

YAIY



Beacon



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A photograph showing four people wearing hats and working in a rice paddy field. They are bent over, planting rice seedlings in the water. The background is a lush green landscape with banana trees and other vegetation under a cloudy sky.

**Come unto Me, all ye that
labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest,
Matt. 11:28.**

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission and purpose is to reach people around the world with the message of the revealed personal Names of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua the Messiah, as well as teaching the salvation truths that have been neglected for centuries.

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Going to Heaven?



...Not So Fast!

Let's ask ourselves a couple of questions, "Who has ascended into Heaven?" And, "Do we go straight to heaven when we die?"

Many people say, they are "going to Heaven." But we need to add, "not so fast!" We first need to consider what we believe and if it matches with what Scripture says. It's easy to follow tradition, unless we read the Bible ourselves to discern what it has to say about a matter.

It's been said that our minds are like a funnel. What we put into our minds leaks out, unless we continue to pour information back into it. In other words, our mind will forget what it originally learned unless we continue to study.

Think of it this way: Did you ever watch a movie and then watch it again after a few years, only to have forgotten what much of it was like? Our memories get blurry over time. Details come out of movies that we watch a second time, and we think or we say to someone we're watching the movie with, "Wow, I don't remember that!"

The point to be made here is that we need to continue to read and study the Bible for what it says and not for what others say it says. We don't want to live by traditions of men from the 4th century; we want to go back to the first century and live according to what they understood to be the truth.

What we're going to find out today in Scripture is that the very followers of Scripture, and of Yahshua, in the first century, did not believe what most of the churches teach today about the idea of going to heaven when we die.

Back to the Beginning

To do this, we have to go back to the beginning and start to get a better understanding of some basic

scriptural concepts:

And Yahweh Elohim formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (neshama kahee); and man became a living soul (nephesh), Genesis 2:7 KJV.

It was not too long ago that a *Revealing The Truth* episode was done in which I mistakenly mentioned the Hebrew word "*ruach*," as breath, for this passage of Scripture. While the word was incorrect, the concept was true.

That is to say, this air that was breathed to give life to Adam was spirit, which is also what "*ruach*" means.

There are not only Hebrew words that have multiple meanings, but also Hebrew words that have similar meanings.

Context, Context, Context

Someone once said, "The three main rules for Bible study are context, context, and context." This is certainly the case for word studies and concepts formed from those words.

In Genesis 2:7, one of the concepts, in context, is that man became a living being...a living soul. Soul (taken from the Hebrew word "*nephesh*") is essentially a word meaning life. But that life is still not eternal. Eternal life is something we are to seek after.

The Ultimate Power which is able to give eternal life is from heaven, and even if we accept Yahweh's own begotten Son, now, as our personal Savior, we are not yet born from above. So, how do we explain what the Apostle John said in the following?

If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him. See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of Elohim; and

such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of Elohim, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is, 1 John 2:29–3:2 NASB.

Is this saying we are "born again"? It is saying we're "born of Him." But, maybe this is still one of those areas of Scripture we need to look at in context of an even clearer Scripture.

Yahshua says, in John 3:3–7 TLEB,

Yahshua answered and said unto him, "Truly, truly I say to you, unless someone is born from above, he is not able to see the kingdom of Elohim." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is an old man? He is not able to enter into his mother's womb for the second time and be born, can he?" Yahshua answered, "Truly, truly I say to you, unless someone is born of water and spirit, he is not able to enter into the kingdom of Elohim. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'It is necessary for you to be born from above.'"

Without this clear Scripture we wouldn't be able to explain what being truly "born again" means. Yet, many say they are "born again" without understanding the Scriptural understanding of being resurrected.

Born From Above

Conceptually, we can understand that we are new creatures in Messiah. New beings, in a sense, internally, going through a change and conforming to a new Spirit within.

We are waiting for a change to come which is yet future. A time to truly be "born again," "born from above." And, at what time is that; is it when we die?

Is there a process Scripture gives us for our going to heaven?

Being "born of water and of spirit," spoken of by Yahshua, is clearly speaking of baptism into water and receiving a special portion of Yahweh's Spirit with the laying on of hands by the eldership, in Messiah, which is part of the process today.

Before all that, however, one needs to repent of former sins. Can a child do that? No, but that is a teaching that exists in many churches today.

Getting to the Bottom

By thinking about the question, "Who has ascended into heaven?", it will allow us to answer another fundamental question, such as, "Will we go to heaven when we die?" Or, alternatively, that other place?

What did those following Scripture and the Messiah, the Son of Yahweh, understand? Let's get to the bottom of this by going to the Word.

For the Master Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of Elohim, and the dead in Messiah will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Master in the air. And so we will be with the Master forever, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV.

What was the first century understanding of going to heaven? Do we go straight to heaven when we die? It doesn't appear that that was the case. We just read, "the dead will rise first," That is, in Messiah, when He returns. That is what, "After that," is saying.

It should be pointed out that there was the teaching in the first century of "No resurrection" by the Sadducees. Were they correct? Not according to the Apostle Paul. He said,

But, if there is no resurrection

of the dead, not even Messiah has been raised; and if Messiah has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain, 1 Corinthians 15:13–14 NASB.

Did Paul think there was somehow not a resurrection? No, he strongly testified that there was and that there was a timetable for it to occur.

A Resurrection Is Coming

For if the dead are not raised, not even Messiah has been raised; and if Messiah has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Messiah have perished. If we have hoped in Messiah in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. But now Messiah has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep, 1 Corinthians 15:16–20 NASB.

"Asleep" is a very strange thing to say, if, indeed, those in Messiah go straight to heaven when they die.

However, what is the timetable for the resurrection of the Saints who have died in Messiah? We've already read in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 that the dead in Messiah rise first at His return.

But each in his own order: Messiah the first fruits (First Fruit), after that those who are Messiah's at His coming, then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to Yahweh the Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power, 1 Corinthians 15:23–24 NASB.

Messiah, as a First Fruit, indicates there is more to the harvest than that, which Paul does indicate. The timing is also given.

The resurrection of those in Messiah is "at His coming," 1 Corinthians 15:23.

Has the Messiah's return already taken place? Not unless we

were all sleeping when the voice of the archangel shouted and the trumpet was blown. Did you hear it? I didn't. Have we seen the Messiah come down? I don't think so, and Scripture backs that up.

For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man, Matthew 24:27-28 NIV.

If what we've been taught doesn't match Yahweh's Word, then we have to reject it.

