



Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

Volume XXI

May 2001

Number 10

Reflections from a Graduate

March 7, 2001

Dear Brother Brian,

Greetings from Livingstone, Zambia. I hope and pray that you and yours are doing pretty well in all your efforts. I am doing fine both in my health and my work here.

Brother Brian, pardon me for being very tardy in writing to you. I am indeed sorry for taking a while to write to you. I realize that I have only written to you once ever since I left Florida. However, I thank God that I can write to you again this mail.

As I mentioned in the previous letter, I wrote to you that I was working with Riverside church of Christ here in Livingstone, Zambia. I am still working with this same congregation. My line of duty here varies from time to time, but I work more closely with the youths. It is indeed interesting to work among my own people and more especially the youths. God continues to bless us tremendously both numerically and spiritually. I thank Him that I can be a part of the ministry of reconciliation of the world to Him.

How is the rest of your family? And how is everyone at school? Any new news? Where is brother Manston Kerkula? Do you have his mailing address? Would you please forward it to me. I would appreciate it! I have stopped receiving the Harvesters Magazine as such, I have lost track of the happenings there.

Greetings to brother Jackie and the rest of my brethren at school.

Bye for now.

May God bless all your efforts.

Your brother in Christ.

/s/ Fred Kanangu



Introducing a New Faculty Member

Brother Bob Bauer will begin teaching an extension class in the Fall Semester, 2001. It will meet at Auburndale where he is the full-time evangelist. Bob has attended classes at the Florida School of Preaching for a number of years while he was preaching for the Port Charlotte church of Christ in Port Charlotte, Florida. He has spoken on our Lectureship in the past and will do so in 2002.

We are happy that Bob will be joining us in the work, and are especially thankful that the elders at Orange Street in Auburndale where Bob preaches will permit him to serve in this capacity.

It is hoped that the following article will indicate something of his ability to those of you who do not know him. Director.



The Triune Nature of Man

By

Bob Bauer

In First Thessalonians 5:23, the inspired writer, Paul, revealed that man has a triune nature. "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Each of these are distinct from the other (Hebrews 4:12; Luke 1:46-47; Isaiah 10:18; Matthew 10:28). This, of course, leads to many questions. Since man was made in God's image, how does our triune nature relate to God? Can we distinctly determine and distinguish each part of our make-up? What function does each part fulfill? As we consider each of these three parts of our make-up we will answer these and other questions.

The Body

The body is the material or physical part of man. It is that part of the nature of man "in which his soul and spirit reside."¹ "In the Old Testament there is no fixed term for the human body as an entire organism in exact opposition to 'soul' or 'spirit.' Various terms were employed, each of which denotes only one part or element of the physical nature, such as 'trunk,' 'bones,' 'belly,' 'bowels,' 'reins,' 'flesh,' these parts being used, by synecdoche, for the whole."² In the New Testament the Greek word *soma* is translated body. In the New Testament the body is referred

to as an "earthen vessel" (2 Corinthians 4:7), "our earthly house" (2 Corinthians 5:1), the "outward man" (2 Corinthians 4:16), and "the flesh" (Philippians 4:16). It is the body that returns to the dust from which it was formed (Ecclesiastes 12:7) and from which our spirit separates at death (James 2:26).

The Soul

The soul (*psuche*, Greek; *nephesh*, Hebrew) refers to life in the physical body. It is the vital force which animates the body.³ Paul said that Eutychus' "life" was still in him (Acts 20:10) and in Genesis we read that Rachel's "soul was departing" when she died (Genesis 35:18). It is that which makes the human or animal body alive (Nelson's). "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life (*nephesh*, rlb), I have given every green herb for food; and it was so" (Genesis 1:30). Jesus said, "For whoever desires to save his life (*psuche*, rlb) will lose it, but whoever loses his life (*psuche*, rlb) for My sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mark 8:35). Elijah prayed for the widow of Zarephath's child's soul (*nephesh*) to come back to him (1 Kings 8:35-37).

