

# BIBLE STUDY

LEARNING THE BIBLE WITH AUDIO AND VIDEO SUPPORT

## SERMON SERIES

*The foundation of all Truth and Knowledge*

### Doctrinal Series

# Does Man Have An Immortal Soul ?

For thousands of years man has wrestled with the doctrine of the Immortality of the Soul. Where did the concept develop? No where is it found in the Bible, yet the majority of mankind has adopted it as "Truth." How did this come about?

Most of us grew up in a Christian home. Our parents taught us to go to church, say our prayers, respect the Bible. We were also taught reverence our Lord and Saviour. We were told that if we lived our life as a good person, our soul would go to Heaven

when we died. However if we didn't our soul would spend an eternity in "Hades."

Have you ever taken the time to prove this out for yourself? After all, eternity is a long time to take for granted. This Bible Study covers in detail the origins, history, and most importantly the plain Bible understanding on the subject of the soul of man.

# Does Man's Soul Live Forever ?

## The Spirit Within Man, the "Soul"

The word soul is used over 700 times in the Old Testament and over 100 times in the New Testament. Of the 700 times used, 460 times it is translated from the Hebrew word "Naphesh." In the New Testament the soul comes from the Greek word "Psuche." In both Testaments, both words have basically similar meanings: Spirit, breath, or more specifically, the life within the physical body.

### Origins of the Doctrine

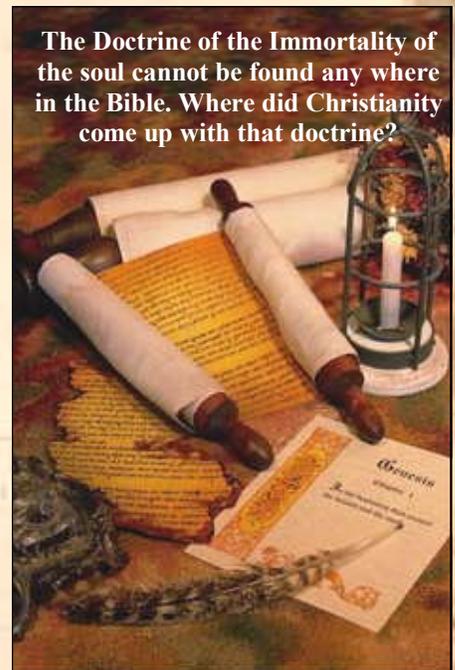
The roots of the Immortality of the Soul can be traced back to the practices and customs of Egypt. The Egyptians believed that life continued after death. Their attitude was influenced

by their belief in immortality. They regarded death as a temporary interruption, rather than a cessation of life.

When they were buried they would have all things necessary to carry them into the next life. They even mummified their bodies to preserve the body. It would keep the body in tact until the spirit would re-enter the body.

The famous, "Egyptian Book of the Dead," (Circa 1240B.C.) is a collection of ancient Egyptian funerals, rituals, rites, and texts. The book lays out in detail the many Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife.

The Doctrine of the Immortality of the soul cannot be found any where in the Bible. Where did Christianity come up with that doctrine?



## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Before you begin, we recommend you first view the DVD in its entirety. These sermons / studies are terrific for sermon messages for Sabbath Services. They are also the perfect way to lead into a group Bible Study. If you prefer, you can view them privately or with your family for your own personal studies. Once you have viewed the DVD, test your knowledge by answering all the questions in the accompanying materials. Be sure to read all the scriptures quoted in the materials or on the DVD. This way you won't be taking our word for it, you will be proving God's Word for yourself. Finally, view the DVD again with the questions and answers in hand; pausing the DVD from time to time to find all the answers to complete your study.

Whether you use this study personally or with a group, God's Holy Spirit will lead you into truth and understanding that will open your mind to a greater and deeper understanding. Each study you complete will enrich your life as only God can do. May God bless you as you learn more of His way and His Holy Word. Finally, as with all things, we recommend you begin your study with prayer, asking God to open your mind to understand His way and guide your every step.