Things like a secret rapture, or baptism of children, or using only titles to describe Yahweh would not be right to do.

We should be like King David who had a heart to obey and honor Yahweh. Anything else brings death.

Death, Grave, and Hell

Do not let me be ashamed, O Yahweh, for I have called upon You; let the wrong be ashamed; let them be silenced in the grave, Psalms 31:17 TS.

Upon death everyone goes to sheol (the grave), not hell.

The following is a description of the patriarch Jacob whose name was changed to Israel, who lost Joseph, his beloved son, for a time in Egypt, because his brothers got jealous of him and sold him to Midianite traders.

They said a wild animal had gotten him and took his coat of many colors to Jacob with goat blood on it, as evidence. Notice what Jacob said in Genesis 37:35 NIV,

All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said, "I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave." So his father wept for him.

The word here for grave is the Hebrew word "sheol." There are also other Greek words which should be considered, along with their meanings.

- *Sheol* (Hebrew) The place hidden, covered. The grave or deep abyss.

- *Hades* (Greek) The place hidden, covered. The grave or deep abyss.

- *Limne tou puros* (Greek) Lake of fire

- *Gehenna* (Greek) local fire dump

These are good words to look up and study, in context, as the word "hell" is a translation and doesn't always mean, conceptually, a place of fiery destruction.

In the KJV, "hell" is listed at least 50 times, but the underlying word has to be considered as well as context.

Also, not understanding Semitic flowery language (Hebrew idioms) can add to the confusion. The following has clear and not so clear language.

In Ecclesiastes 9:5 KJV, it says, *For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, (very clear) neither have*

they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten (not so clear).

The first part of this verse is one of those very clear Scriptures and it is indeed, Scripture. This is what they had in New Testament times as their Bible.

Now there appears to be some flowery language in the second part of this with the idea that their reward is forgotten. Some scholars point out that their reward is symbolic for labors under the sun. But concerning the memory, people do tend to forget those who have died and been buried after a few generations have passed.

As an example, many of us have no recollection of our great grandparents nor do we remember what their names were, even though we may have been told years ago.

The question that the following Scripture presents is, "Can anyone understand in the grave?" Among the dead no one proclaims Your Name. *Who praises You from the grave?* (Psalm 6:5 NIV).

This would have been the perfect time for clarification for the idea of "once you die you go straight to heaven or straight to hell." But it asks the question "Who praises You from the grave?" For further study of the concept of hell, as presented in many churches today, request your free in-depth and researched booklet entitled, "*Understanding Hellfire.*"

The Questions Continue

Would You work wonders for the dead? Would the dead rise to praise You? Selah. Is Your kindness declared in the grave? Your trustworthiness in the place of destruction? (Psalm 88:10-11 TS).

The "selah" word is a marker to pause and consider what was just said or at least pause for the next section, as the Psalms are actually written to be sung and

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In-Depth Study

Understanding Hellfire

Destiny of the unsaved?

not just read.

But the point is, the Old Testament didn't teach of going straight to heaven when we die; neither does the New Testament. There are some unclear verses which, when taken in context of the clear, have to be understood differently since the Bible clarifies itself.

Answers are Given

The following is a very clear and precise statement from one of the 12 apostles, Apostle John.

And, no one hath gone (ascended) up to the heaven, except He Who out of the heaven came down—the Son of Man Who is in the heaven, John 3:13 YLT.

This answers the other questions we had at the beginning: "Who has ascended to heaven?" The answer is very clear that it was Yahshua, the Messiah, the only begotten Son of Yahweh. Period.

What does the Apostle Paul say? Does he say others are now in heaven?

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: but he saith himself, Yahweh said unto my Master, "Sit Thou at My right hand," Acts 2:29, 34 KJV.

Not even King David is in or was lifted up to heaven. This is significant, because of the fact David had a portion of Yahweh's Holy Spirit within him, as we do today by being properly baptized. Request the free detailed mini-study on, "*Why Be Baptized into the Name of Yahshua?*"

Even with this extra special anointing of King David and being given a portion of Yahweh's Spirit, what does the New Testament say about him? What was their understanding? What would be their answer? Look again at Acts 2:34 KJV:

For David is not ascended into

the heavens: but he saith himself, Yahweh said unto my Master, "Sit Thou at My right hand."

This is a quote from Psalm 110, and, in context, is speaking of Yahshua the Master sitting at the right hand of Yahweh. In context, of the letter of Acts, it is pointing out that it was Yahshua who ascended and NOT King David.

It says, "For David is not ascended into the heavens." Not the first heaven, not the second heaven, and not the third heaven. This is key to understanding other Scriptures that seem to indicate Enoch or Elijah has gone to heaven. We have a previously presented Sabbath message specifically on it, and would recommend it be reviewed (called, "*Enoch and Elijah*," available on DVD, CD and/or online as a download at channel "M" under

Sabbath Services), as we won't have the time here to go into it. But we can continue to consider what is said of David which would apply to everyone else, except Yahshua.

Now when David had served Yahweh's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed, Acts 13:36 NIV.

Death is described as "being asleep." This is what happened to King David; he didn't go to heaven, he didn't go to hell (as in a lake of fire), he died. And, in the future, he will be resurrected. This is the teaching of Scripture and this is what they understood in New Testament times.

In fact, we should ask, "What were Yahshua's own teachings to the peoples?"

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him Who sent Me. This is the will of Him Who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day, John 6:38-39 NASB.

"Raise it up on the last day?" Raise what on the last day? A reward? An assignment for people? What or who?

While Yahshua, at times, spoke in parables to keep people in the dark about what was going on, in this instance, He actually clarifies Himself so that there would be no misunderstanding.

For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day, John 6:40 NASB.

The Dead are Dead

The dead stay dead until a future resurrection. Even if those who are dead, die in the Messiah. This is a very plain and clear teaching from Yahweh's Word.

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls

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Mini-Study



WHY BE BAPTIZED INTO THE NAME OF YAHSHUA?

Is baptism just an initiation into a church, or is it truly important for salvation? Did you know that there is a proper method for it, and Name into which you must be baptized?

The New Testament's basic message to mankind is that our salvation is anchored to Yahshua the Messiah, the One Yahweh sent to earth for a living example and the One Who died for the sins of the world. He became the Author of eternal salvation to all that obey Him, Hebrews. 5:9.

In Acts 10:48 we read, "And he commanded them to be baptized into the name of Yahshua," HNB. Some have rejected that simple command to be baptized into the saving Name of Yahshua, much as Naaman refused the prophet's command to dip in the Jordan River to be healed of leprosy. Naaman argued in his rebellion that other foreign rivers are just as good, 2Kings 5:1-14.

