

What is Man, that Thou Art Mindful of Him?

Samuel H. Nodal

LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him! (Psa. 144:3)

Man is God's greatest creation, even higher than the Angels. For God Himself (Holy Spirit) resides in man while the Angels cannot experience that miracle. Scripture says, we are the body (extension) of Jesus Himself beloved of the Father. As Born Again followers of Christ we have been Justified (CROSS) but not Glorified yet here on Earth. Glorification will take place at the Rapture of the Church. Then our process of salvation will be complete (Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification). We are valuable to God because He chose us to be transformed into the image of His Son Jesus. God did not pick us because we are worthy, in the natural we are worthless sinners saved by Grace.

The Creation of Man in the Image of God

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (Gen. 1:26)

Man is a Spirit; who has a Soul; and lives in a Body

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.
May your whole **spirit**, **soul** and **body** be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Th. 5:23)

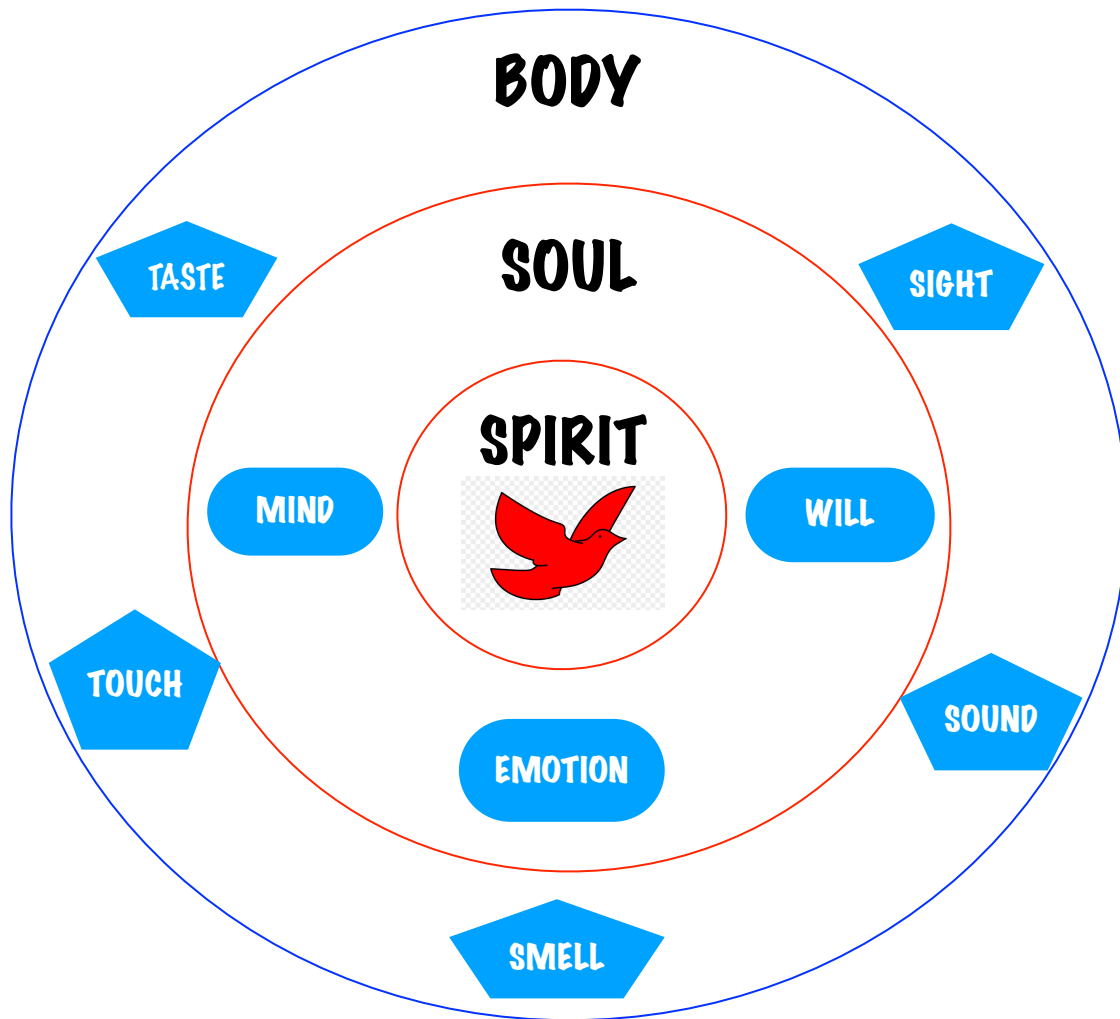
Your spirit - is the part that communes with God

