

IS THE HUMAN SOUL IMMORTAL?

There is a popular teaching abroad that man has an immortal soul. The word immortal means **Not Subject to Death: Cannot Die**. This doctrine, therefore, teaches that the soul of man will never die because it cannot die. This doctrine is utterly false, it can be found no where in Scripture. It became a part of a corrupt christianity in that dark period when the “Church” Sacrificed truth for popularity and tradition.

The idea that man has an immortal soul has been a part of pagan doctrine from early history and became well established by Greek philosophy with its anti-scriptural concept of the eternal pre-existence of matter.

The scriptures make it plain that God is the only being without beginning or without end, God has always existed and will always exist, God is eternal in the absolute and fullest sense of the word. There was never a time in the past when God did not exist and there will never be a time in the future when God will not exist. He alone **possesses absolute, perfect, eternal life**, life without beginning or end! This is a divine mystery beyond our comprehension, but it is an absolute fact. That is why God, and Him alone, is the Creator and source of Life. Everything else in

the universe depends upon God for its existence. Once upon a time there was nothing other than God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), then God, by His Word, created matter, and living things. Before God created them they did not exist but became existent only by his upholding, sustaining word. In other words all creatures are **nothing** apart from God's creative and sustaining Word.

This is the beautiful message of Seventh-Day Sabbath: by keeping before our minds the fact that God is the Creator and we are his Creatures, the Sabbath is the eternal safeguard against the false doctrine that Creatures can live separate from God. The Sabbath upholds the truth that just as creature and creation were absolutely dependent upon God for initial creation from nothing, so all creation is absolutely dependent upon God for the continuation of existence. Creation does not have existence of itself, but is in constant and continuous need of God in order to survive!

All of the above-mentioned facts are scriptural facts as can be readily seen by considering the following passages of scripture:

“LORD, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or even thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.” Psalms 90:1,2.

“The LORD reigneth, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith He hath girded Himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved. Thy throne is established of old, thou art from everlasting.” Psalm 93:1,2.

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” Hebrews 11:3.

“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: He layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast~” Psalm 33:6-9.

“To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by name by the greatness of his might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth. Isaiah 40:25-26.

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the

Creator of the ends of the earth fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of His understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:28-31.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God: all things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.” St. John 1:1-4.

Notice that in the above passage life is described as light and the passage explains that ABSOLUTE LIFE is found only in God so that all things were made by Him.

It should be obvious by now that **ONLY God** has immortality and the scriptures confirm this fact in 1 Timothy 6:14-16.

“That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his time he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which

no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.” 1Timothy 6:14-16.

The Bible also makes it clear that the soul of man is **NOT** immortal, but in fact, is very much mortal. Consider the following passages of scripture:-

“Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.” Ezekiel 18:4.

“Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” James 5:20.

“And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.” Revelation 16:3.

The above texts show clearly that the soul can, and does certainly die. But what really is the soul? The Bible uses the word soul in a variety of ways, but **no where** in the Bible are we told that the soul cannot die. In fact the Bible uses the word soul to describe the behavioural mechanism and personality of the human being; this is clearly brought out in Genesis 2:7.

“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.” Genesis 2:7.

This text informs us that man **became** a living soul when God formed him of the dust of the ground **and** breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Hence we arrive at the following equation: Living Soul = Dust of Ground + Breath of Life. It follows, therefore, that when the breath of life (the life principle) ceases in the individual, then that individual ceases to be a living soul, and the body decomposes back to the dust of the earth, and this is exactly what the scripture teaches:

“Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” Psalm 146:3-4.

“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” Ecclesiastes 12:7.

“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 3:19.

It is necessary at this point in time to state the cause of death. Sin is the cause of death, and sin causes death by separating the creature from God. We are all subject to death (the first death) because of Adam’s sin, from this death there will be a resurrection.

However the man who rejects God’s offer of eternal life in Christ through the gospel will

suffer eternal death, the second death. For proof of the above, consider carefully the following scriptures:

“For the wages of sin is death.” Romans 6:23

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that He will not hear.” Isaiah 59:2.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Romans 5:12.

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” St. John 5:28–29.

“For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:17.

“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whore-mongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. Revelation 21:7–8.

