

Semester 1 – Week 2 - Class 4

SPIRITUALISM EXPOSED! DEATH'S MYSTERY SOLVED!

Spiritualism is growing by leaps and bounds throughout the United States and the World. There is an explosion of interest in the supernatural today. Scores of people have become involved in the occult world, looking to things such as ESP, spiritualism, occultism, and even witchcraft. They are looking for real answers to the meaning of life and so they've begun toying with things like Ouija boards and visiting fortune tellers, calling psychic hotlines, and the other artists of the occult.

Millions are asking questions about death. Is it possible for those who have died to contact the living? And so they go to seances, hoping to make contact with a deceased loved one. Who are these voices from the other side? Does an individual who has died have the ability to communicate with relatives that live on? What happens five minutes after death? Where are our beloved dead...when death occurs? Is there life after death? It is a subject asked in such magazines as Life and U.S. News and & World Reort.

When death occurs: 1. Some people teach that when death occurs all go directly to a place of paradise. 2. When a good man dies he goes straight to heaven and when a bad man dies he goes straight to a burning hell. 3. There's another thought that a person doesn't go to hell but to a place called purgatory, which is said to be an important intermediate stopping-off place, where one receives cleansing for their sins and then the person goes to heaven. 4. Some believe in reincarnation—that you can come back as a fish or a bird or a frog or something else. 5. Many millions believe that upon death a person enters the spirit world and thereby can communicate back with the living. 6. Still others, disillusioned by religion, claim that death is the final end for all. Those are the ones that say there is no God. 7. And finally there is a group that say the Bible teaches that when a man dies, he rests quietly in the grave until the resurrection morning. Now all these opinions cannot be correct at the same time. People are confused. Ministers are confused!

People Weekly, Oct. 25, 1999 - Almost 70 million Americans said they think it's possible to communicate with the dead.

To be kept from the deceptions of Satan, it is extremely important to know what the Bible teaches about death. The Bible gives us clear information, but to reject the clear teachings of the Bible is to leave one's mind open to the influence of the evil one. Our only safe course is to trust the Word of the Living God.

Now on this particular subject there are a few texts that appear to contradict each other on first glance. I don't believe there is anything in the Bible that contradicts itself, since the Holy Spirit is the true author; but there are a few texts, which on first appearance seem to contradict themselves. First we will look at what the Bible says, then we need to focus on those few texts that appear to say something a little different.

Revelation 1:18 **“I am he that liveth, and was dead; And, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”** This is Jesus who has those keys, not any man.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 **“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.”** Jesus has said, "I don't want my people ignorant concerning those who are asleep." God wants us to be intelligent on this very serious subject, and the Bible will make this subject clear today..

Revelation 12:9 **“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.** Satan is the great deceiver and he has almost the whole world deceived on the subject of death.

To understand how the deception started, we need to go back to the beginning. Genesis 3:1-4 **“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. Verse 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.”** NOT SURELY DIE?

Genesis 2:7 **“The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground (We are made of what? dust. So why be proud? Humbling thought, isn't it?) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul.”** The

creation of man was the crowning point of all that he created, for man was made in the image or likeness of God. God didn't put a soul in the man, he became a living soul when breath was put into the body.

DUST + THE BREATH OF LIFE = A LIVING SOUL Or, more simply,
ELEMENTS OF EARTH + BREATH = A LIVING BEING (A living soul) or,
ELEMENTS OF EARTH + LIFE SPARK FROM GOD (God's Power) = A LIVING BEING (living person)

Synonymous Parallelism

Job 27:3 **"All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my Nostrils."** Looking at those two words, breath and spirit, the Hebrew meaning is as follows:

"All the while my breath (Hebrew word neshamah which means wind, breath) **is in me, and the spirit** (Hebrew word ruach which means wind, breath, air) **of God is in my Nostrils."**

The verse is actually saying: **All the while my BREATH is in me, and the BREATH of God is in my Nostrils.**

Light Bulb Illustration. When lit, the bulb would represent a living person.

The electric represents the breath of life, the current or power from God. When you pull the plug, (remove the breath) What happens to the light? It ceases to exist. A person becomes a dead soul.

What happens when someone dies? Dust – breath (spirit) = A dead body.

Death is creation in reverse.

Acts 2:41 **"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."**

Acts 27:37 **"And we were in all in the ship two hundred threescore and sixteen souls."**

QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE DIES?

Genesis 3:19 **" 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."**

Ecclesiastes 12:7 **"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit (or breath) shall return unto God who gave it."**

SPIRIT (The Hebrew word Ruach): **93** times they translated it "wind" or "air" in the Bible; **28** times they translated it "breath;" **240** times they translated it the word "spirit."