The soul is described as the seat of many emotions and desires (Nelson's). It is said to desire food (Deuteronomy 12:20-21), to love (Song of Solomon 1:7), to long for God (Psalm 63:1), to rejoice (Psalm 86:4), to know (Psalm 139:14) and

to remember (Lamentations 3:20).⁴ It is also that essence that differs from the body and is not dissolved by death (Acts 2:27-31; Matthew 10:28; James 5:20; 1 Peter 5:20; Revelation 6:9; 20:4).⁵

The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia (hereafter referred to as ISBE) has an excellent paragraph that will help one to understand the complexities of the soul.

By an easy transition the word comes to stand for the individual, personal life, the person, with two distinct shades of meaning which might best be indicated by the Latin anima and animus. As anima, "soul," the life inherent in the body, the animating principle in the blood is denoted (compare Deut. 12:23-24, "Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood is the soul; and thou shalt not eat the soul with the flesh"). As animus, "mind," the

The Harvesters

Published Monthly
Florida School of Preaching
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33803
(863) 683-4043

Editor: Jackie M. Stearsman
Board of Directors

Gordon Methvin, President	Maruce Davis
Paul Thornhill, Vice President	George K. French
J. H. Blackman, Jr., Secretary	E. Robert McAnally
Allen Gardner, Treasurer	Samuel J. Roney
Glenn Burgess	John D. Smitherman
Eliner Burgett	Dale Spung
Jack C. Cronk	Jackie M. Stearsman

TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

¹New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Moody Press: Chicago, IL. 1988. CD-Rom, BibleSoft.

²International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia. Original James Orr 1915 edition. CD-Rom, Electronic Database Copyright 1995-1996 by BibleSoft.

³The Online Thayer's Greek Lexicon and Brown, Driver, & Briggs' Hebrew Lexicon. Woodside Bible Fellowship. Ontario, Canada. 1993. CD-Rom, BibleSoft.

⁴Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1986. CD-Rom, BibleSoft.

⁵New Unger's Bible Dictionary.

center of our mental activities and passivities is indicated. Thus we read of "a hungry soul" (Ps 107:9), "a weary soul" (Jer 31:25), "a loathing soul" (Lev 26:11), "a thirsty soul" (Ps 42:2), "a grieved soul" (Job 30:25), "a loving soul" (Cant 1:7), and many kindred expressions. Cremer has characterized this use of the word in a sentence: "Nepesh (soul) in man is the subject of personal life, whereof pneuma or ruach (spirit) is the principle" (Lexicon, s.v., 795).⁶

Albert Barnes writes, "The 'soul,' the vital principle, the animal life, or the seat of the senses, desires, affections, appetites, we have in common with other animals. It pertains to the nature of the animal creation, though more perfect in some animals than in others..."⁷

The Spirit

The third part Paul mentions in the nature of man is that of man's spirit. The spirit is identified by the Hebrew word, *ruach*, and the Greek word, *pneuma*. It "refers to the intellectual or higher nature of man; that which is the seat of reason, of conscience, and of responsibility."⁸ It is the rational part of man, the power by which the human being feels, thinks, and decides.⁹ It is that which makes us the image of God (Genesis 1:26; John 4:24; Luke 24:39). It is what returns to God

when we die (Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 23:46; Acts 7:59). The Bible attests to man having a spirit (Job 32:8; 32:18; Zechariah 12:1; Psalm 77:6; Isaiah 26:9). It is the seat of our moral qualities (Proverbs 15:4; 20:27; Matthew 26:41) and denotes certain qualities which characterize an individual. "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3); "you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness" (Galatians 6:1); and "you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear" (Romans 8:15) use "spirit" to denote qualities in an individual.

How Can We Distinguish Between These Three Natures?

