

Bible Student's Notebook The Herald of His Grace

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume XVIII Issue 429

What Is Death?

by — Dan Sheridan

Is THERE SUCH A THING AS SPIRITUAL DEATH?

How often do you hear people use the phrase "spiritual death?" Did you ever check to see if such a phrase is found in Scripture?

There is no such thing as "spiritual death." According to I Corinthians 15 the first man was NOT spiritual – but NATURAL/SOULISH.

... There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, "The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly (I Corinthians 15:44-49).

DEATH IS A RETURN

So, how can a being who isn't "spiritual" die a "spiritual" death? When God told Adam that he was going to die if he ate from that tree, he didn't speculate about some *part* of him dying; he knew exactly what God meant – he knew he was going back to *dust*. Read Genesis 3:19. The penalty for disobedience was a return to dust – DEATH IS A RETURN TO DUST.

Death is Genesis 2:7 in reverse. Adam wasn't alive, or conscious, before he was formed and he isn't conscious now that he has RETURNED. He's dead. The dead aren't alive.

I was born in 1970. When I die, I will RETURN to the same condition I was in 1968. That's death.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul ... And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die ... Because thou hast ... eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it ... In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return (Genesis 2:7, 16-17; 3:17, 19).

ORTHODOX ZOMBIES: WHERE DO YOU PUT THE "LIVING DEAD?"

The use of terminology like "spiritual death" led to the doctrine of eternal torment, because if you believe that people die spiritually, they actually *survive* "physical death." So, where do you put the "spiritually dead" who never actually died? In heaven, hell or purgatory. You see? False terminology leads to a host of evils! The dead are actually alive according to orthodox theology. They are zombies!

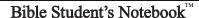
SATAN'S THEOLOGY: GOD LIED ABOUT DEATH

Satan's first lie was about death:

And the serpent said unto the woman, "Ye shall not

(see **D**EATH, page 3831)

What Is Death?	3829
All Is Out of God	3833
Our Mailbox	3834



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This free weekly electronic publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25):
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13):
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
 - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6);
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

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DEATH (continued from front page)

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" (Genesis 3:4-5).

In other words, Satan was saying that God was lying about the wages of sin. Satan said the dead aren't really dead. He said that men never really die! Satan says, "Death is to be absent from the body and present with the Lord" (a horrible misquotation of Paul in II Corinthians 5):

Life in a better place.

A promotion to glory.

In other words, death is anything but what it really is the opposite of life.

WILLIAM TYNDALE **DRAWS SWORDS WITH** THE CHAMPION OF ORTHODOXY

Reformer and Bible Translator, William Tyndale, agreed with the Lord Jesus and Paul about the state of the dead. This brought him into conflict with orthodoxy.

The champion of orthodoxy of that day was Sir Thomas Moore. He hated the teaching of Tyndale. Tyndale believed that life is a gift from God given in Resurrection. Tyndale was opposed to the teaching of orthodoxy which said that man had an "immortal soul." Sir Thomas Moore called those who believed as Tyndale did a "pestilential sect," because they held that "all souls lie and sleep till doomsday."

In 1530 Tyndale responded to Moore:

And ye, in putting them [the departed souls] in heaven, hell, and purgatory, destroy the arguments wherewith Christ and Paul prove the resurrection. ... And again, if the souls be in heaven, tell me why they be not in as good case as the angels be? And then what cause is there of the resurrection?

He also said:

The true faith putteth the resurrection, which we be warned to look for every hour. The heathen philosophers, denying that, did put that the souls did ever live. And the pope joineth the spiritual doctrine of Christ and the fleshly doctrine of philosophers together; things so contrary that they cannot agree, no more than the Spirit and the flesh do in a Christian

man. And because the fleshly-minded pope consenteth unto heathen doctrine, therefore he corrupteth the Scripture to stablish it.

Tyndale also said about Moore's teaching:

And when he [Moore] proveth that the saints be in heaven in glory with Christ already, saying, "If God be their God, they be in heaven, for he is not the God of the dead;" there he stealeth away Christ's argument, wherewith he proveth the resurrection: that Abraham and all saints should rise again, and not that their souls were in heaven; which doctrine was not yet in the world. And with that doctrine he taketh away the resurrection quite, and maketh Christ's argument of none effect.

Tyndale gets sarcastic when Moore places his authority above Scripture. Since Moore teaches the opposite of Scripture, Tyndale mocks Moore by suggesting that Paul should have learned from Moore the real truth about death!