### The Church of God, Ministries International

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#### THE BIBLE STUDY SERMON SERIES

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## The Majority of the World Believes in the Immortality of the Soul

Nearly all of the world religions, including the Buddhist, Hindus, the Muslims, and yes even the majority of all Christianity have adopted the theory of the Immortality of the Soul from the Egyptians. How did the doctrine find its way into Christianity?

### Plato (429 – 347)

A student of Socrates, the Greek philosopher Plato, was instrumental in merging the Egyptian belief of an immortal soul into the Greek culture. As the centuries went by, the Romans rose into power and conquered the Greeks. The Romans successfully grafted the belief into their teachings and expounded the concept into a higher plain.

The Jewish encyclopedia states: "the belief of the Immortality of the Soul came to the Jews from the contact with Greek thought through the philosophy of Plato."

### Early Teachings of the Church

During the Ante-Nicene period of the church, Tertullian (A.D. 155-220) wrote; "For some things are known even by nature: the immortality of the soul instance is held by many. I may use, therefore, the opinion of Plato when he declares, every soul is immortal." (The Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol III)

### Augustine of Hippo Integrates the Doctrine of the Immortal Soul

Augustine of Hippo (Commonly known as St. Augustine) is held by most of the Christian community as "the greatest thinker of Christian Antiquity on the doctrine of the soul. It is through him that this doctrine became cemented into Christianity, despite the fact that you cannot find the doctrine anywhere in the Bible.

The Universal (Catholic) Church

## FINDING THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS

Each question is designed to let the Bible answer the question for you. Be sure to read each scripture and let the Bible give you the answers to interpret itself.

adopted this into their beliefs as the result of the teaching of Augustine Hippo. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "all who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but only after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter, the joy of Heaven."

From the concept of the Immortal Soul, the doctrines of Purgatory and Limbo were created. In addition to the two non Biblical doctrines another more sinister doctrine grew; that of indulgences. That is the ability to buy one's soul from Purgatory or Limbo and move them on to Heaven.

As you could imagine, this created corruption within the church and eventually became the core issue in the Protestant Reformation led by Martin Luther. Even though the Protestant Churches separated from the Catholic Church over the issue of Indulgences, they unfortunately retained most of the other non Biblical doctrines.

### The Only Day of Salvation?

Another problem of this doctrine created another false teaching of the church. It is the concept that, "This is the Only Day of Salvation." Consider for a moment of this doctrine. If it were true then Christ is losing the battle. The world continues every year to get worse, not better. It would seem that Satan has the upper hand and is claiming the victory.

Consider further, that Christianity is the smallest of all the world's religions. Of them, only a

small amount of them actually believe the teachings from scripture. Jesus Himself called them the “little flock.” If in this life is the only day of Salvation, Satan is winning the battle of the soul. Is this truly the only day of salvation, or does the Bible teach something differently? The remainder of this study will go into detail what the Bible teaches on the subject.

### Warnings from the Scriptures

1. Does the Scripture warn of following vain doctrine? Col. 2:8
2. What does the Bible teach about doctrines of men? Mark 7:8
3. Does the Bible say it is possible to worship God in vain? Matt. 15:8

As we can plainly see, it is possible to spend an entire lifetime worshipping God, only to find that the worship is in vain. Knowing this isn't a good idea to see what the Bible actually does teach, and to follow those teachings?

### The Soul of Man from Scripture

1. Does man have a living soul? Gen 2:7
2. Where is the spirit of man? Job 8, Zech 12:1
3. Where is the mind of man? Zech 12:11

All thought processes of the mind comes from the soul within man given to him by our Creator. The mind only exist because of the soul that God gives. The apostle Paul tells us, “Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 2:5) That means that our soul or our spirit is to blend with the Spirit of Christ.

The Scripture goes on to state, that if we do not have that Spirit within us, we are none of His. Rom. 8:8-9 “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”

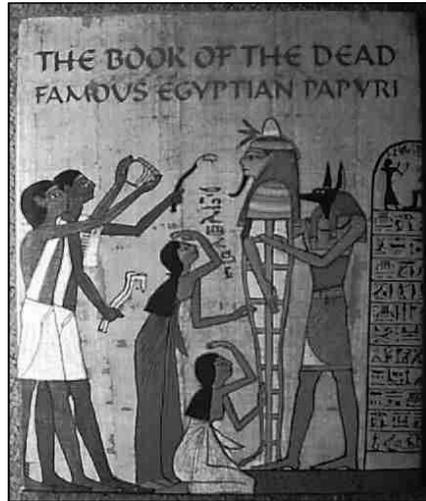
### Can the Living Soul of Mankind Die?

