

Have YOU an *Immortal* Soul?

By Elise Bernard

A LITTLE boy once asked me, "What will happen when I die? Will I go to heaven the very second my breath goes away, or what?"

Those are questions that have been of grave concern to humanity for ages and they still exist today. Just what does the Bible say concerning immortality?

What the Bible Says

If you will look in a dictionary you will find that immortality means unending existence. In other words an immortal being is one that will live forever. Most preachers today proclaim in the pulpit and over large radio stations that man has an "immortal soul"; that at death he will either go to heaven or hell and burn forever.

But do you know what the Bible says concerning this? "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life." (Romans 6:23.) If a person had eternal life abiding in him, how would he receive the wages of his sins which is death?

Can *death* mean eternal life, separated from God, in "hell fire"? *Nowhere in the Bible can you find such a statement.* Man is not immortal! But I can tell you who would like for you to believe that you are—Satan the devil, the DECEIVER of the human race! He was the first to propagate such a story when he beguiled Eve.

Remember, God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God said, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day thou eatest thereof *thou shalt surely die.*" (Genesis 2:17.)

How "Immortal Soul" Teaching Started

We know that God *cannot* lie (Titus 1:2) so when he promises something it *must* come to pass. But Satan had a doctrine of his own. So one day he told Eve when talking to her concerning this forbidden tree, "*Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*" (Gen. 3:3-5.) The "gods" of mythology were supposed to be *immortal*, as GOD is immortal.

This is where the doctrine of immortality started, for here Satan told Eve she would *not die* and that she and Adam would *be as gods*—which she would if she was an immortal soul. This is the message of Satan the devil! Do you

know that he has his ministers *this very day* proclaiming that message to millions of people, and they believe it?

"In the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and *doctrines of devils.*" (I Tim. 4:1.) Satan is described as being a liar from the beginning and the father of lies. (John 8:44.)

Yes, God's word speaks plainly about these false teachers by which WE might be deceived in these end times. So let us "prove ALL things"! "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine: but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, *having itching ears;* and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (II Tim. 4:3, 4.)

The Truth Is Plain

The truth is clearly revealed in the Bible. Quoting I Corinthians 15:52-55—"We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed . . . and this *mortal must put on immortality.*" When? At the last trumpet when Jesus Christ shall "Come in all his glory and all the holy angels with him" to reward every man according as his work shall be. Remember that the reward or gift of God is eternal life or immortality.

Since this refers to mortal man just what does the word mortal mean? The dictionary states that it refers to one who is "liable to death" or one that can die. The Bible repeatedly states that man is flesh and blood and that God formed him of the dust of the ground. That in the end he shall turn to dust again. (Genesis 3:19.) God did not put in man some immortal spirit separate from the body but he *breathed into his nostrils the breath of life* and "*man became a living soul.*" (Gen. 2:7.) This breath is wind as stated in Ezekiel 37:9-10. Ezekiel was commanded by God "Then said he unto me, prophesy unto the *wind*, prophesy, son of man and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God: Come from the four winds, *O breath and breathe upon these slain that they may live . . . and the breath came into them and they lived.*" There it is, in plain language. The people were dead, without life, and the wind came within them and they lived. The wind, or breath, is what oxidizes our blood and gives us life. Stop a person from breathing and he will DIE.

The Soul Can Die

The soul is *not* separate from the body

for "the soul that sinneth it shall *die*" (Ezekiel 18:4, 20). Even the Bible makes a plain statement that the *soul can die!* Do you have faith in God's word, or the teachings of men?

The soul suffers hunger (Proverbs 19:15) and thirst (Proverbs 25:25). The life of all flesh is in the blood (Lev. 17:11). Jesus poured out his *soul (life-blood)* for our sins (Isaiah 53:12). This is conclusive evidence that the soul can mean the animal life which is contained in the blood. In verse 10, "When thou shalt make his *soul* an offering for sin," refers to Christ as the lamb and his *body* that was offered for our sins. Therefore the soul here refers to Christ's body.

The Bible states definitely "that which befalls man befalls the beast." As one dies so dies the other and *they all have one breath!* All go unto one place. All are of the dust and all turn to dust again (Ecc. 3:19-20).

The Bible makes it very clear that in the very day a man dies his thoughts perish. "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; *in that very day* his thoughts perish." (Psalms 146:4). After death man does not even remember anything "for in death there is no remembrance of thee" (Psalms 6:5). Job knew that his life was wind for he said "O remember that my life is wind" (Job 7:7).

Jesus Said So!

Jesus told Nicodemus, "That which is *born of the flesh is flesh;* and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:6). He didn't say man was flesh and spirit, but just plain flesh. Note how he describes the man of the spirit—"the wind bloweth where it listeth and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the spirit" (John 3:8). To put it in the English of our modern times, spiritual or immortal man *just can't be seen* with human eyes. But Jesus goes on further and says "except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 5:5). So man will be made spirit—but when?

I Corinthians 15:53-55 is describing the second coming of Christ at the last trumpet when "this corruptible must put on immortality." Paul states in this chapter that flesh and blood (natural man) *cannot* inherit the kingdom of

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Those unclean animals in Peter's vision were used to symbolize the gentile race of *men*. They had formerly been regarded as unclean. The Jews had been forbidden to associate with them because of their abominable practices. But now the wall had been broken down and salvation was extended to the gentiles. Peter finally realized that this was the meaning of the vision and said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (verses 34-35).