Psalms 146:3, 4 **"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."**

Where does the breath of life go? Why does it go back to God? Remember He's the source of all life! It has to return to Him. There is nowhere else for it to go!

James 2:26 **"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."**

Psalms 104:29 **"Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath they die, and return to their dust."**

DUST -- SPIRIT = A CORPSE

QUESTION: WHAT IS A SOUL? AND WHAT ABOUT THE IMMORTAL SOUL?

The King James Version uses the word "soul" or "spirit" appr. **1100 times**, but never ever in a single instance is the soul or spirit called immortal. What does "immortal" mean? Look up every place in the Bible the word "immortal" is used:

1 Timothy 1:17 **"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."** ONCE!

The word immortality is used five times:

1 Timothy 6:15, 16 **“Which in his times 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.”**

Note - The Bible says: God **“only has immortality.”**

Romans 2:7 **“To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, ...”**

1 Corinthians 15:52- 54 **“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 corruptible 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, ...”** Note - This “mortal” will “put on immortality” on resurrection morning, not before.

2 Timothy 1:10 **“But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:”**

Where did this idea in the Christian world come from. that there is this "immortality" of the soul?

Protestants inherited it from the Catholics. Catholics from pagan Greek philosophy which got it right from the old devil himself who first lied to Eve. God said, "You shall surely die." The devil said, "You will not surely die."

Pagan Babylon –

Pagan Egypt - Pagan Rome - It then came into the Roman church of the dark ages as early as 300 years after Jesus Christ.

QUESTION: CAN A SOUL DIE?

Ezekiel 18:4 **“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.”**

James 5:20 **“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.”**

Acts 2:29, 34 **“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: ...”**

QUESTION: HOW DOES THE BIBLE REPEATEDLY REFER TO DEATH?

Psalms 13:3 **“Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.”**

Jeremiah 51:39 **“In their heat I will make their feasts, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the LORD.”**

Daniel 12:2 **“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”**Old Testament writers used the phrase “slept (or rested) with their fathers” as an expression for death.

Story of the death of Lazarus.

John 11:11-14 **“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 a rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.**

John 11:23-26 **“Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection in the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:”**

John 11:41-43 **“Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou has heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou has sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.”**

John 11:44 **“And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes.**

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

QUESTION: WHERE DO THE DEAD GO WHEN THEY DIE?

John 5:28, 29 “**Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the 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.**”

Martin Luther said the same thing in the sixteenth century: “*We shall sleep until He comes and knocks on the little grave and says, Doctor Martin, get up! Then I shall rise in a moment and be happy with Him forever.*”
--“*The Christian Hope*”, page 37.

Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10 “**For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, 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.**” “**Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.**”

QUESTION: IS THERE ANYONE IN HEAVEN NOW?

YES – Enoch, Elijah and Moses. It was at the transfiguration the disciples saw Moses and Elijah.

Matthew 27:52, 53 “**And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.**”

According to Revelation 4:4, the 24 elders are around the throne of God in heaven. These are believed to be the specially resurrected ones Matthew refers to. “**And round about the throne [were] four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.**”

SPIRITUALISM

Spiritualism — the belief that spirits can communicate with the living, usually with the help of certain sensitive individuals called mediums.

The home of the Fox sisters in upstate New York was the birthplace of spiritualism in 1848. They are known for the statement that “There is no death, there are no dead.”

Number 1: Spiritualism teaches that when you die you're not really dead— that when you die you're still conscious.

Number 2: Because you're not really dead you can communicate with those who are still living. Spiritualism is based on the idea that the essence of the soul of human beings is immortal, that it survives bodily death, and that it can therefore communicate after death.

Many articles have been written about contacting the deceased.

“I believe that souls, invisible entities, are a part of the cyclical harmony of nature. None of it ever dies; it just changes form.” -- Shirley MacLaine, *Time* magazine, Dec. 1987

Revelation 12:9 “**That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.**”

Satanists believe in the pagan doctrine of the immortality of the soul.

People believe that ghosts are the spirits of departed souls

Many people have reported visitations of relatives who looked just like and spoke just like their departed loved ones.

Who are they? Revelation 16:14 “**They are spirits of devils, working miracles.**”

Now, a touchy subject. God brings truth not to condemn, but to enlighten.

QUESTION: IS SHE (MARY) APPEARING NOW?