1. Is it possible that the living soul within man could at some point die? Ezek 18:4
2. Did God tell us we could die from the beginning of creation? Gen 2:16

3. Does the Bible tell us that at this time only one has immortality? I Tim 6:14-16

At this time all mankind is created as physical, mortal human beings. Because of that, I Cor. 15 tells us, we will pass from mortal to immortal after the return of Jesus Christ.

4. What does the Bible state on this subject? I Cor 15:51-57



The famous, “Egyptian Book of the Dead,” (Circa 1240B.C.) is a collection of ancient Egyptian funerals, rituals, and rites, and texts. The book lays out in detail the many Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife.

### The True Origination of the Immortality of the Soul Concept

1. Is it possible to trace the origins of the concept of the Immortal Soul? Gen 3:4

From the beginning of time, Satan tried to destroy God's truths. Gen. 3:3 “But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.” Satan tells the woman you shall not die, you shall be as God – implication: God lives forever.

Satan convinced man that he could do what ever he liked and that he would not die,. The implication is that he would live forever despite sinning.

2. What did God's word say contrary to Satan's lie? Ezek 18:4

### Resurrection of the Dead

The Bible teaches that there is a resurrection. If man has an immortal soul and they are already in heaven or hell, why is there a need for a resurrection?

1. What does the Bible say of the resurrection? John 5:28, John 11:25, I Cor. 15:20-23; 50-57. (We'll go into more detail on the resurrection in a future study on the resurrection.)

You can see in I Cor. 15:20-23 the apostle Paul develops another understanding of the resurrection. It state that individuals will be resurrected at different times.

### Three Resurrections

The Bible teaches that there are three resurrections for mankind. You can find them all listed in order in the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation.

1. Who is in the first resurrection? Rev. 20:4



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2. When are they resurrected? Rev. 20:4
3. When is the second resurrection? Rev. 20:5

All of those who have never had the opportunity to learn of God's truths, and Jesus Christ will be given their opportunity to learn then. The resurrection will take place following the thousand year reign.

4. What type of resurrection is this? Ezek 37:1-14
5. How long will this period last? Isa. 65:19

This is the only scriptural reference to this period of time. From it we understand that those resurrected following the millennium that are given a space of time, one hundred years to learn of Him and to either accept or deny His truths. Following that time comes the third resurrection.

6. What does God say about the third resurrection? Rev. 20:11-15

### **The Third and Final Resurrection It is Called the Great White Throne Judgment**

1. What happens to the soul when a person dies? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is there a death of the physical body? Gen 3:19
3. Is there any thought after death? Ps 146:3-4
4. What does the Bible say about death? Dan 12:1-3
5. Does the Bible give us more insight to this? Job 14:13-15, I Cor 15-17-18, 51; Ecc 9:5

The Bible often states that death

is considered as a time of sleep. At some point of time God will awaken that person (soul) in one of the three resurrections.

5. Where does the soul go after the person dies? Ecc 12:7

### **SUMMARY**

The Bible gives us clear understanding of the soul of man. This world has simply rejected these basic truths, because of that it does not understand the plan of God. The Bible tells us that Satan has deceived this whole world. (Rev. 12:9) The world does not understand these basic truths. The concept that innocent children would spend an eternity tortured and burned doesn't mesh with a merciful and loving God. To maintain the understanding that God is a loving and merciful God, the world has created doctrines of men to try to fit all of the pieces.

The Bible says there is a way that seems right unto a man, but the ends thereof are death. (Prov. 16:25) We are warned that it is the second death with which we must be concerned. (Rev. 2:11, Rev 20:6) Don't let this happen to you. If you've received this study and God has opened your eyes, you need to look further into God's Holy Word to see if there is anything else that this world has taught that is contrary to it, thereby meaning death to you.

Jesus said, fear not what man can do to you, fear the second death, the death of your "mortal" soul.