Your soul - would be what we call, our personality (mind, will, and emotions)

Your body - is our earth suit that contacts (perceives) the physical world it functions in time and three dimensional space.

The Spirit is the Foundation of Man's Creation

You are a Spirit who has been given a personality (Soul) that lives in an earth suit (Body) that perceives the physical world around it.



Your Spirit is Where God Dwells (Not your Soul or Body)

Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the **Father of spirits, and live?** (Heb. 12:9)

Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God; being put to death in the flesh, **but made alive in the spirit; in which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison,** that aforetime were disobedient, when the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water: (1 Pet. 3:18-20) ASV

For as the body without the spirit is dead (*non-living*), so faith without works is dead also. (Jam. 2:26)

Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. **Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit.** (Psa. 51:6-12) NASB

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. (Psa. 51:17) NASB

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.
(Gal. 6:18)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. (Philemon 25)

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (1 John 4:1-6)
NASB

*You Understand GOD and have Fellowship with Him Through your Spirit
Your Spirit is God's substance in you. Your Spirit is your contact with God,
not your Soul, not your Body.*

But as it is written, **Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor. 2:9-16)

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (Rom. 8:16)

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (John 16:13-15)

Speaking About Life; The Bible Has Three Words for Life ***Bios - Psuche - Zoe***

Bios (BODY) - from which we get the word Biology. Bios refers to the life in our body, the life the medical doctors deal with. Process in maintaining homeostasis our physical life. (Physiology)

Psuche or ***Psyche*** (SOUL) - root word for psychology. Translated as soul our personality. (mind, emotions, will); When a man dies his Bios **dies** but his ***Psuche*** lives on.

Zoe (SPIRIT or PNEUMA) - the higher spiritual life. This is the word that John uses when he says;

“In Him was Life and that Life was the Light of Men.” (John 1:4)

In a natural birth the Zoe life is not in us; (because of SIN).

*But John 3:16 tells us that when we believe in the Son (Jesus Christ) we are Born Again and attain the Zoe Life. In (John 10:10) “**I have come that you may have Life and have it more abundantly.**” Many enjoy a good church service and your Psyche may be satisfied, yet within (reality) you still have a sense of emptiness or hunger. Your Zoe is crying out to be fed. Why do most people in the world worry about Bios and Psuche and neglect ZOE (eternal life)? (John 15) is the parable of our relationship with Christ! ZOE is our True spiritual life with God! The BIOS Life represents the Body. The Psuche Life represents the Soul, but the ZOE Life represents the Spirit!*

Speaking of LIFE; Where Does it Come From? Can Science Explain it?

THE BODY - Four elements compose over 95% of the body;.,

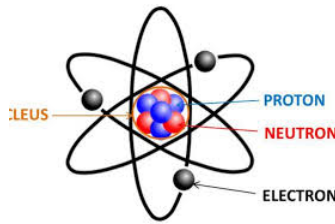
Hydrogen = 10% (Atoms) Oxygen = 65% (Atoms) Carbon = 18% (Atoms)

Nitrogen = 3% (Atoms)

Additional elements common to the body include: calcium-Ca, sodium-Na, potassium-K, phosphorous-P, sulfur-S, and magnesium-Mg. These six elements (H, O, C, N, P, S) are usually found linked into larger molecules and compounds forming the basis of body structure and function.