At times those claiming humbly to follow the Bible have "reasoned" as did Naaman initially that it is neither necessary nor logical to be immersed into Yahshua's Name when they already have been baptized in the name of "Jesus" or perhaps in the titles of Father, Son and Holy Ghost years ago while in the churches. But titles are not names. We find no power or promises in titles.

of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Yahshua and because of the Word of Yahweh, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Messiah for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of Elohim and of Messiah and will reign with Him for a thousand years, Revelation 20:4-6 NASB.

The first resurrection is what we all want to be in. So what happens to our spirit when we die? In the beginning, Yahweh breathed life into Adam, but as Adam died, so do we, eventually. Then what happens?

Again, it is appropriate, even vital, that we go to Scripture for the answer.

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to Elohim who gave it, Ecclesiastes 12:7 NASB.

The Spirit Returns to Yahweh

The spirit goes back to Yahweh, plain and simple. The understanding was and is, whether we have a portion of the Spirit (i.e., a portion of Yahweh's Spirit) or not, the spirit (i.e., life) goes back to Yahweh who gave it.

Again, what happens? What does Scripture say? Let's not forget.

Praise Yah! Praise Yahweh, O my soul! I will praise Yahweh while I live; I will sing praises to my Elohim while I have my being. Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there is no salvation. His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; in that very day his thoughts perish, Psalm 146:1-4 NASB.

This agrees plainly with other verses in Scripture which plainly teach the dead know nothing, they don't plan anymore, they don't work; they are simply asleep.

Until, that is, a future resurrection occurs, when they will be awakened out of their sleep. Request or read online, our mini-study "*Just One Resurrection?*"

What happens to our understanding if we don't continue to study the Bible or rely on teachings from others whom we think are teaching the truth?

Paul, in 2 Timothy 2:15-18 ESV, says to Timothy,

Do your best to present yourself to Elohim as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and

more wickedness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved (or departed, as some translations say) from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.

It's wondered if the "going to heaven doctrine" wasn't already started at this point. Notice it was a cancerous teaching at this time in the first century.

It is also an error in our own day, today, to think that somehow people have already been resurrected to heaven. It is contrary to what we find clear scriptures telling us today. Prophecy points to a time ahead for things to take place. Things such as the Great Tribulation or the resurrection to judgment or the resurrection of eternal life. It's all ahead of us.

While the following isn't necessarily in chronological order, it does still confirm these things are yet ahead of us:

The nations raged, but Your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding Your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear Your Name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth, Revelation 11:18 ESV.


The wrath of Yahweh, the Great Tribulation, the giving of the rewards, destroying those who destroy the earth. ...None of these have happened yet, but they will.

Yahshua Himself warns us not to be deceived, but to know what is yet to come:

Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have practiced evil matters, to a resurrection of judgment, John 5:28-29 TS.

<see **Heaven** page 20>

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Mini - Study

**Just One
RESURRECTION?**

**How many resurrections
does the Bible teach?**

The general message of the churches is that a big battle is taking place for control of the minds of mankind. The churches are striving to teach the Bible and trying to save humankind, but Satan is busy leading them astray. If such a struggle be the true situation of what is going on today, Satan is the big winner. It appears he is gaining ground as the growing population outstrips the converts to churchianity. The ratio of "unsaved" continues to grow faster than those being "saved!" Is Satan really outwitting and outmaneuvering Yahweh today?

Lacking a proper understanding of Yahweh's plan for redeeming mankind, the churches insist they must convert everyone now! This results in a last ditch effort to save those about to die who have not publicly confessed they believe in the Bible's promise and accepted the Savior. If one has stated even on the deathbed that he or she accepts the salvation extended by "J-sus," churchianity believes this person will be taken to heaven immediately upon death. Is this really true? Is everyone to accept the Savior before dying, and if he/she does not, is he/she doomed to eternal torment in the place called "hell" as they say? Among those just starting to comprehend deeper truth, a nagging uncertainty arises. What will happen to them?

The question concerns the many truths which were not understood nor practiced by parents, relatives or loved ones during their lifetime,



Life, Death and Your Soul

John Lintz had just finished a year's study in London, England, and was looking forward to going home to Denver. This was the first time he had been away from home for such a long duration and he was eagerly awaiting the trip to the airport for the flight home. His family had always been close-knit.

His warm thoughts of being happily reunited with his family were interrupted by the ring of the phone. At first he thought it must be one of his friends calling to wish him a bon voyage. But it was his brother calling long distance. Their father had just been in a fatal accident.

What had begun as a joyous day for John had turned into a traumatic one. He was overcome with grief. "How could such a thing happen?" His father was the nicest of men. He was law-abiding and followed the Scriptures as best he could. Why did such a thing have to happen? Agony overcame John as he realized he would never see his father alive again.

Even though the events depicted here are fictitious, they nevertheless occur regularly in everyday life. Whether death comes suddenly to someone we know or is the result of a long illness, death is always a sorrowful event.

When death of a loved one occurs, our human frailty and shortcomings seem to take over. It is a natural human characteristic to fight for self-preservation. When someone dies, that fight is lost. Those who knew the deceased are saddened at the thought of the loss.

The Breath of Life

Medical personnel say that the closest one is to death is at the time of one's birth. How fragile a time this is. A newborn baby, with umbilical cord cut, must learn to rely solely on its own organs to func-

tion properly. If one thing goes wrong, the infant's life is in danger.

The same situation faced Adam and Eve.

And Yahweh formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul, Genesis 2:7.

This is how man came into existence. Before that time, man was not alive. The chemical elements that make up a human body can be found in nature and man marvels at how wondrously Yahweh has made his body to function properly out of chemical mixtures.

At the very time of birth the process of dying begins to take place. When a body is young and growing, its cells are produced at a rapid rate, but the cells also age and die. Our biological clock keeps ticking away.

When the doctor first slapped us, if we needed to be slapped, we gasped for that first breath of air. If we hadn't gotten it, we would have died. This breath of life is a vital part of our existence. Without it we would no longer be a "living soul." This breath of life comes from Yahweh, as Strong's Exhaustive Concordance shows. This breath of life—our breath of life—belongs to Yahweh because Scripture says it returns to Him when we die:

*Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit [Hebrew *ruach*, "breath, force of life"] shall return unto Elohim Who gave it, Ecclesiastes 12:7.*

Numbers 27:16 says that Yahweh is the Elohim of the spirits (*ruach*) of all flesh.