Yes, to be accepted with God, we must fear Him and *work righteousness*. What is righteousness? ". . . All thy commandments are righteousness" (Psalms 119:172). So let's quit trying to hide our faces from God's commandments—and begin to live by them!

Would YOU Eat Skunks and Rats?

But suppose God had been trying to tell Peter (and us) that he should eat all the things contained in the sheet that was let down in vision. Would you eat those "creeping things"—lizards, snakes, spiders? Would you eat skunks and hyenas? Of course you wouldn't! Why? Because you have *your own* law of what you think is clean and unclean!

Common sense tells us that God did not intend for us to eat all creatures, but we just aren't willing to let our Creator tell us which meats will give us lasting health and strength, and which ones are injurious to our bodies, and will eventually bring on more sickness and disease.

Some people want to argue with God! One text on this subject they will bring up is found in I Timothy 4:1-5. Read it carefully. Notice that these "doctrines of devils" include "forbidding to marry." What church does that to certain of its members? Another false doctrine is "commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath *created to be received* with thanksgiving . . ." By whom? "Of them which believe and know the *truth*." What is truth? Christ said, "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Then the *Bible itself* reveals the *truth* about which meats are to be thankfully received!

Notice that the false doctrine is commanding to abstain from meats which are thankfully received by those who believe and know the truth—who know God's word. And the Holy Bible tells us that there *are* some meats which are "unclean," and are not to be received with thanksgiving.

Verses 4 and 5 tell us, "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, *if* it be received with thanksgiving. For it is *sanctified* by the word of God and prayer." What does it mean

when it says that these creatures of God are sanctified by the word of God and prayer?

"Sanctify" is a word meaning to make holy, or set apart for holy use or purpose. Does the word of God sanctify all the unclean hogs, rabbits, snakes, and other unclean animals? Of course not! Then they *cannot* be received with thanksgiving.

God's laws do not change. The divers washings and carnal ordinances ceased because they were only *physical types* of the working of the Holy Spirit and the sacrifice of Christ. But God's basic spiritual laws and physical laws (not ordinances) stand fast "forever and ever" (Psalms 111:7-8).

Why don't men wake up and begin to obey their creator? Our hospitals and insane asylums are overflowing. Many doctors are now telling us that eating pork and other wrong foods is the cause of a great deal of all this suffering. God knew all this and gave us laws which would have kept us from this misery. But we have *refused to obey!*

Let's quit following men, and church boards, and other self-appointed "authorities." Follow Christ's command in Matthew 4:4 to "live by *every word* of God." For a happier and healthier life, let's get back to the *true* teaching of the Bible!

Why Observe Easter?

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but on Saturday night. It was after midnight (verse 7), that they broke bread because they were hungry. When they "had broken bread, *and* EATEN, and talked a long while, even *till* break of day," Paul departed.

So this was just an ordinary meal! If you would like this verse explained in much greater detail be sure to write for the booklet, "The Sabbath of the New Testament," which is absolutely free.

The same expression "break bread" is found in Acts 27:34,35. "Wherefore, I pray you, take some MEAT . . . *he* took bread . . . and when he had broken it, HE BEGAN TO EAT." Again in Acts 2:46: "and *breaking bread* from house to house, did EAT THEIR MEAT with gladness." This could not possibly have been the "Lord's Supper" or passover, because Paul says that if we take it to satisfy our hunger, we take it to our condemnation. (I Cor. 11:34) In that day, everyone "broke bread" at ordinary meals, because they did not have the kind of bread that we slice. Jesus broke bread because it was at the passover supper, while "*at meat*," eating a meal.

We need to return to the faith Jesus delivered to us. Let us humbly and obediently observe this sacred ordinance

as we are commanded, at the scriptural time, after sunset, the 14th of Abib according to the sacred calendar. If you haven't as yet written where you can observe this ordinance as a memorial of Christ's death with brethren of like faith, write us immediately.

Is Your Soul Immortal?

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God. But when we die we are "sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body and there is a *spiritual* body." Now if we were already immortal, why would we need to *put on* this immortality?

God's Great Gift

Paul states in Romans 2:7, "To them who by patient continuance in well doing *seek for* glory and honor and immortality, eternal life." This immortality is a "gift from God" (Romans 6:23). Notice that immortality is *not* something you are born with! It is a GIFT!

Jesus Christ came to bring immortality to light (II Tim. 1:10). That is, to *reveal* to us the possibility of receiving it as God's gift—to make it known. He died and rose from the dead in order that death might not reign over us. If we are his (true Christians), we may die BUT we will be raised up at his second coming (I Thess. 4:16).

To obtain the hope of the resurrection you must "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye *shall* receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38).

Then, "*if* the spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." (Rom. 8:11). So it is *only* through God's spirit that you may obtain immortality.

Who then *has* immortality? Jesus Christ has. He alone of all that have ever lived in the flesh has immortality for in reference to Christ, Paul wrote in I Timothy 6:16, "who *ONLY* hath immortality." So we know this means that Jesus Christ *only*, of all men, has immortality. Since they (Jesus and God the Father) are of the same family, God's Holy Spirit, which is the very life of God, dwells in both. This Spirit is the life-giving germ that God puts within us upon our repentance and baptism, and makes us the begotten children of God.

It is God reproducing *after his kind!* He is forming his very nature and character within us so that in the resurrection we may "put on immortality" and be the sons of God!