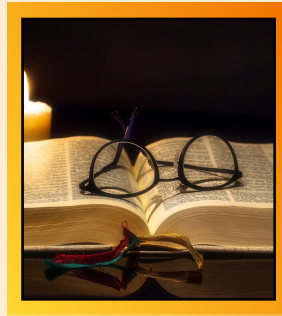




CONVERSATIONS IN BIBLE FUNDAMENTALS

“And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip . . . saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.” John 12: 20, 21



“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16

§ - Related Bible Passages:

- Genesis 1: 26. Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness . . .
- Genesis 3:1-4. Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field . . . And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” . . . Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.
- Roman 6:23. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- John 3:16. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Today’s Conversation: - Pastor Orlando Moncrieffe.

§ - What is the Biblical evidence that the dead are asleep and know nothing?

§ - The Beginnings of Life— In Exodus God describes the creation of life by saying, “*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 being.*” Genesis 2: 7. Man became “a living being” when God breathed on him. So life is the gift of God who can also take it.

§ - The Introduction of Death— In Eden, the Serpent, Satan questioned Eve about the truth of God’s command to them. He convinced them that God was incorrect— “*You will not surely die*”. Adam and Eve succumb to the temptation to disbelieve and disobey God. This deception about death has persisted ever since. The Bible states that with sin comes death (Roman 6:23). Only God has immortality but He was willing and is willing to share it with us if we are willing to obey His will.

§ - Deceptive Teachings about Death—

Satan has gotten us to believe that: 1) we will not really die but transfer into another better or worse state of life depending on how we lived; 2) when we die we go straight to heaven or to hell and eternal burning; 3) when we die we all will go straight to heaven; 4) when we die we have access to those living, and we can talk with them and they can relate to us.

§ - In Conclusion:

Life is a gift from God and occurs when God breathes into man the breath of life. Death, the end of life, is the result of sin.

Life for human beings differs from life of plants. Plants may regenerate and grow back after being cut down but humans cease to be as the "breath of life" is removed by God.

There are many versions of what happens after death. The Bible states that we enter a state of "sleep" with no knowledge of anything. Job and Solomon in the Old Testament and Jesus in the New Testament speak of death as a "sleep" and that Christ is the only power who may awaken us from death.



§ - Next Week's Conversation Question:

- What is the Biblical evidence that the dead are asleep and know nothing? (Part II)

- Guest Presenter: Pastor Orlando Moncrieffe



Biblical Evidence (continued)

§ - Bible Description of Death—

- The Bible presents a contrast between life in the plant world and life in the animal world. *"For there is hope for a tree, If it is cut down, that it will sprout again, And that its tender shoots will not cease. . . . Yet at the scent of water it will bud And bring forth branches like a plant. Job 14:7-9.*

- Job describes the death for humans differently, *"But man dies and is laid away; Indeed he breathes his last And where is he? . . . So man lies down and does not rise. Till the heavens are no more, They will not awake Nor be roused from their sleep." Job 14:10.*

- Man's awakening from death is God's job, *"You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands" Job 14:15.*

- Solomon's description of death, *"For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten." Ecclesiastes 9:5*

- Paul in the New Testament (NT) describes death as a sleep from which we will be awakened by the voice of God, *"For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:52.*

- Jesus speaking of life after death says, *". . . I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14: 3, 4.*

§ - Implications for Today - Spiritualism is growing in acceptance with the normalizing of fortune telling, ouija boards, and seances. Many individuals, even in the church, seek out mediums to assist them with reaching out to the dead. Satan will give power to individuals to do miraculous things that could deceive us into believing that the dead can communicate. These spectacular occurrences could result in a loss of trust in God. They could also lead to other deceptions which could completely erode our faith in Jesus' promise of eternal life at His second coming.