MATERIAL	% OF BODY WEIGHT	CHEMICAL COMPOSITION
1. <u>WATER</u>	60%	H ₂ O - (H ₂ + O)
2. <u>PROTEIN</u>	17%	C (50-55%) - H (6-8%) - O (20-23%) N (15-18%) - S (0-4%)
3. <u>LIPID</u>	15%	C - H - O containing few atoms of oxygen.
4. <u>CARBOHYDRATES</u>	1%	C - H - O with Hydrogen & Oxygen at 2:1
5. <u>OTHER</u> (NUCLEIC ACIDS, & RADICALS)	5%	Contains bases, acids, metals, vitamins, and hormones:

The Body is Made Up of Atoms - the same atoms found in dirt (dust).



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. (Gen. 2:7)

*Are Atoms Classified as **LIVING** or Non-LIVING? - LAB*

H + O + C + N [?] NON-LIVING MATERIAL

Non-living matter the human body

Answer; For as **the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless** (Non-Living).

(James 2:26) AMP

Law of Bio-Genesis

*This law states that in nature, **life comes only from life**; and that of its own kind A rock will never turn into a Lion or an elephant! No matter how much time is involved. So we see the body itself is **non-living**; it is the spirit that gives life to both the soul and the body. If the spirit within that man is not Born Again by the Power of the Holy Spirit, that soul is Dead spiritually. Which brings us to the next point. The scriptures talk about **two types** of death! **Physical** Death and **Spiritual** Death.*

Death has Two Components

Physical Death is when the soul and the spirit separate from the body:

What we call death (funeral). Sin was the problem. Man sinned against God.

*By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; **for dust you are and to dust you will return**."*

(Gen. 3:19) NIV

Spiritual Death - is eternal separation from God. This happens when a person did not believe what Jesus did on the Cross for them; their spirit and soul are lost forever and cast into hell. With no hope of getting out.

Whoever **believes in the Son has eternal life**, but **whoever rejects the Son will not see life**, for **God's wrath remains on him**. (John 3:36) NIV

And **if Christ be in you, the body is dead** because of sin; but **the Spirit is life because of righteousness**. But **if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you**. (Rom. 8:10,11)

To the general assembly **and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven**, and to God the Judge of all, **and to the spirits of just men made perfect**.
(Heb. 12:23)

The Word of God cannot be understood correctly through carnal natural means (Body and Soul). Only the Spirit can commune with God! God's fellowship with man is SPIRIT to Spirit (Rom. 8:16).

UnLocking the Realm of the Spirit (Thank you Andrew Wommack)

Since the Spirit realm can't be naturally seen or felt, the only way to accurately perceive Spiritual Truth is through the Bible (God's Word). Jesus said;

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life" (John 6:63) NASB.

God's Word reveals Spiritual reality. If you want to know the condition of your Spirit you must find out from the Word of God. You can't find out through emotions or carnal perceptions. God's Word is SPIRIT and Life! When you look at yourself in the Bible, you behold yourself in the Spirit.

"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does." (Jam. 1:23-25) NASB

A mirror reflects your Body's image like the Word of God reflects your Spirit. Every Born Again believer has undergone a complete inner (Spirit) transformation.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17,18).

Notice how it doesn't say that “all things are becoming new” or have a potential of being new.” This verse declares “old things have passed away” (past tense): “all things have become new” (present tense - reality right now); and all things are of GOD. The change was done in your Spirit not your Body or Soul. If you are overweight before receiving the Lord you'll still be overweight after the Born Again experience, your Body and Soul were not instantly changed, only your Spirit. Now, although Christ's atonement also provided for your Body and Soul, they have been purchased by the Blood but not yet redeemed. They will be redeemed at the rapture of the Church. Remember your Soul was not instantly redeemed either, if you weren't smart in math before you were Born Again you won't become a sudden math expert.

