *not* born with an immortal soul which would be aware of things happening around it after man's fleshly body dies.

6. Are those who have died praising the Lord? Psalm 115:17. Does this sound like what most of you have been taught in the churches? Do the churches really believe and teach the Bible?

7. Is there any remembrance of God in death? Psalm 6:5.

COMMENT: DEATH is the OPPOSITE OF LIFE. Death is the CESSATION OF LIFE.

How to Gain Eternal Life

Man is a physical being, *possessing only physical life*. If man is to LIVE FOREVER *so he can claim the promises made to Abraham*, he MUST ACQUIRE *ETERNAL* LIFE. But HOW?

1. Is eternal life A *GIFT* that God must bestow upon man? Romans 6:23.

2. What did Jesus answer the young man who asked how to obtain this gift of eternal life? Matthew 19:17. Is KEEPING of the COMMANDMENTS A REQUIREMENT?

3. Then is OBEDIENCE to God necessary in order to obtain the gift of eternal life? Compare Acts 5:32 with Acts 2:38.

COMMENT: Even though we obey God while in this earthy body, that obedience does not impart eternal life. Obedience is only the prior condition to RECEIVING the HOLY SPIRIT (incorrectly translated "Holy Ghost")—THE *POWER* BY WHICH WE ARE RAISED FROM THE DEAD TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE—to receive immortality. Does I Corinthians 15:50-54 and verse 44 confirm this? Also Rom. 8:11?

We must be raised from the dead—which means being BORN AGAIN—born of God who is Spirit (John 4:24) in order to gain immortality.

4. When we are raised from the dead and born—born again from above—of what are WE TO BE COMPOSED—OF SPIRIT? John 3:6. How does this compare with I Corinthians 15:44-46?

COMMENT: *Being born of the Spirit is not a reforming of an immortal soul* we are now supposed to possess—but a *new birth*. That is the reason Jesus said, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). You must be raised from the dead. Through a resurrection, and simultaneously *being born of the Spirit*, you will then *have* a body of spirit—*eternally living* Spirit—and *not* one of fleshly protoplasm subject to death! You will be born as an immortal spirit INTO THE VERY FAMILY OF GOD (Eph. 3:15 and Heb. 12:9).

Immortality Limited NOW

Many still TWIST all of these BIBLE PASSAGES about death and apply them to the body, clinging to the pagan idea that they now possess an immortal soul. Let us notice how the Bible uses the words "immortal" and "immortality."

1. What is the only place in the Bible where the word "immortal" appears? I Timothy 1:17.

COMMENT: This verse refers to Jesus Christ, the world's coming King, who was made immortal and very God through a resurrection to eternal life.

2. According to I Timothy 6:16, WHO HAS IMMORTALITY inherently—GOD or man?

3. Who BROUGHT TO *MANKIND* THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO ACHIEVE (ETERNAL) LIFE AND IMMORTALITY? II Timothy 1:10. Does this verse indicate that immortality is something man already has? Through what was immortality brought to light? Same verse. Isn't THE GOSPEL, then, the good news about how to gain immortality?

4. Is IMMORTALITY TO BE SOUGHT for? Romans 2:7. Is eternal life the reward—or FREE GIFT—bestowed on those who seek for immortality? Same verse.

5. Now turn to I Corinthians 15:53 and 54. Do these two verses say that man is immortal already? What MUST MAN *PUT ON?* When will man be clothed about with immortality? Verse 52. Is this the time of the resurrection? I Thes. 4:16.

6. Did David, King of Israel, ascend to heaven

as an immortal soul when he died? Acts 2:29 and 34. Has any man, except Christ, ascended to heaven? John 3:13. WHEN WILL DAVID BECOME IMMORTAL? Jeremiah 30:9.

COMMENT: Some, at this point, will think of Enoch and Elijah and assume that they prove that man has an immortal soul. If you have not read the truth about ENOCH and ELIJAH, write in immediately for our FREE BOOKLET "Where Are Enoch and Elijah?" You will be astounded at the answer!