A Living Soul

Bakers, making a cake, take certain ingredients and mix them in the proper proportion to produce a delicious product. The final product is more than the

sum of its ingredients

When man became a living soul, the two necessary and vital ingredients were a body and the breath of life. The end product is much more than a physical body because a body, by itself, is not a living soul; it needs that "magical" element, the breath of life.

A light bulb, by itself, is just glass and wire. But when a current is passed through it, it becomes a light capable of producing energy. The end product is, indeed, much more than its parts.

So it is with man. When man becomes a living soul he has thoughts, desires, emotions. These characteristics and more are part of a living, breathing human being.

Genesis 2:7 says that after man was created he became a living soul. The word translated *soul* is the Hebrew *nephesh*. Strong's Concordance says *nephesh* means a breathing creature. It is used some 754 times in the Old Testament where it refers not only to man but also to the lower animals.

And Elohim created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and Elohim saw that it was good ... And Elohim said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so, Gen. 1:21 and 24.

Nothing about *nephesh*—soul—indicates or implies immortality. These lower animals require nourishment as man does. They can think as man can, but on a much simpler level. The difference is that man was made in the image of his Creator, Genesis 1:26 - 27:

And Elohim 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. So Elohim created man in His own image, in the image of Elohim created He him; male and female created He them.

The Greek word for *soul*, *psuche*, parallels the Hebrew word *nephesh*, in meaning. It basically means breath or a living being. Non-biblical Greek writers use this same word, *psuche*, when referring to all animals. It signifies a living creature, animal or man— not an immortal entity of man.

The First Lie Ever Told

In the first few chapters of Genesis, we are told the story of the creation. In chapters 2 and 3, we read that the Garden of Eden contained two very important trees: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life. Both were

pleasing to the eye and had good food,

And out of the ground made Yahweh Elohim to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Genesis 2:9.

In Genesis 2:17, however, the first human beings, Adam and Eve, were told not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, "for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die." In Hebrew this means "dying you shall die."

In other words, the slow process of death would take over and they would eventually die in time.

Parents, have you ever instructed your children not to do something? What usually happens? The child does it anyway because it is a natural human characteristic to find out the consequences. The same thing was true of Adam and Eve.

Satan, as the great deceiver, fooled mankind from the beginning into believing lies. Adam and Eve were instructed not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. In Genesis 3:4 we read of Satan's telling Eve, "You shall not surely die." In Hebrew this means "dying you shall not die." This was a complete contradiction and a perverse lie.

Removal from Eden and Life

Believing that Satan's lie was not a lie, Adam and Eve partook of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Because of this disobedience to Yahweh's commandment, Adam and Eve discovered they were naked. They knew the difference between good and evil,

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons, Genesis 3:7.

Because of their defiance of Yahweh's commandment, Yahweh

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Body, Soul & Spirit

Man is a complex entity; a physical body composed of 15 major chemical elements. Seventy-two percent of this body is oxygen. These necessary elements are found in the soil in various compounds. Growing plants utilize these compounds, which are assimilated into man's body through diet. Some plants are eaten by animals, which in turn end up in man's diet.

Upon death, man's body decomposes into the basic elements and returns to the earth. "Dust thou art and to dust shalt thou return" Genesis 3:19. "Thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust" Psalm 104:29.

One of the most widely held teachings of churchianity today is that within man's body lives a soul. This soul is the ethereal part of man that leaves the body at death and goes to heaven or to hell, or (in the beliefs of Catholicism) to purgatory. The soul is thought to be the "real you" inside the physical body. The soul is assumed to be an immortal spirit that can never die. This runs counter to the plain teaching of Scripture which clearly states, "The soul that sinneth it shall die" Ezekiel 18:4; repeated in verse 20.

Satan, the Father of Lies

This most widely held fallacy originated when Satan deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden. Thus Satan is called the first liar in Scripture. Yahshua said he was a liar and the father of lies, John 8:44. "Thou shalt not surely die," Satan told Eve, "For Elohim does know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and

had to forcibly remove them from the Garden of Eden. Why? So Adam and Eve could not partake of the tree of life,

And Yahweh Elohim said, Behold, the man is become as one of Us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever, Genesis 3:22.

Because of this disobedience to Yahweh's commandment, Yahweh also placed a heavy burden on the first humans, and on us, as we read in Genesis 3:22-24 of the reason they were driven from the Garden of Eden:

And Yahweh Elohim said: "Behold, the man is become as one of Us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:" Therefore Yahweh Elohim sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the Garden of Eden, cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life.

We now see the consequences of the first sin. Man was sent from the Garden of Eden so he could not eat of the tree of life and live forever.

The phrase, "to keep the way of the tree of life," means to preserve it for a future time. That future time can be found in Revelation 22:2 and 14,

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations ... Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Because of man's original sin, we are all destined to die a physical death unless we are alive when

Yahshua returns to claim His own, *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of Yahweh; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 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 incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality,* 1 Corinthians 15:50-53.

In Ecclesiastes 3:2 we are told that there is a time to be born and a time to die. Each of us must consider dying. We have no options concerning death. Death is inevitable. Paul wrote,

And as it is appointed unto men

once to die, but after this the judgment, Hebrews 9:27.

We are all destined to die a physical death:

What is he that lives and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? (Psalm 89:48).

Innate Immortality a Superstition

Life begins at conception. This life causes our heart to beat and to circulate blood throughout our system, providing nourishment to the cells and removing impurities. But when we die this life is removed and the flow of blood ceases.

Because blood is so essential to sustaining life, we are forbidden to eat or drink it:

For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off, Leviticus 17:14.

And when man dies, he must relinquish this breath of life:

But man dies, and wastes away: yes, man gives up the spirit [breath of life], and where is he? (Job 14:10).

This is a big question: "Where is man when he dies?" Man has misunderstood and misconstrued the answer to this question, as is seen in many mythological deities and modern-day religious beliefs. The Greeks and the Scandinavians, as well as the American Indians, all have their own pagan notions as to what happens to a person upon death and beyond.

Some modern-day religions teach of a place the dead go to where they remain so those that are alive may, through prayers, supplications, and good deeds, cause the dead to become more perfect and, as the result, be allowed to enter heaven.

Scriptures will bear out that this

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Do You Have an Immortal Soul?