Transforming the Soul into Holiness

*Your Spirit totally changed at salvation upon making Jesus Christ your Lord, your Spirit underwent an instant and complete transformation. Your Body and Soul are now being impacted by the transformation of your Spirit. After being Born Again, the rest of your Christian life consists of simply renewing your mind to believe God's Word. With time your Soul will begin to agree and align itself with your Spirit. If your Spirit and Soul agree, you experience the life of God. Your Born Again Spirit is always for God because it has already been completely changed into His likeness and image. On the other hand if your Soul gets tempted by the Body (the flesh) and begins to agree with its fleshly temptations, the flow of life from the Spirit will stop. You cut yourself off from experiencing God when your Soul aligns itself with the sinful flesh (temptations). Your Spirit is the real you! (Jam. 2:26): After God formed Adam He breathed into him the breath of life. (Gen. 2:7): The Hebrew word for breath is “**Spirit**” Notice how your Spirit is completely surrounded by your Soul. That's why everything that comes out from your Spirit must go through the Soul (mental emotional part). Your Body doesn't really control anything. It just does what it is told. Your Body will either follow the Spirit or the carnal Soul. One will lead you to life and the other will lead you to death.*

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. (Gal. 5:17):

The Christian life is renewing the mind (Soul) by faith in the Word of God. Under the New Covenant (not the Old) we all have received Christ's fullness. Our Spirit is identical to the Lord Jesus Christ in every way. Your Spirit isn't in the process of growing and maturing because it is already complete in Christ. One third of your salvation is complete (your Spirit)! At the rapture you'll receive a new spiritual Body and Soul to match your Spirit. Until then your Soul and Body are in the process of change (into the image of Jesus). While on earth we will be constantly renewing our mind by faith in God's Word. At the rapture our glory will be complete (Body, Soul, and Spirit). God's entire process will finally be complete (Justification, Sanctification, Glorification). While on earth you are being transformed by the renewing of your mind. Transformed in the Greek means "metamorphosis." It's a picture of an ugly caterpillar turning into a beautiful butterfly. Whatever you think in your Soul your Body will go along for the ride. Therefore it's your mind, your thoughts, your attitude that determine whether you experience victory and the life of God in your Spirit or the defeat and death of the fallen carnal realm. God's Word tells you what is Spiritually True. As you continually look into the Lord's Spiritual mirror (by faith), you'll begin to see and experience yourself for who you really are in Christ.

Are You Living a Carnal Life or a Spiritual Life?

Carnal mindedness doesn't necessarily mean Sinful mindedness! Carnal refers to the Five senses; it literally means sensual. Carnal mindedness is allowing your mind to be dominated by what you see, taste, hear, smell, and feel. You are carnally minded when your thoughts center primarily on the physical realm and not on the things of God! We must believe by Faith that there's also an entire spiritual world. Your brain (Soul) and Five senses (Body) can't perceive it, but, through your Spirit by Faith in the Word of God you can (1 Cor. 2:9-16)! Spiritual mindedness releases the flow of God's life in you, but carnal mindedness shuts it off. Simply stated carnal mindedness equals death, and spiritual mindedness equals life and peace.

(Rom. 8:6)

Death is anything that's a result of Sin, and it isn't limited only to the ultimate physical death of your Body but includes all of death's progressive effects as well (sadness, loneliness, bitterness, illness, anger, and poverty, among others).

In this fallen world, being dominated by your natural senses produces death. Spiritual mindedness produces life and peace. Jesus came to give us life and that more abundantly.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

(John 10:10)

Without spiritual knowledge and understanding (from the SPIRIT) your mind can't be renewed, and the life of God in your Spirit can't be released. Ignorance will blind you to the things of God, that includes believers (Hosea 4:6).

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

(Eph. 4:18)

The Soul must constantly renew the mind by the Word of God through Faith, and put on the new man (Born Again Spirit). The new man was created after God in righteousness and true holiness. You need to recognize and acknowledge your true self in God's mirror (The Word). Right now in your Spirit, you are righteous and holy because of what Jesus did on the Cross for you! Though your Soul and Body were also paid for, they will not be redeemed until the rapture. They are in the present process of transforming into the image of Jesus. That's why you must worship God in Spirit and in Truth (The Word).

God is a SPIRIT: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

No matter how hard you try, you'll never measure up to God's perfection through your own efforts in the physical, emotional, and mental realms. Jesus literally became your righteousness (perfection)! Man's performance simply cannot accomplish what only the New Birth can do, that is change your spiritual nature.

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

(1 Cor. 1:30,31) NASB

When you were Born Again your old spirit died, and instantly removed, and replaced (Rom. 6).