7. Did David prophesy of the resurrection of Christ? Acts 2:30-31. What was David's specific prophecy? Verses 27 and 31. Does not this prove that the resurrection was demonstrated by the fact that Christ's soul was not left in hell?

COMMENT: The RESURRECTION OF CHRIST INVOLVED the RESURRECTION OF HIS SOUL—HIS *BODY*—FROM THE GRAVE. The Greek word *psuche*, translated "soul" and "life" in the King James Version, has the same meaning as the Hebrew word *nephesh*. It was the *psuche* or soul —the body of Christ after his life-blood was spilled—that was buried. That is what was resurrected! From where? From "hell." But what does "hell" mean? The place where Christ's body was buried! The grave or sepulchre. See John 19:41-42 and 20:4. A full explanation of the subject of hell will appear in the next lesson of the Correspondence Course!

Why a Resurrection?

IF MAN WERE AN IMMORTAL SOUL IN A MATERIAL BODY—and if the death of the body would release the soul—then there would be NO actual NEED FOR A RESURRECTION to life. Man would be alive without any need of a resurrection. *The very fact that the Bible teaches* about the *resurrection is proof positive that man has* NO *immortal soul.* Here is why!

1. If CHRIST has not risen from the dead, is our faith all in vain? I Cor. 15:14. Why? Verse 17. And what has happened to those who already are dead in their graves? Verse 18. Are they PERISHED?

2. Did Christ Himself warn that the fate of unregenerate man is to perish? John 3:16 and Luke 13:3,5. If man were an immortal soul, could he actually perish?—or would he still keep on living? Isn't it plain that the word "PERISH" MEANS to CEASE TO LIVE?

3. Notice the EXAMPLE OF ADAM. Was man permitted to eat the fruit of the "tree of [eternal] life?" Gen. 3:22, especially last part of verse.

4. Would Adam and Eve have naturally lived forever as immortal souls, or would ETERNAL LIFE have come as a consequence of PARTAKING OF SOMETHING *NOT INHERENT* IN THEMSELVES? Gen. 3:22.

5. How did the DEVIL DECEIVE Eve? Genesis 3:4. Isn't this the same lie which is being preached today as the doctrine of the immortality of the soul —SAYING MAN *ALREADY HAS* an IMMORTAL SOUL? Then is not the devil actually the originator of this false doctrine?

COMMENT: The "TREE OF LIFE" symbolized the way to eternal life—the HOLY SPIRIT. IF ADAM would have eaten of—PARTAKEN OF —the fruit of that tree, rather than of the forbidden tree he WOULD HAVE RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT which is the very life of God. Adam was created incomplete. He was created to need the Holy Spirit of God in order to LIVE FOREVER. Adam, however, had to choose whether or not he would accept the free gift of the Holy Spirit. He disobeyed God and was thereafter cut off from taking of the tree of life! Here is yet another PROOF that NO man has the hope of ETERNAL LIFE inherent WITHIN HIMSELF.

6. Does a MURDERER have any ETERNAL LIFE ABIDING IN HIM? I John 3:15. Haven't we all *hated* someone sometime in our life? THEN NONE OF US HAVE by nature any eternal life —any immortal soul—abiding in us!

7. Job once asked the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14.) What was Job's answer to his own question? Same verse.

8. Did JOB SPEAK OF A *CHANGE* that was YET COMING? What was that change? I Cor. 15:51-53. When will it take place?

9. When that change comes, what will Job, David and all those in the resurrection be like? Psalm 17:15. Will we be like God in the resurrection? Is God spirit? ARE WE TO BE COMPOSED OF SPIRIT THEN? I Cor. 15:44. Compare this with I John 3:2. Are we to be like Christ? Is Christ now composed of spirit? II Cor. 3:17.

10. Is the NEW BIRTH often spoken of as A NEW CREATION? Are those in it to be "NEW CREATURES?" II Cor. 5:17. Compare this with Galatians 6:15.