In the beginning of earth's history God made Adam, and God told him that if he disobeyed he would die. Adam disobeyed God and thereby forfeited immortal life. Adam could not transmit to his posterity that which he did not possess, Sinful man is mortal. Death is the constant reminder that our human natures are weak, sinful and fallen. There could have been no hope for the fallen race had not God, by the sacrifice of His Son, brought immortality within our reach. While death has passed upon all men, for that all have sinned, Christ has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. When by faith in Christ the sinner receives the gift of righteousness, he thereby receives the gift of eternal life by faith through the indwelling Christ. However, the gift of actual immortality will be given at the Second Coming of Christ at the last day. The following texts of scripture should be carefully studied and learnt:

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”
Genesis 2:7.

“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.”
Genesis 2:17.

“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 3:19.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Romans 5:12.

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who bath abolished death, and bath bought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” 2Timothy 1:9-10.

“And this is the record, that God bath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that bath the Son bath life; and he that bath not the Son of God bath not life.” 1John 5:11-12.

“Behold I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruption must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on

incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1Corinthians 15:51-54.

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.” Philippians 3:20-21.

MAN’S CONDITION IN DEATH AND THE FINAL REWARDS

When a man is dead he is really dead. The dead cannot communicate with the living. The dead do **not** know anything.

“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 9:5-6.

“Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” Psalm 146:4-4.

The Bible pictures death as an unconscious sleep.

“These things said He: and after that He saith unto them. 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.

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 1Thessalonians 4:13.

The righteous dead rest in their graves until the first resurrection at the last day when Christ returns.

“Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.”

“For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, sit thou on my right band.” Acts 2:29-34.

“And this is the will of Him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

“No man can come to Me except the Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” St. John 6:40,44.

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.” 1Thessalonians 4:16.

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” Revelation 20:6.

The unrighteous dead rest in their graves until the second resurrection, the resurrection of damnation, when they will come forth to receive their final judgment and their reward of permanent death, the second death.

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” Revelation 20:5.

“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” Revelation 21:7-8.

“For behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of host, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” Malachi 4:1.

“But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; unto smoke shall they consume away.” Psalm 37:20.

“For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.” Psalm 37:9.

This second resurrection will occur at the **end** of the 1000 years of Revelation 20. Thus we see that the ultimate fate of the unrighteous will be death, not eternal burning in fire, but eternal death, non-existence.

SPIRITUALISM

Spiritualism is a satanic philosophy based upon three false doctrines

- (i) That man has an immortal soul.
- (ii) That righteous people go straight to heaven at death.
- (iii) That the souls of dead people can communicate with the living.

We have already proven that the human soul is not immortal and that during death both the righteous and the wicked remain in their graves until the appointed day of their respective resurrections. Now what about the idea that the living can communicate with the dead? The scriptures plainly forbid any attempt to ‘communicate’ with the dead. Wizards; Witches; Necromancers; Enchanters; Horoscope Prophets; users of Divination; Palm-readers; Telekinesis; Transcendental Meditation; the Crystal Ball; Yoga; Parapsychology; the “Third” eye concept; the “Fourth Dimension” Concept; all these are branches of Satanism and Spiritualism, and are deceptions of Satan which are being used by Him to deceive those who do not know the truth as it is in Jesus, and as it is written in God’s Holy Word. The written testimony is too clear to be misunderstood.

“When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from

before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God.” Deuteronomy 18:9-13.

“And when they shall say unto you, seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:19,20.

The question may be asked, who are the “familiar spirits” who appear as the souls of the dead ones and “communicate” with those who practice necromancy and occultism. The answer is plainly stated in scripture:

“For they are spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Revelation 16:14.

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” Revelation 13:13-14.

Yes, reader, Satan and his fallen angels are carrying on a massive program of deception on this planet, earth. By pretending to be the spirit or “souls” of those who have died, Satan and his demons have deceived, are deceiving and will deceive millions of human beings. But no one needs to be deceived, the teaching of God’s word is too plain upon this matter. The Bible warns that those who reject truth will be left to believe error, and will thus be strongly deluded by Satanic miracles and wonders.

“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish: because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2Thessalonians 2:9-12.

It is the tendency of human nature to be thrilled by the spectacular, to delight in miraculous wonders, and to believe that such wonders are always divine. However, in the final crisis God will permit Satan to employ miraculous signs and wonders. It will be thus that genuine faith will be distinguished from counterfeit or false faith.

True faith is - not based on the sensational or the miraculous, but is based upon the word of God only. True faith is heartfelt appreciation and love for God and His marvelous grace demonstrated for us in Jesus Christ. True faith submits and surrenders all to God with the determination to believe and obey only the word of God. True faith is depending upon the word of God and expecting the word of God to do what that word says because it is the word of God. True faith believes the word of God when every other evidence **SEEMS** to be against that word being true.

