

March 24, 2018

THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

DO YOU HAVE A SOUL?

One of the results of the continuous teaching of organic evolution is the denial of the existence of the soul. If man is nothing more than a higher evolved animal life form, then he is purely physical for evolution leaves no room for the spiritual. Several religious groups deny that man has a soul. They generally believe that when the Bible speaks of the soul it refers to “the breath” rather than a spiritual part of man. One only need substitute the word “breath” in those passages which speak of the soul to see the absurdity of this position.

The Bible teaches that man is a dual being consisting of body (the physical man) and soul (the spiritual man). Jesus said, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28). In this reading there is a plain distinction between body and soul. Man can kill the body but has no power to kill the soul. This passage makes no sense if man is merely a physical being. Nor does it make sense if one accepts that the soul is simply a reference to man’s physical breathing. The inspired Paul wrote, “...Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day” (2 Corinthians 4:16). It should be obvious that the “outward man” refers to the physical body which over time is growing old (is perishing). So, to what then would the “inward man” refer if not to the spiritual part of man? The book of James describes physical death as the separation of the spirit from the body (James 2:26). Body and spirit (soul) can be separated. How is that possible if man has no spirit? Solomon in describing physical death wrote, “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7). Notice that while the physical part of man is subject to physical death the spiritual part of man is not.

God created man in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). This “image” could not refer to the physical image of God for God is not a physical being. Jesus said, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). Jesus said that “a spirit has not flesh and bones” (Luke 24:39). God is “eternal, immortal, invisible” (1 Timothy 1:17). It follows then that man was created in the spiritual image of God – the immortal and invisible image.

You do have a soul which will either be saved or lost in eternity. Through obeying the truth, you can purify your soul and commit you soul to God as a faithful Creator (1 Peter 1:22; 4:19). Join us for our Spring Gospel Meeting April 8-12, 2018 with Eddy Craft. All are welcome!