11. At the resurrection, who are going to *hear* the VOICE OF THE SON of God? John 5:25. Are immortal souls going to hear it, or are the *DEAD* GOING TO HEAR?

COMMENT: The DEAD CANNOT HEAR UNLESS THERE IS A *RESURRECTION!* The dead ARE pictured as being *ASLEEP in their graves*, awaiting the day of the resurrection. Notice Jesus' words when describing the death of Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha: "'*Our friend Lazarus sleepeth;* But I go, that I may *awake him out of sleep.*' Then said his disciples, 'Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.' Howbeit *Jesus spake of his death:* but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead'" (John 11:11-14).

Death is described as a sleep because *the dead are not conscious.* Notice the plain evidence of Scripture: "And many of them that *sleep in the dust* of the earth shall awake" (Daniel 12:2). "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of *the saints which slept* arose" (Mat. 27:52). "And when thy days be fulfilled," said God to David, "thou shalt

sleep with thy fathers . . ." (II Samuel 7:12).

DEATH IS described as a SLEEP over 36 times in the Bible when referring to the kings of Israel and Judah! "David *slept* with his fathers" (I Kings 2:10). Notice that it does not say "the body slept, but the soul was conscious." It plainly says. "*David* slept." *It was the conscious person who slept in death!*

In the following verses the same expression is used to describe death. Look each one up and see for yourself that death is a sleep! I Kings 11:21,43 and 14:20,31 and 15:8,24 and 16:6,28 and 22:40,50; II Kings 8:24 and 10:35 and 13:9,13 and 14:16,22,29 and 15:7,22,38 and 16:20 and 20:21 and 21:18 and 24:6; II Chronicles 9:31 and 12:16 and 14:1 and 16:13 and 21:1 and 26:2,23 and 27:9 and 28:27 and 32:33 and 33:20.

Certainly here is evidence that the dead are not conscious. The dead are asleep in their graves!

12. When the dead hear the voice of the Son of God at the resurrection, where will they come from —heaven? John 5:28-29. Or will they come out of their graves? If they come out of their graves, that is where they must have been! Notice that these verses do *not* say that the souls descend from heaven and join the bodies—rather the dead come to life through a resurrection and leave their graves to join Christ (I Thes. 4:17).

13. When that INSTANTANEOUS CHANGE comes at the resurrection, are we to be clothed about with—PUT ON—SPIRIT? II Cor. 5:1-5. Is this spirit eternal? Last part of verse 1 and II Cor. 4:18. Does the SPIRIT which will compose us at the resurrection come DOWN FROM HEAVEN? Notice II Cor. 5, verse 2. If we have been begotten of spirit, after repenting, believing, and being baptized, do we even now have the "earnest" of the spirit? II Cor. 5:5.

COMMENT: THE "EARNEST" of the spirit means a small portion of spirit given by God to bind His bargain with us that He will finally give us eternal life. See a dictionary for the full definition of the word "earnest."

14. Unless we have the Holy Spirit abiding in us, have we any right to be called Christ's or Christians? Romans 8:9.

15. If the Holy Spirit dwells in us, will it be the agent by which God quickens, or MAKES ALIVE, our mortal bodies at the resurrection? Rom. 8:11. If we are led by the Spirit of God, what are we? Verse 14.

When Did Paul Expect to Be with Christ?

There are some who believe that when Christians die they go immediately to heaven to be with Christ. They claim Paul's statement in Philippians 1:23-24 as supposed proof. Let us study these verses, to see if they overthrow all the rest of Scripture and teach that man is an immortal soul.

1. Did Paul have a desire to be with Christ? Phil. 1:23. Should all Christians have the same desire?

2. But does this verse state *where* Paul would go and *when* he would be with Christ? No! There is NOT ONE WORD here MENTIONING HEAVEN as the place Paul would be, nor is there one word saying that Paul would be with Christ *immediately*. People read these ideas into the Bible, but they are not there!