Evil spirits, which are Satan and his fallen angels, will produce miracles and wonders in order to deceive the world into accepting Sunday as a sacred day for universal observance. God's true last-day saints will not be deceived, because they will heed the advice given in scripture:

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”
1Thessalonians 5:21.

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”
1John 4:1.

“And when they shall say unto you, seek unto them that have familiar spirits and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? For the living to

the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:19-20.

Yes, friends, God’s true people will know that Sunday-sacredness and the miracles used to support Sunday **CANNOT** possibly be of God, because Sunday-Sacredness is neither according to the Law of God nor is it according to the testimony, Isaiah 8:20. Therefore, there can be no light, but only darkness, in any miracle or movement seeking to promote Sunday as a rest day!

First of all, according to God’s unchanging, perfect, eternal law, the fourth commandment informs us that the seventh day is the Sabbath of God. The first day of the week is, with the other days, a common working day, for the fourth commandment states clearly that “six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work Exodus 20:8-11.

Secondly, according to the testimony of Christ, The Living Word, the seventh-day sabbath was made for man: more over, Christ kept the Sabbath and his Father’s commandments perfectly.

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.” Luke 4:16.

“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love: even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.” John 15:10.

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” Hebrews 13:8.

“And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.” Mark 2:27-28.

However, the sad fact is that the overwhelming majority of earth’s inhabitants will be deceived by Satan’s deceptive miracles and wonders. These miracles will include acts of healing and fantastic wonders, even the manifestation of fire from the sky!

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.” Revelations 13:13.

These things will be done in order to deceive the world to accept SUNDAY as the “christian sabbath.”

“And he deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” Revelations 13:14.

The bringing down of fire from heaven will be a particularly deceptive “miracle”. Most professed christians have heard or read of the encounter between Elijah and the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel. Read the account for yourself in 1Kings 18:17-46. Elijah prayed and asked God to send fire “from heaven” to consume his sacrifice; and fire did come down from “heaven”. Before Elijah had prayed, the false prophets of Baal had their chance to pray to Baal for fire but, of course, no fire came down. The Fire coming down from heaven “proved” Elijah to be right and the idolaters wrong. But the only reason the Israelites needed such “proof” was because of their departure from the Word of God. The proof was already written in God’s word, which states that Jahweh God is the only true and living God, and only He should be worshipped! Satan will produce a counterfeit of this “Elijah-miracle” and cause “fire to come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men” to “prove” that Sunday is the sacred day for christians and not the Seventh day (Saturday). But whereas the Elijah miracle was in harmony with God’s law, this counterfeit will be against God’s law and God’s word; and though it will deceive millions, it will not deceive God’s true last day people. They will have been totally fortified with God’s word. They will have the mind of Christ and they will “keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelations 14:12

But more yet, Satan's most deceptive and overwhelmingly cunning wonder will be his attempt to impersonate and counterfeit Christ and His second coming.

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” 2Corinthians 11:13-15.

“And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” 2Thess. 2:8-12.

Satan will appear in various places with the appearance of an angel of light, quoting scripture, working miracles, and even asking people to repent and join the religious movement to exalt Sunday as the universal day of worship. This will be his crowning deception. And all those not

fully grounded in the truth, and not having the life and character of Christ inwrought in them by the Holy Spirit, will be deceived, and easily too.

God's final generation of saints will not be deceived. The scriptures are too plain in their teaching on Christ's second coming. At His second coming He will not be dealing with saving sinners, but with the completion of the plan of redemption for his saints.

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement. So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Hebrews 9:27-28.

Furthermore, the entire earth will be in ruins by the time Christ appears, every eye shall see Him, and He will not touch the earth at His second coming, but will raise the righteous dead and change the righteous living; and send His angels to gather them unto Him in the air.

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. 1Thessalonians 4:16-18.

“Then if any man shall say unto you, lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, behold He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Matthew 24:23–27.

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” Matthew 24:30–31.

“Behold, He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindred of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen.” Revelation 1:7.

“And the heavens departed as a scroll when it rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty

men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? Revelation 6:14-17.

Yes, His saints will have patiently waited for Him. Their patience would have been severely tried because they would have kept His ten commandments amidst severe persecution. Christ will be coming not for those who reject His law and His true seventh-day Sabbath but for those who keep His commandments and His faith. Revelation 14:12.