Nay, Paul, thou art unlearned; go to Master Moore, and learn a new way. We be not most miserable, though we rise not again; for our souls go to heaven as soon as we be dead, and are there in as great joy as Christ that is risen again. And I marvel that Paul had not comforted the Thessalonians with that doctrine, if he had wist it, that the souls of their dead had been in joy; as he did with the resurrection, that their dead should rise again. If the souls be in heaven, in as great glory as the angels, after your doctrine, shew me what cause should be of the resurrection.

Asking the Right Question

The glory of the Scriptures is Resurrection. The Bible question isn't, "Where will you go when you die?" The Bible question is, "If a man die, shall he live again?" That's what Job asked.

False religions teach some form of an "afterlife." Not so the Bible. The best part of the gospel of Christ is that He died for our sins, was buried and rose again! He is the first-fruit of those who sleep. This means that He will conquer death for us, as well. His resurrection was the pledge; our resurrection is the great harvest!

Resurrection is a neglected doctrine by orthodoxy. The more you preach it the more you are accused of being a "soul-sleeper." Why? Because the doctrine of resurrection takes away from the evil "afterlife" doctrine. ▶

Resurrection exposes the fraudulent, Satanic teaching that the dead aren't really dead, but "alive in a better (or worse) place."

Notice how "gospel preachers" always emphasize, "Where you will go when you die?"! That's the satanic influence. They rarely ask the question that the Bible asks, "If a man die, shall he live again?" That's the REAL question! No religion has the answer – only God does: RESURRECTION!

"I am the Resurrection and the Life," the Lord Jesus said. Notice that the Lord didn't say that He's the "after-life."

When the Apostle Paul preached the resurrection, he was mocked. Paul and the other apostles preached "Jesus and the resurrection" - that was their reputation. That was the "word on the street" about them. That's why the heathen thought it was a strange thing. There's no hope for resurrection for a heathen.

ern preachers. Their "rep" is a message about a painful torture chamber for the bad, or a white cloudy bliss for the good in some mystical afterlife. Educated preachers are warning the sinner or comforting the saint about an afterlife – which doesn't exist! They are preaching myths; but I want to follow Tyndale here. Even though the educated Sir Thomas Moores of our day teach an afterlife, I want to stick with the apostles, and the Lord.

GOD'S TRUTH VS. SATAN'S LIE

Satan's first lie was "Ye shall not surely die." God told the couple in Paradise that they would die. Satan denied it. He believed in the "immortality of the soul." What will you believe? God's truth, or Satan's lie?

Never glorify death. It's an enemy, not a friend.

Unfortunately, that's certainly not the reputation of mod-



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All Is Out of God

The Divine Viewpoint

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

all is out of God. Consequently, we must view everything from the standpoint of His purpose and plan, if we wish to see it as He does, and as it really is. Otherwise we get only a superficial glance of its outward appearance and have no comprehension of its inner essence. Not until the time of maturity had arrived in Paul's ministry do the Scriptures definitely assert that all is of God; but, once we grasp it, we can see it even in His previous revelations. The case of Judas is a clear example of the two viewpoints. What could be worse than an apostle of the Lord, one entrusted with the funds, giving Him up into the hands of His chief enemies for a paltry sum of silver? Yet God had fixed his fate long before, and Christ had chosen him, knowing what he would do. Is not the divine viewpoint altogether different from the human? So it is with all evil.

The experience of Job should be a help to us. To begin with, it seemed that God was on the side of Job's "friends." Did He not send various evils upon him as if he had done wrong? Would God do all that to him if he was innocent? Yet, He did! Had the friends enjoyed the light we have today, they might not have been so sure.

Now that we know that the Adversary is a rabid opponent of the truth, and that he will do as much damage as he can, we must expect our work and its friends to suffer for its sake. Some might easily point to these as symptoms of God's displeasure, rather than the Adversary's opposition. Let us not be like Job's friends!