Churchianity in general teaches that the real you, the real person, is living in a fleshly, temporal body. Our fleshly body is likened to a container of sorts that is embalmed at death and buried in the ground while the real person, the real you, is invisible, having wafted off to heaven – or maybe to an ever-burning hellfire. This ethereal something is referred to as the "soul".

"His soul has departed from the body and is now in heaven with the Lord" is a popular summation of death at many funerals. Often the eulogy alludes to whatever attributes of the deceased are suitable, and concludes by noting that the dead person is actually more alive than ever without the body. The person's body is about to be put in the ground to await the resurrection to heaven, but the soul is already there according to the popular belief.

No Immortal Soul in Scripture

Yahweh's Word presents an entirely different picture of the "soul." Try to find the expression "immortal soul" anywhere in the Bible. It is not there! Nowhere does the Bible declare that the soul or body is naturally immortal. In fact, the opposite is true. Souls can be destroyed. The body is not the soul, because Yahshua said Yahweh is able to destroy both body AND soul:

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell," Matt. 10:28.

is the result of Satan's lie, "You shall not surely die," Genesis 3:4.

Mankind shares one thing with all members of the animal kingdom—the breath of life:

For that which befalls the sons of men befalls beasts; even one thing befalls them: as the one dies, so dies the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man has no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again, Ecclesiastes 3:19-20.

What happens to the breath of life of a man at death?

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit (ruach) shall return to Elohim Who gave it, Ecclesiastes 12:7.

In Luke 8:49-56 Yahshua overheard someone saying that a woman was dead. After He went into the house where this dead woman was and said, "Maid arise," we read that this woman's spirit (*pneuma*) returned again and she arose. Without the spirit she was dead but with it she was alive. Her "soul" was not hovering above, watching what was happening.

As we have seen, when the body and the breath were combined, man became a living soul. When one dies, that breath is removed and returns unto Yahweh. The body and the spirit (breath) are separate entities and the body without the spirit is dead.

Dust We Are

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

This spirit is that force that allows us to become and remain living beings. Without it, we are dead. What happens when this spirit is removed? Psalm 104:29 says it well:

You hide Your face, they are troubled: You take away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

The Hebrew word *sheol* means

grave, but translators translated it *hell* in many places. All living things, when they die, go to the grave:

They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them, Job 21:26.

All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust, Job 34:15.

How Dead Is Dead?

That spirit of life—the breath of life—given to us when we are born, causes the body to become a separate, living soul, as Genesis 2:7 says. When the spirit is removed at death all of the body functions cease to work.

Scriptures also tell us that other important functions cease to work at the time of death. Read the following and see whether a person's

thought processes continue after death, as is the common notion.

For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, 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 forever in anything that is done under the sun, Ecclesiastes 9:5-6.

Whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, where you go, Ecclesiastes 9:10.

Behold therefore, I will gather you unto your fathers, and you shall be gathered into your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the evil I will bring upon this place, 2 Kings 22:20.

His breath goes forth, he returns to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish, Psalm 146:4.

There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest, Job 3:17.

In these verses we read that the dead know nothing, have no thoughts, cannot love, hate or show envy. They also cannot work, have no wisdom, nor can they see. Death is also described as a place where the wicked cease from troubling or worrying.

Hebrews 9:27 states that nothing occurs between death and the judgment:

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.

Therefore, the Scriptures plainly tell us that death must be a state of total unconsciousness, of being completely unaware of what is going on and not being able to do anything about it.

All we can expect when we die is to be awakened for life or judgment at the resurrection. If we were immortal and continued living in some state after death, there would be no need of a resurrection, John 6:40.

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A Matter of Death and Life

Do we really die when we pass away or does our soul live on in heavenly bliss while our loved ones mourn us down here on earth?

Most of my early life I had been bothered by a nagging question. If when we die our souls wait off to a joyful eternity in heaven, then why so much mourning at funerals?

If the popular teaching and belief is that man has an immortal soul, then why do ministers talk about "death" when administering last rites?

And if our soul lives on after we die, what's the point of a resurrection of the "dead," which the Bible speaks of?

We hear people say that good ol' Uncle Ben has died. Is Ben really dead? Or do we go to his funeral just to mourn his lifeless body, while our uncle lives on, rolling around heaven, playing his harp and testing the aerodynamics of his wings?

There he is, lounging serenely, propped up by one arm as he peeks over a cloud's edge and smiles down at those glumly carrying his corpse in a casket. Or at least that's what so many think. They want to believe that the dead aren't actually gone, we just can't see them anymore.

Let's face it. Most people don't like to talk about this subject. They're too into the present: too busy trying to get ahead, raising a family, getting a promotion, working for retirement — going for the gusto of life. The seriousness of the subject weighs heavily on the conscience, and we'd rather not be reminded of our own mortality.

The philosophy is, why worry about it? Just live a decent life, be an honest citizen, do your share, and it will all work out in the end. You'll get to heaven, they believe. But is that true?

But, you might ask, what about Lazarus and the rich man or the instance in which the Scriptures indicate that dead people talk?

Lazarus and the Rich Man

The account of Lazarus and the rich man given in Luke 16 is a parable used solely to convey the meaning expressed in verse 31: unless we accept the truth, there is no hope.

The accounts in the Scriptures indicating that the dead speak are as symbolic in nature as is the account in Judges 9, where different forms of vegetation speak.

The story of Lazarus and the rich man does bring out one important fact. Some religions believe in baptism for the dead or in performing righteous acts for the dead so that the dead person's heart can be made pure. Yet, in Luke 16:26 we read that nothing can be done for a dead person to change his final judgment:

And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Thus, when one dies, no one can do anything more for him and the dead cannot do anything more for himself. The dead person's future status cannot be changed by anyone through any means.

Death—Asleep in the Grave

To show further that death brings on a state of complete unconsciousness, examine Paul's statement in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14:

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Yahshua died and rose again, even

so them also which sleep in Yahshua will Yahweh bring with Him.

Job 14:11-12 tells us the same thing:

As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decays and dries up: so man lies down, and rises not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

The Scriptures say that when death occurs the dead go to the grave and not to heaven or to hell or to a place where their hearts can be made pure. Death brings on a state that parallels unconscious sleep. And the dead remain asleep until they are resurrected — that time when we shall all receive what we deserve:

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward

every man according to his works, Matthew 16:27.

The fact that Yahshua has not yet returned to reward His people is borne out by Hebrews 11:39, which indicates that some of our illustrious forefathers like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have yet to receive these promises.

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise.

They are not now in heaven and never were.