3. How long did Paul expect to wait, after he departed this life, before he would be with Christ? II Timothy 4:6-8. Was the time of Paul's departure now at hand? What did he expect to receive from Christ when he WOULD MEET HIM? Verse 8. When did he expect to receive this crown? What "day" is Paul referring to?—the day immediately after death, or the DAY OF THE RESURRECTION? Last part of verse 8. Is not the time of Christ's appearing the time of the resurrection?

4. When Christ returns, will He bring His rewards with Him to give to those who are resurrected? Isaiah 40:10 and Revelation 22:12.

5. When are all the Christians to meet the Lord? I Thes. 4:16-17.

COMMENT: Those who are DEAD IN THEIR GRAVES are not conscious; they have no knowledge of passing time. The very NEXT MOMENT IN their CONSCIOUSNESSES will be the time of the RESURRECTION! That is why Paul wrote in II Corinthians 5:9-10: "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present [alive in the flesh] or absent [dead in the grave at the return of Christ], we may be accepted of Him." When? Verse 10 tells! At the judgment when Christ returns. That is when Paul expects to receive the reward of his labors! See II Timothy 4:1. Proof of a conscious immortal soul? No!

Can the Soul Be Destroyed?

One final Scripture is frequently quoted to support the *erroneous* doctrine of the immortality of the soul. That Scripture is Matthew 10:28. Open your Bibles to it and read it.

1. According to Matthew 10:28, is the *soul something that ultimately can be destroyed?* Then the SOUL IS NOT IMMORTAL, is it?

2. But are not Christians to reckon themselves *dead* through the symbol of baptism? Romans 6:4 and 11.

3. Is the "old man"—the *OLD sinful self or SOUL* —TO BE *CRUCIFIED* with Christ? Romans 6:3-6. Is this old carnal mind, the *carnal attitude*, the carnal self or soul, to be reckoned as figuratively having *died* with Christ? Verse 8.

Each individual can, and is required to figuratively *kill* his own old sinful soul.

4. Even though the old carnal self is spiritually dead, is the body still very much alive and an ever-present enemy of each Christian? Romans 7:23-24.

5. Since *Christians have already reckoned themselves—or their souls—as dead* with Christ, then the only thing remaining which men can kill is the body,

isn't it? Isn't that exactly what Jesus is bringing out?

COMMENT: Men can kill the body. But they cannot touch your spiritual life—the "new man" or "new creature" of which Paul speaks—which is to be resurrected at the return of Jesus Christ. THE *SOUL* THAT *MEN* CANNOT KILL IS THE *NEWLY* BEGOTTEN *SPIRITUAL LIFE* OF A CHRISTIAN. Colossians 3:3 explains it.

When one begins to be converted, the old self becomes spiritually dead. The mind of the new convert is begotten at conversion by the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is *NOT* ANOTHER CONSCIOUSNESS; it is merely spiritual life that joins with your conscious mind to convert you into a new creature with the potential of eternal life.

Most people do not understand the meaning of the word "conversion." It is a *chemical* term. It means "to change the nature of." In other words, the Spirit of God, which is added to your mind when you repent and surrender your life to Him, IS THE AGENT BY WHICH YOU ARE TO BE CHANGED from a being of corruptible flesh with a carnal mind INTO A SPIRITUAL BEING—ACTUALLY COMPOSED OF SPIRIT, with the power of an endless life! Conversion means much more than a mere change of attitude. It included a change in composition—A CHANGE FROM MATTER TO IMMORTAL SPIRIT!

But this change does not take place all at once. It BEGINS *when you become begotten* by the Spirit of God. In this life what is changed is your attitude, your character, your mind's outlook on life. It is NOT UNTIL THE RESURRECTION THAT YOU ARE TO BE COMPLETELY CONVERTED into spirit. It is at the resurrection that conversion is finally completed!