You became a brand-new creature recreated in the image of God (spiritually). Your Spirit and His SPIRIT intermarried, merged, and became one to create a totally new person. That's why God's mirror reflects you as righteous, holy, and pure. The makeup of your Born Again Spirit is identical to Jesus Himself.

But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. (1 Cor. 6:17)

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)

At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.
(John 14:20)

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

(Rom. 6:3-14) NASB

Once You Believed, You Were Sealed with the Holy Spirit

When you were Born Again, your Spirit was immediately encased, vacuum packed, by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of preservation. When you fail in any area of your life after being saved, the rottenness, uncleanness, defilement, etc... that comes to your Body and Soul don't penetrate your Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's seal keeps the good in and the bad out! God doesn't look at sin the way we do. To Him, sin isn't just doing wrong by violating a command, it's also not doing something that you should have done (obedience). Missed opportunities to witness.

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

(Jam. 4:17)

Well, what about? (1 John 3:9,10):

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. (1 John 3:9,10)

Again, this is talking about your Spirit, Not your Body and Soul. Remember, one third of your being is presently perfect in Christ, the other two are struggling to get it right until the rapture. Both scripture and experience reveal that Christians can sin!

My little children (saved), these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1,2)

To God, there are no big sins and little sins. To Him sin is sin and cannot enter into Heaven. No matter who you are, you are not perfect and will sin occasionally (miss God's mark).

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Is. 64:6)

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: (Rom. 5:12)

God always deals with you SPIRIT to Spirit no matter how your performing!

Created in righteousness and true holiness you can always approach Him in your Born Again Spirit!

Eternal Redemption; Paid in Full by the Blood of Jesus

Your Born Again Spirit never needs to be re-cleansed, re-purged, or Born Again, Again. Jesus has given His life as the sacrifice for sin, it never again needs to be repeated. Through Christ, the perfect sacrifice for sin has been made once and for all!

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

(Heb. 9:11,12)

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. (Heb. 9:13-15)

How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.” And again, “THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.” It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Heb. 10:29-31) NASB

Believers and Make Believers; Some Profess but Don't Possess

Make sure you are a real Christian and make sure you belong to the True Church! God hates false Christians!

Paul and All the Apostles Warning

*Scriptures constantly warns us of religious people who are not saved. You could study the Word all day long, get all sorts of theological Dr. degrees, serve in the Church with your name on the roll, get Baptized in water, take the Eucharist every week, go on mission trips, give all your money to the poor, etc...; and still **Go To Hell!***

*Because you have **NOT BEEN BORN AGAIN!** **You are a Christian in Soul and Not in Spirit.** God's Kingdom resides in your Spirit, Not your Soul. The Soul cannot experience God and convert a sinner. Many in Churches today think they belong to God and think they're going to Heaven because they memorized scripture and do good works! They have been deceived by satan and going to Hell. There is a fine line between the Soul and the Spirit, one will get you to Heaven and the other to Hell with satan. Satan can lie and deceive your Soul, but he can't effect nor deceive your Born Again Spirit man!*

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" (John 3:3)

Think deeply on the above statement from Jesus! What do you think it means? Religious Soul Saved people will never see God, His Kingdom, or Heaven's eternal life. Hell is their destination and they don't even understand why? It is a horrible thing to misunderstand the Scriptures and disrespect God's Authority. There is only Heaven or Hell (spirit or flesh), and you decide where you go through the correct understanding of the scriptures!

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (2 Cor. 13:5)

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (2 Tim. 3:5)

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.** (Phil. 2:12)

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

(1 Cor. 9:27)

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Prov. 14:12)

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (Matt. 7:13,14)

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Matt. 7:21-23)

The Way of Religion (Death)

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

(Rom. 10:1-4) ESV

Paul's Final Warning to the Church

For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions. But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. (Gal. 1:11-17) NASB

Parable of the Pharisee (religion) and the Tax Collector (sinner)

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men robbers, evildoers, adulterers or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:9-14) NIV

The Conclusion of the Matter

Humble yourself before God and His Word to enter eternal life. God hates the Stubborn, the Proud, and the Self-willed!

And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:12-14)