Our Future Dead Soul

The lie which Satan presented to Eve, "dying you shall not die," has led to much confusion as to what the Scriptures mean when they refer to the soul. We have already seen that when the breath of life was put into the body, man became a living soul. We have also seen that when this breath of life is removed from the living soul, the soul no longer exists as it once did.

Numerous Bible scholars agree that modern-day usage of the word *soul* comes from Greek philosophy—pagan religious thought. The Greek philosopher Plato quoted Socrates as saying,

"The soul (at death) ... departs to the invisible world — to the divine and immortal and rational: thither arriving, she lives in bliss and is released from the error and folly of men. . . and forever dwells in company of the gods." Phaedo, vol. 2, pp. 73, 103.

These ideas conveyed through Socrates are quite opposite to what the Scriptures indicate. In Ezekiel 18:4 we read,

Behold, all souls are Mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is Mine: the soul that sins, it shall die.

Moreover, Yahshua told the disciples in Matthew 10:28,

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is

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Meaning Behind the Savior's Parable of **Lazarus and the Rich Man**

Of all that the Bible says about the state of the dead, perhaps nothing is cited more than the Savior's parable about Lazarus and the rich man, Luke 16. This account is said to support the belief that the dead go immediately to heaven or to ever-burning hellfire.

Many believe that this parable should be taken literally in every sense because the name of a real-life Biblical person, Lazarus, is used.

Often, however, the Messiah's teachings were couched in allegory and usually had a deeper, spiritual truth to them. In fact, our Savior's technique of choice when instructing was through analogy and parable. Such is the case here.

Because Yahshua employed a story in Luke 16, we must be careful about taking a literal approach and not grasping the original intent. Realize that this is a parable, used Scripturally to impart deeper truth, as all parables do.

The truth of what the Savior said is overlooked by most, and the whole thrust of His teaching in this parable has been misunderstood down through the ages. To think that Yahshua the Messiah was supporting the notion of going to hell at death is to contradict a host of other Scriptures. No interpretation is accurate if it contradicts other passages.

A Message to Certain Jews

Central to the parable is Yahshua's teaching about an unjust steward, which begins Luke 16. He concludes in verse 13 with this: "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve Elohim and mammon" (Luke 16:13).

When they heard this, an elite class of Jews known as the Pharisees, who especially loved money, derided Him in verse 14. Then our Savior levels His sights directly on the Pharisees. His comments are an affront to these men who found His teachings contemptible.

able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.

Man became a living soul. Thus, he does not have a soul. Both body and soul can be destroyed in the lake of fire, if we believe the Scriptures.

Death—the Penalty of Sin

More proof that death is like being asleep is found in Hebrews 9:27,

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.

Yahweh has given Yahshua the task of judging all mankind:

For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment unto the Son, John 5:22.

When we die, time will stand still for us until we are awakened to stand before the judgment seat of Yahshua.

But why do you judge [Greek, condemn] your brother? Or why do you set at nought your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of the Messiah, Romans 14:10.

At that time we shall receive our reward, everlasting life or everlasting death—spiritual death, forever separated from Yahweh:

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before Yahweh; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell [hades] delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell [hades] were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire, Revelation 20:12-15.

Immortality Is a Gift

The two words, soul and immortal, do not appear together in the same verse anywhere in the Scriptures. Further, the words *immortal* and *immortality* appear only in the New Testament Scriptures, even though the thought is conveyed by some Old Testament Scriptures. In Luke 12:5 Yahshua reaffirms Yahweh's power concerning the body and the soul:

But I will forewarn you Whom you shall fear: fear Him, which after He has killed has power to cast into hell [gehenna]: yea, I say unto you, fear Him.

If the soul be cast into the lake of fire for destruction, how can it be immortal?

All of the Scriptures agree that Yahweh, as the source of life, is not subject to death; hence, He is immortal. Man lost his chance for immortality in the Garden of Eden when he believed Satan's lie and sinned. Because of this, the death sentence was passed down unto all mankind. However, Yahweh still wants us to obtain that status. Yahweh therefore sent us His Son.

For the Messiah also has once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to Yahweh, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit, ! Peter 3:18.

Just as it was in the beginning for Adam and Eve, to receive immortality requires obedience to His way of life.

To them who by patient continuance in well doing, seek for glory and honor and immortality, life everlasting, Romans 2:7.

Scriptures show that man does not have an immortal soul; he must seek immortality, as immortality is a gift from Yahweh. At this time we do have the hope of receiving this gift because of Yahshua's death and resurrection, and look forward to Yahshua's return:

For Yahshua Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout,

with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of Yahweh; and the dead in Messiah shall rise first: then we which are alive, and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet Yahshua in the air: and so shall we ever be with Him, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the Mighty One, our Savior Yahshua the Messiah, Titus 2:13.

Immortality is given only to those who are, and who remain, faithful to the end.

Prepare Now, in This Life

Self-preservation is one of man's strongest urges. Humans want to hold onto life as long as possible. And because of man's gullibility, he wants to believe the lie propagated by the father of all liars, Satan, that we have an immortal soul. But if we truly study and believe in the Scriptures, we will know this is not true.

We know that we shall die, but not when. It could happen at any time, even in our sleep. And when we do die we lose everything. That includes our souls. As Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:7,

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

What we must do at this time is set our lives aright, be in tune with our Heavenly Family and with the words given to us in the Bible. If we do this, and have faith and assurance in the Scriptures, then Matthew 25:21 can be our comfort:

Well done good and faithful servant ... enter into the joy of your Master.

If we are one and remain of His, Yahweh will resurrect us to everlasting life.

Elder Roger G. Meyer



Going It Alone

Is “going it alone” a good way to worship?

In seeking the truth of the Bible, one can find nearly anything one is looking for. Churches abound in most cities and towns. Church pages in newspapers are filled with notices of Sunday's sermons. One can easily find the "church of his choice."

The problem with many is that instead of looking into Scripture with an open mind, they seek out a group that is teaching the doctrines they already believe. And those tenets do not necessarily need to come from the Bible. Many cherished beliefs popular today are not found in Scripture at all but are perpetuated by tradition alone. Some of these include the ideas of going to heaven upon death, rapture, immortal soul, trinity, ever-burning hellfire, and many more.

Others are not so concerned with religious teachings but seek a group with prestige or one with an accessible parking lot, air conditioned sanctuary, beautiful choir or a variety of other criteria that have no bearing on what will be taught or done there. Bible truth is hardly a consideration for them.

A religious affiliation for many is only for convenience. For others, it is used to enhance their image in the community, as the politician who lists a church membership in order to appear good and upstanding — even though he never attends.