EVIL A PART OF GOD'S PURPOSE

The perception of evil as a part of God's purpose and plan to reveal Himself will have a powerful effect upon the way we feel toward those accused of evil doing. We will not pride ourselves on being unlike others, as the Pharisees did, but profoundly thankful to God for the measure in which He may have preserved us from their ungodliness. Moreover, we will not harshly condemn wrongdoers, for we know that God, Who locks up all together in stubbornness, does it not to condemn them (as it seems meanwhile), but to be merciful to all eventually. Even we, whom He has called, often fail. Let us be thankful that, even though we will suffer loss, and

This basic truth should help us greatly in our dealings with our fellow saints, especially those who have failed in some way which may bring dishonor on His Name, or cannot accept His truth, or even oppose it and us, especially the teachings of maturity such as the truth we are considering. If we believe that all is out of God, this must be included. This will keep us from harsh condemnation, and draw out our forbearance and sympathy. It will enable us to have a kindly feeling, even for our enemies. If we harshly and viciously condemn them, we ourselves may be adding to the offense. Neither should we condone evil, but add a measure of salt to our grace.

may not win the prize, even that will work out to the



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We thank God for the ministry He has placed in your care. We love you and your family, and pray for Father's perfect will for you. -GA

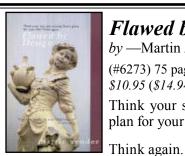
I am now reading *Truth vs. Orthodoxy* by Arthur P. Adams. I have just finished the chapter, Free Will. I am just so blessed beyond measure, how our Father is so in control of everything. Even our seeming mistakes are so governed by Him. I cannot put into words how I feel: it is amazing, to put it mildly. WOW! Thank you for having this book available to the body. -NM

I came across your name and your websites recently. I've begun receiving your <u>Daily Email Goodies</u> and told another friend about your ministry. I'm seeing you as bees pollinating the flowers and trees, carrying the deepest message of God to those who hearts have been prepared for the amazing revelation of His glory.

I first heard this word some years ago from my Bible School professor. He was a great example to me, rescuing me from the traditions of men and pointing me in the direction of the Living God, our great Creator. -VA

Just want you to know how much I enjoyed *The* Church in Ruins. - PA

With the hurry and hazards of daily living, it's difficult to keep in mind all the facts pertinent to our



Flawed by Design by —Martin Zender (#6273) 75 pages, PB \$10.95 (\$14.94 with s&h) Think your sins are ruining God's plan for your life?

calling. Your *Daily Email Goodies* helps us with this challenge, and often makes us take pause for important reminders which can bring us immediate joy and peace – before something occurs and the thoughts slip back. - LA

I am so excited that I am once again connected to you and Martin, receiving your print, audio and video offerings, etc. Thank you!

I feel that your house is a very deep well out of which I and a lot of fellow believers are drawing life-giving knowledge and wisdom on this Pilgrim's Way. Words cannot express how much I appreciate the warm welcome, the hospitality and the wonderful fellowship I received. Oh, and the food was pretty good, too – I have never eaten so well in my life!

What a pleasure it was to meet you and your beautiful extended family. The peace and harmony I found at the *Fellowship Inn* is palpable. It is indeed a haven in this sin-sick and weary world. – **MO**

Your <u>Daily Email Goodies</u> are better than a cup of hi-test coffee in the morning. -VT

I would like to thank you for all the work that you put in Bible studies and publishing them online. It is a great help for me, my brother and my friend. I wanted to let you know also that there are more believers in the world and you can add 3 more from – *Poland*.

I have been reading <u>Due Benevolence</u> and I must say it's like freedom I have never felt before about sex! I felt as if a burden has been lifted off me. I felt this same way when I read (Flawed by Design) by Martin Zender. I truly believe you and Martin are God's servants. Thank you, for your dedication to God and His Word! -OK

Thanks for continuing to send the *Bible Student's Notebook*; some I save and others I pass along to others when I've finished with them. -KY

I pray daily for you and the wonderful work our Lord has set before you. My very best to your family. -OH

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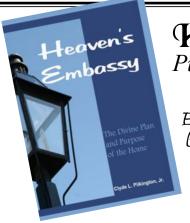
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Heaven's Embassy – The Divine Plan & Purpose of the Home

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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(#**5675**) 250 pp., PB, **\$16.**⁹⁵ (+ **\$3.**⁹⁹ s&h = **\$20.**⁹⁴) The home is central to all of God's dealings with man throughout the course of time. It is His Divine "institution" and "organization" on the earth; and for the believer, it is the *Embassy of Heaven*. An embassy is "the residence or office of an ambas-

sador." Since the believer is an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 5:14-21), his home is thus the *Divine Embassy* of heavenly ministry.

Pauline ministry is centered in the homes of believers. This is even the true sphere of the Body of Christ; for this reason our apostle speaks of "church in thy house." This book doesn't focus upon the external specifics of the ministry of Heaven's Embassy (such as hospitality); that will be saved for another volume. Instead, it looks at the inner-workings of the Embassy itself, focusing upon its very nature and internal purpose and function.

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