

THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SPIRIT OF MAN

Text: Luke 12:4-5

INTRO: Our text shows that man is not wholly mortal as J.W.'s, Adventists, followers of Armstrong & others loudly proclaim. Ed Fudge, LaGuard Smith. Even after a person dies, there is a far more serious consequence that may befall him. This is because every human being has an immaterial, immortal spirit that will be eternally conscious somewhere. We will abundantly prove this in today's lesson.

I. MAN IS OF A TWO-FOLD NATURE, James 2:26; Eccl 12:7.

A. Man's body is composed of the elements of the earth. It is not the body that is made in God's image.

1. Man can make statues from stone, metal & other materials that look like the human body.
2. But no man can make a statue in the image of God, Acts 17:29.
3. Therefore it is man's spirit, not his body, that is made in God's image.

B. Man's spirit IS made in the image of God.

1. Man is in the image of God, Gen. 1:27.
2. God is Spirit, John 4:24.
3. Therefore it is the spirit of man that is made in the image of God.

C. Man's dust-bound body is mortal, but his God-like spirit is immortal (not subject to literal death).

1. God is immortal, 1 Tim. 6:16.
NOTE: Only God has life to impart to others, & only God has complete freedom from death.
2. Man's spirit is made in God's image, Gen. 1:27.
3. Therefore our spirits are immortal like that of our Father.

II. IT IS TRUE THAT THE BIBLE SOMETIMES SPEAK OF SPIRITUAL DEATH, SO WE NEED TO REALIZE THE BASIC MEANING OF DEATH--SEPARATION.

A. Physical death occurs when the spirit of man is separated from the body. James 2:26; Eccl 12:7.

B. Spiritual death is the result of a person being separated from God by sin, Eph. 2:1; 1 Tim 5:6; Isa 59:2.

III. IT IS ALSO NECESSARY FOR US TO DEFINE THE WORDS

SOUL & SPIRIT AS THEY ARE USED IN SCRIPTURE.

A. The word soul. Heb, NEPHESH; Gr., PSUCHE.

1. Natural life, MT 2:20
2. The immortal part of man, MT 10:28
3. The seat of emotions, desire, understanding.
4. A person.
5. Animal life.

B. Spirit, Heb. RUACH; Gr. PNEUMA.

1. Wind
2. Breath
3. The immaterial part of man, James 2:26
4. The seat of emotions, desire, understanding.
5. A person
6. Character, disposition, purpose or aim
7. The Holy Spirit
8. A demon or angel
9. A vision, Rev. 1:10.

C Since these words have different meanings we must distinguish in each case what is meant by the context.

D. The immaterial part of man is also sometimes contemplated in the use of the words heart and mind, as these relate to the seat of emotions, desire, understanding, etc. Psalm 22:26.

IV. THERE ARE NUMEROUS PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE

THAT INDICATE THAT THE SOUL OR SPIRIT OF MAN SURVIVES DEATH.

- A. The rich man, Lazarus & Abraham, LK 16:19-31
- B. The prophet Samuel, 1 Sam 28:7-20
- C. Moses, MT 17:1-9

V. THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL OR SPIRIT IS CLEARLY TAUGHT IN 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18.

OUTWARD MAN (body) IS PERISHING SEEN TEMPORARY
INWARD MAN (spirit) BEING RENEWED NOT SEEN
ETERNAL

VI. THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL OF MAN IS TAUGHT BY NECESSARY IMPLICATION IN A COMPARISON OF PSALM 116:15 WITH EZEKIEL 22:11.

VII. THE BIBLE PLAINLY INDICATES A DANGER GREATER THAN DEATH, & OF AN EVERLASTING NATURE.

- MT 25:41, everlasting fire
- MT 25:46, everlasting punishment
- MK 9:43-48, fire not quenched
- Rev 14:11, smoke ascends up forever & ever
- Rev 20:10, tormented day & night forever & ever

VIII. FINALLY, LET US LOOK AT THE ARGUMENT JESUS MADE AGAINST THE SADDUCEES WHO DID NOT BELIEVE IN THE IMMATERIAL SPIRIT OF MAN.
LUKE 20:38;

READ HEBREWS 11:13, 16

CONCLUSION: These passages abundantly prove the immortality of the soul or spirit of man, & they plainly confront us with the choice between 2 eternal destinies. Thus we see why Jesus warned, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body & after that have no more that they can do. But... fear Him who after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"

Cox Springs, TX, October 17, 1965
Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, January 2, 1966
Jonestown, TX, March 9, 1969
Springhill, LA, March 7, 1971
KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, May 13, 20, 27, 1973
La Porte, TX, May 30, 1976
Exton, PA, January 12, 1986
Coventry Hills, Pottstown, PA, April 18, 1986
Lancaster County, PA, May 18, 1986
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, August 15, 1993
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, April 26, 1998