To separate and distinguish between the parts of our triune nature can be somewhat difficult. James wrote that at death the spirit and body separate (2:26). But to distinguish between the soul and spirit is not so easy. The Hebrew writer penned, "For the word of God [is] living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). In the New Testament, soul is used where spirit would be out of place, yet at times it seems to be used where spirit might have been substituted (cf. Matthew 20:28; John 10:15; 19:30). The ISBE quotes Oehler on the soul and spirit, "Man is not spirit, but he has it: he is soul...The spirit is the outbreathing of God into the creature, the life principal derived from God. The soul is man's individual possession, that which distinguishes one man from another and from inanimate nature."¹⁰ W.

E. Vine quoting Cremer wrote, "Soma, body, and pneuma, spirit, may be separated, pneuma and psuche, soul, can only be distinguished." Vine continues, "Generally speaking the spirit is the higher, the soul the lower element. The spirit may be recognized as the life principle bestowed on man by God, the soul as the resulting life constituted in the individual, the body being the material organism animated by soul and spirit..."¹¹

Conclusion

Thus when one considers the complete man, he is faced with the physical and the spiritual part of man. The body, the physical part, weakens, ages, houses the spiritual, and eventually returns to the dust from which it came. The soul is the life force inherent in all living creatures, the personality that makes all living creatures distinct as individuals, and seat of our desires and impulses. The spirit is that which is in the image of God, that which is immortal, that which is home to our moral qualities and reasoning, and that which cannot be separated from our soul but only distinguished. Truly we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).

Lectureship Preparation

At this time we have assigned the speakers' subjects for the 2002 Lectureship. The theme is "Do You Understand Worship?"

January 21-24, 2002 are the dates. Mark your calendar and be with us.

We will have more on the daily lectures at a future date.

⁶International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia.

⁷Albert Barnes, *Barnes Notes*, CD-Rom, Electronic Database Copyright 1997 by BibleSoft.

⁸Albert Barnes, *Barnes Notes*.

⁹The Online Thayer's Greek Lexicon and Brown, Driver, & Briggs' Hebrew Lexicon.

¹⁰International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia.

¹¹W. E. Vine, *Vine's Expository Dictionary Of Biblical Words*. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985, CD-Rom, BibleSoft.

Student Highlights

James Burford Finishing in May 2001

James was born, March 19, 1977. He has completed training from Maritime Institution in 1995. He is single and has done part time preaching and taught Bible classes.



James Burford

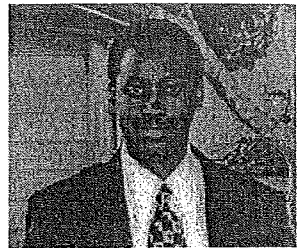
James can lead singing, and his plans following graduation is to be a preacher, preferably working with a minister for a year getting some experience. James states that he will use and not waste the knowledge and abilities that the Lord has given him by way of the Florida School of Preaching. Whether in the pulpit or in the field, he pledges to work diligently and honestly to advance the cause of the Lord.

James may be reached at the school by phone or mail.



Jean Monereau Full Time Student

Jean is Haitian and was born June 23, 1961. He is married and his wife's name is Danielle, and has two children. He has attended New York City Technical College and has an A. S. Degree in Computer Information Systems.



Jean Monereau

Jean was baptized in 1977. He has worked in distributing tracts, teaching people on the street and Bible classes. He is gaining experience preaching by his training in school and as opportunity permits.

At the present time Jean is a member of the Central Haitian church of Christ in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

He may be reached by contacting the school.



Looking Ahead

We are presently revising our school catalogue and arranging classes for the 2001-2002 School term. If you need this information contact the office.

Return Service Requested

WEB SITE: www.fsop.net

E-MAIL: fsop@gte.net

FAX: 863-683-0750

PHONE (863) 683-4043 (800) 320-9780

LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33803-2653

1807 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lakeland, FL
PHRMIT #235