Perhaps you have searched for a group that endeavors with all its being to remain true to the Bible. With some 450 different religious groups all purporting to teach from the same Bible, almost any doctrine can be found being taught in these United States and around the world.

Why People Leave Organizations

Some, however, have become disillusioned with religious groups in general. Perhaps they trusted a

man who they believed was honest and called to the ministry. Later, they found he was trying to build an empire for himself. Or perhaps they in some way were hurt by one of the members and as a result reject all association.

A number of people become disenchanted when the organization they had affiliated with turned out to be less than expected. Their chagrin may have been caused by an ambitious individual who tried hard to dominate rather than guide the assembly. Perhaps they didn't like one of the members or visitors in the group and felt he didn't live up to their standards. Bickering and dissension possibly arose between members. Or it may simply have been the failure of human nature to exhibit the qualities expected of such a group professing to follow the Messiah. Occasionally, an unscriptural and hitherto hidden doctrine suddenly surfaces.

For whatever reason, many are simply turned off at religious organizations. They might say that worshiping with a group is simply a crutch. Going it alone is their new ambition. "Just you and me, Yahshua, just you and me," they seem to say. They often pride themselves in their determination to worship alone.

Should we reject organizational worship? Are we to worship separately? What does the Bible teach about becoming a part of a group?

Yahshua Established an Organization

Hebrews 10:24-25 clearly tells us to assemble. We should join in assembly, encouraging and prodding one another to good works and sacrificial love by word and example. We must consider the Savior's words about those called out from the world to be a part of the Body of Messiah. It is obvious that He expected His followers to become believers who

would associate closely with one another.

Yahshua said there would always be a group of True Believers on earth teaching the truths He magnified and brought to light,

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My assembly; and the gates of hell (hades - grave) shall not prevail against it, Matthew 16:18.

He established an organization, built on Peter's confession that Yahshua was the Messiah. If we seek salvation, we must become a part of that Body.

His assembly was to continue until His return,

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of Yahweh: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the evangel of Yahweh? (1 Peter 4:17).

Teaching the truth of Scripture, His Body would be the physical representation of Him on earth. This Body would be the repository of His truth.

The writers of the New Testament, and especially Paul, also shared the concept that Believers must join as a body whenever possible.

Acts 2:42 (*And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*) relates that after Yahshua's death the early apostles continued steadfast in fellowship and prayer.

The apostles were in constant fellowship with one another throughout the Book of Acts. They were aware persecution was soon to fall on them, and they used every opportunity to encourage one another and preach the Word wherever they could.

We also do not have much time to get the message of salvation to the world. It is up to us to learn all we can and encourage those who are helping to proclaim the Good

News, for we are all considered to be teachers and guides of others searching for truth,

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light, 1 Peter 2:9.

Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? (Romans 2:21).

Reasons Many Give for Need to Fellowship

There are a number of reasons for Yahweh's people to congregate to study His Word. The Book of Acts is filled with examples of conversions to Messiah. The Apostle Paul, himself, was struck down on

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Must We Meet with Others for Worship

How important is gathering regularly on Sabbaths?

When Yahweh offered His Covenant with Israel in Exodus 24:1-7, He promised them certain blessings and protection. Israel readily agreed to this covenant. Exodus 25 onward reveals Israel's responsibilities. They were to offer some of their "spoils" taken from the Egyptians so that a sanctuary might be constructed for Yahweh to dwell in and be among the people. Yahweh asked only for a portion of that which He had given them.

Precise instructions were given for building both the Tabernacle and the furniture, along with the required instruments to be used in a specific way in His worship. Similarly, Yahweh has given us guidelines that reveal how He wants to be worshiped today.

The Book of Leviticus deals with specific instructions for mankind in our worship of Yahweh. Chapter 23 gives us the seven Annual Holy Days and the weekly Saturday Sabbath, which are to be observed forever, we find. All Israel was to gather in holy convocation at these special times.

We Do Not Worship at Jerusalem

With the destruction of the Temple and the razing of Jerusalem in the year 70 C.E, worship could no longer continue at Jerusalem. Yahshua had alluded to this with the woman at the well in

the Damascus road in Acts 9, actually hearing and speaking to the risen Messiah, verses 1-6. It should be noted that although Yahshua spoke to Paul, He did not Himself tell Paul the entire program.

Instead, the plan of salvation was to be found by going into the city and letting those in the *ekklesia* (assembly) tell him what had to be done. Yahshua had given the keys to the Kingdom to His called-out ones, and although He could just as easily have told Paul what to do directly, that was the job of the *ekklesia*. It still is today.

The early assembly was busy showing the way to those who were seeking the strait gate and the narrow way. The Ethiopian treasurer was trying hard to understand the Book of Isaiah, Acts 8. Philip explained the Scriptures to him and brought about his conversion and desire for baptism. This is a prime example of Yahweh's Spirit working through His people to help others find the way of salvation. That truth is lodged in the Body of believers.

Yahweh could just as easily have spoken to, or in some way moved, the people He was dealing with to do His bidding. Instead, He used those who had prepared themselves and were qualified to help others seeking truth. It is up to the Body of Messiah to preach the Good News of salvation as Yahshua said in Matthew 28:19.

Although signs, visions, and miracles were used on occasion by Yahweh in the New Testament Assembly, the message of salvation was given and expounded to others by those in the *ekklesia*—the ones called out.

Members Are to Use Their Gifts

Another reason for the necessity of gathering with others of like faith is that all those placed in the Body of Messiah have a particular gift that is to be used to edify and

build the assembly,

For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of Yahweh, one after this manner, and another after that, 1 Corinthians 7:7.

That gift is to be used for the *ekklesia*, and is not for personal glory,

Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the assembly, 1 Corinthians 14:12.

We are placed in the Body of Messiah as living stones making up a spiritual temple. Each member of the Body has been selected to be a part of that temple and is even in this life being fitted for an individual place in Yahweh's spiritual temple. The chipping, shaping, and fitting of each of the called-out ones goes on as we live our lives and change according to His Word.

Yahshua is the chief cornerstone of the entire living, spiritual temple. He is not a lone rock on the seashore. We are to be formed collectively into a spiritual house, founded on Yahshua,

To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of Yahweh, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to Yahweh by Yahshua Messiah. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner Stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the Stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 1 Peter 2:4-7.

The gathering of Yahweh's people has a purpose. We are to use whatever gift Yahweh has given for the edifying of the temple. If we never associate with others of like faith, how can we exercise the gift that has been given us? It is only

through interaction with others that we are able to subjugate our own desires and set our goal to be of help to others.