Luke 1:46, 47 **“And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.”**

Article of "Immaculate Misconception"

NBC VIDEO

Revelation 16:14 **“They are spirits of devils, working miracles.”**

1 Timothy 4:1, 2 **“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”**

“Mary’s Messages to the World” by Annie Kirkwood

Matthew 24:24, 25 **“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.”**

QUESTION: Since wizards, witches, and psychics cannot contact the dead, whom are they contacting?

Revelation 16:4 **“They are spirits of devils, working miracles.”**

QUESTION: How does God regard these miracles by evil agencies?

Leviticus 20:27 **“A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death.”**

1 Timothy 4:1 **“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”**

Time – Angels (69% of Americans believe they exist).

Casper the Friendly Ghost and a whole host of spiritualist based programs followed like ‘Psychic Detective,’ ‘Highway to Heaven,’ ‘Medium,’ ‘Touched By an Angel,’ ‘Bewitched,’ ‘Ghost Whisperer,’ ‘Crossing Over,’ and more keep coming. IT IS ALL DECEPTION.

A 1999 People Weekly Magazine ran an article about almost 70 million Americans said they think its possible to communicate with the dead.

Genesis 3:4 **“Ye shall not surely die.”**

Hale Bop Comet — Heaven’s Gate Cult—27 people dead.

Job 7:8 **“The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no [more]: thine eyes [are] upon me, and I [am] not.”**

Job 7:9, 10 **“As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.”**

Job 7:10 You can mark this text down and stand on it. God said if they go to the grave, they will not come up and certainly will not return to their house.

Job 21:32 **“Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb.”**

Job 14:21 **“His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.”** The dead are not aware of graveside visits.

Psalms 115:17 **“The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.”** The dead are not in heaven praising Jesus or singing in a choir.

Job 14:12-14 **“So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me! If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.”**

QUESTION: WHEN DOES THIS CHANGE TAKE PLACE?

1 Corinthians 15: 51-54 **“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 in corruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible 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, [Now to all the believers in the natural immortality of the soul, I would ask the question— Why do we have to "put on" something we already have?] then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.**

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE SAINTS BODIES LIKE AFTER THIS CHANGE AT THE RESURRECTION?

1 John 3:2 **“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”**

Luke 24:39 **“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.”**

1 Corinthians 15: 20-23 **“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.”**

Luke 14:14 **“And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.”**

John 6:39, 40, 44, 54 **“And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 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.” **“Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”**

John 5:28,29 **“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the 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.”**

Now there are two groups. Both will come up in a resurrection. Let's look first at the group that is raised to everlasting life, by turning to one of our most important texts.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 **“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. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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.**

John 14:1-3 **“Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God. Believe also in Me. In my father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go and prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you to myself so that where I am, there ye may be also.”**

Just before Paul dies, and he knows he's about to die, and he writes Timothy

2 Timothy 4:6-8 **“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”**

QUESTION: WHAT DID PAUL MEAN TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY IS TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD? Paul was merely stating a preference since he had that experience as a prophet taken to the third heaven. But the previous scripture shows Paul's theology was correct. He will get his crown at the Second Coming of Jesus.

Matthew 24:30 **“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.**

Colossians 3:4 (When - Then) **“When Christ, who is our life shall appear then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”**

The Parable of the Rich man and Lazarus – We will cover in Topic 6 – God's Love Revealed in Hell-Fire

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE THIEF ON THE CROSS?

Luke 23:42-46 **“And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”**

A punctuation error in the placement of a comma. Notice the usage of the word "today" is for emphasis. **“Verily I say unto thee To day, thou shalt be with me in paradise.”** This is a correct rendering for reasons below.

Acts 19:12 (sick handkerchiefs) **“So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.” Comma should be after sick.**

3 Reasons: 1) The Bible says the Scripture cannot be broken. If we have an overwhelming number of texts that tell us that "the dead know not any thing," "the dead praise not the Lord," "in death there is no remembrance," and on and on and on, would one little comma out of place throw the whole Bible off? No.

2) The thief didn't ask to go to paradise that day. He said, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Now that agrees with what we're read all night. Even the thief had his theology straight. Aren't we still awaiting Christ's coming kingdom? We still pray, ". . . Thy kingdom come . . ."

3) Christ did not go to paradise Himself that day. Can it be proven that Jesus never went to paradise that day? Yes!

John 20:17 **“Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father; and to my God and your God.”**

Revelation 2:7 **“...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”**

Revelation 22:1,2 **“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life”**

End Semester 1 – Week 2 - Class 4

The Next Class - Semester 1 – Week 3 - Class 5

“Revelation's Millennium of Peace