At death your conscious self dies. It ceases to think (Ecc. 9:5). But the power or Spirit of God that invigorated your *inner soul* or inner man—the new life begotten within you—*that power* is reserved in heaven and will recreate your mind—your character—and quicken or make immortal your body at the resurrection. *That inner soul*, even though it *loses consciousness at death* and ceases to exist as a separate, living entity—that inner soul your enemies have no power over. It is your *right* to eternal life which no man can take from you!

But IF YOU WILLFULLY REBEL against God, after the knowledge of the truth is manifest to your mind, *GOD* WILL DESTROY BOTH THE BODY *AND YOUR INNER SOUL OR LIFE* IN HELL—THE LAKE OF FIRE. You will be burned up! And from that, there never will be a resurrection. That will be your end for all eternity!

Is Man Body, Soul and Spirit? Yes!

The pagan philosophers believed that man was an immortal soul in a material body. The Catholic Church has *adopted* this view.

But many PROTESTANTS today *claim that man is "body, soul and spirit."* But as to which is immortal—the soul or the spirit—they never seem quite sure! Now let us notice what *the Bible reveals* about "body, soul and spirit."

1. Does not the apostle Paul sometimes refer to man as "body, soul and spirit?" I Thes. 5:23. Does this verse state that the spirit or soul is immortal? Then this verse does NOT prove the doctrine of the "immortality of the soul," does it?

2. The word "spirit" often means "breath" in the Bible—remember the same original Hebrew or Greek word for breath or wind was applied to spirit because *spirit* also *is invisible*. But what does the word "spirit" mean in I Thes. 5:23? Turn to I Cor. 2:10-11, and 16 for the answer.

3. Do Christians have the "SPIRIT OF CHRIST?" Do Christians also have the "MIND OF CHRIST?" I Cor. 2:16. Also Philippians 2:5. Then do not the words "SPIRIT" AND "MIND" MEAN THE SAME THING?

4. It is the mind of man that does the knowing. Rev. 17:9, for example. Then the "spirit of man" that "knoweth the things of a man" must be *man's mind*. Turn to I Cor. 2:11 again. So the spirit of man is not something immortal, is it?

5. Do these verses say that the spirit *is* the man? Or that there is a spirit *in* man—a mind *in* man—that does the knowing?

6. Isn't it rather plain that Paul, in I Thes. 5:23, is referring to the MIND when he uses the word "SPIRIT"? And to the LIFE, when he uses the word "SOUL"? And to the FLESH, when he uses the word "BODY"? *What's wrong with having your* WHOLE MIND, your LIFE, and your BODY *preserved blameless—preserved from the penalty of sin*—in anticipation of the coming of Christ? Compare II Cor. 7:1 with I Thes. 5:23.

COMMENT: In Hebrews 4:12 man is pictured as "soul and spirit"—implying body and mind. Whenever these words are applied to man, *they always refer to something physical, mortal, pertaining to the* FLESH!

Summary

HOW PLAIN the Bible is. MAN IS ONLY *MORTAL*, corruptible flesh—organic matter with a temporary life. He has *no* immortal soul or spirit in him. He has no hope of a future life in himself. He is DOOMED—EXCEPT FOR THE INTERVENTION OF THE ALMIGHTY. And God did intervene to send His Son to make possible through the Gospel a new birth—a new life as Spirit—and immortality.

Because ALL have SINNED—because the human race has made itself UTTERLY MISERABLE, GOD COMMANDS men everywhere to REPENT, to believe in Jesus Christ, to be baptized and to receive the Holy Spirit. God has given this Plan because He loves us—because he has "no pleasure in the death of the wicked . . . Turn ye, TURN YE, from your evil; FOR WHY will ye DIE," asks the Almighty in Ezekiel 33:11.

Clarification of Shaded Text on Page 3

The apostle Paul wrote about this very kind of speculation: "*BEWARE* lest any man spoil you through *PHILOSOPHY* and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments" – or fundamental concepts – "of the world, and not after Christ" (Colossians 2:8).