The chipping and shaping of the "living stones" is done through contact with other living stones so that the finished, polished pieces fit together in a harmonious building where Yahweh's Spirit dwells.

As an individual member of the Body of Messiah begins to pattern his life after that of the Messiah, he stops committing acts that he learns are sinful and against Yahweh's way. He starts following a course in accord with Yahweh's way of life. His mind is stayed on the Messiah. He no longer is taken up with satisfying his former way of life. He now longs to please the Heavenly Father and no longer indulges in wickedness of the lower nature such as fornication, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, witchcraft, quarrels, jealousy, passionate anger, intrigues, selfish ambitions, envy, drunkenness, and other vices given in Galatians 5:19-21,

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of Yahweh.

Fruits Exhibited in the Assembly

Associating with others of like faith gives the believer the opportunity to exhibit the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which begin with love and joy as shown in Galatians 5:22-23,

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

It is in the *ekklesia* that fruits are

grown and nurtured, and matured.

Examples of the kind of people we are to become should be visible in each assembly. Here we can meet with those who are also trying to become more like the Messiah, growing in His likeness and stature. This is not possible in our daily life in the world, but we should always try to live as if the Messiah were living in us.

It is by the fruits of the individual that he shall be known,

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them, Matthew 7:20.

And when He saw a fig tree in the way, He came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! (Matthew 21:19-20).

Just as Yahshua sought fruit from the fig tree, so we should be bearing fruit not only for Him, but also for the brethren.

Yahshua and His Body Are One

While most of us fully recognize the great debt of gratitude we owe Yahshua Messiah, we often forget the most obvious way we can show our gratefulness for the price He paid that we might have life.

The Apostle Paul got the message fast. Supernaturally struck down on the Damascus road, he heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" He asked who was talking to him. The answer came, "I am Yahshua Whom thou persecutest." Acts 9:1-5. Paul suddenly realized that Yahshua felt so close to His disciples that anything Paul had done to them like "breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples" (verse 1) was the same as attacking the Messiah Himself.

Paul never forgot that lesson and on frequent occasions would

mention that he — more than anyone — needed forgiveness because he had persecuted the Body of believers,

Concerning zeal, persecuting the assembly; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless, Philippians 3:6.

For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the assembly of Yahweh, and wasted it, Galatians 1:13.

Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief, 1 Timothy 1:13.

Yahshua Himself revealed the deep feeling He has for His Body of believers when He spoke of the righteous saints who inherit the Kingdom, Matthew 25:34-40. He said that doing good to the Body of believers is the same as reaching out to Yahshua Himself. He likens His spiritual Body to His own body. When we do anything to a fellow believer we are in essence doing that same thing to Yahshua.

In Matthew 25:41-46 He makes the same point with the wicked who have not shown compassion and love to the Body of Messiah. He spoke of not having cared for those who were hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, and imprisoned.

Some hunger after the Word. We should feed them. Some thirst for the Holy Spirit and should be taught Yahweh's way of life. Strangers should be taken into the camp and made spiritual Israelites wherever possible. They should be clothed in the robes of righteousness. If they are sick, they need healing and should

be made whole. Those in prison should be freed from the captivity of sinful living.

Yahshua identified the group of believers in Matthew 12:48-49 when He stretched forth His hand toward His disciples and said,

Whosoever shall do the will of My Father which is in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister and mother, Matthew 25:50.

Keeping His words in mind will help us to think of one another in the *ekklesia* as brothers or sisters. Whatever we do to these followers of the Messiah we also do to Him, for He said that the *ekklesia* was also His Body. He refers to the *ekklesia* as the spiritual mother of the

shua expected the Body of believers to assemble together as often as they could. Not associating with the saints leaves much of the development of the spiritual aspects of our life unfinished. The interaction between the believers is necessary not only to help us become better followers of the Messiah, but also to learn from others who have many of the same problems. It strengthens us to see how others have overcome their problems and we can learn more of how they did so.

Becoming associated with a group of True Believers allows one into a training ground or preparation for the work in the Kingdom.

We develop talents or gifts that Yahweh has given us so they become ability. We use that ability to edify and build up the Body of Messiah. As we interact with other members, we not only help them but also perfect ourselves. It is difficult or impossible to develop and use the gifts Yahweh gives us if we are alone.

Another purpose for assembling together is to make recommendations and judgments on the qualifications of the brethren. This was true in Acts 15:1-2 when the BRETHREN determined who would go to Jerusalem,

And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. When therefore

Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

It was the brethren who decided

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In-Depth Study

Biblical Holy Days

Yesterday Today Forever

Body of believers. This is the same thought Paul had in referring to the spiritual Jerusalem as the "mother of us all," Galatians 4:26.

Strength Through Fellowship

It is quite apparent that Yah-

the candidates for the role of deacon in the early assembly,

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them, Acts 6:3-6.

In Acts 11:22 it was the *ekklesia* that sent Barnabas to Antioch. Later (Acts 15:22-23) it was the *ekklesia* that joined with the apostles and elders to send men they had chosen to visit the gentiles.

Decisions by Committee in N.T.

All through the New Testament we find that the assembly played a vital part in the direction of the ministry. Decisions were made by committee. There is no such term as head elder or directing elder to be found in the New Testament. It was always by a plurality of people that decisions were arrived at. Further examples are found in Acts 15:25 and 40; 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 16:2-3; 2 Corinthians 8:19 and Philippians 2:25.

It is obvious that the brethren within the congregation are alert to the character and qualifications of their fellow members. They have been able to discern the fruits of each individual and are able to observe the abilities of many. The assembly is in good position to know who is most qualified for a position of responsibility and once selected, it was the apostles or elders who recognized the choice of the brethren and ordained the individual for a special task. He was set aside

through prayer and publicly approved by the elders.


Most of you can look back on your biblical pursuits and realize that you assimilated Bible knowledge by degrees. After you accepted one item of truth you went on to study deeper knowledge. We learn from Scripture that "many are called, but few are chosen," Matthew 20:16. Yahshua chooses those He wishes to be a part of His Body,

Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you, John 15:16.

We are given an inner desire and drive to have a thirst for the Word,

Being confident of this very

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Mini - Study 

**Does Paul in,
1Corinthians 16:2,
Teach Sunday Worship?**

It was in early January when I finally went along with my neighbors to worship services on Sunday. After listening to the liturgy and hearing a simple sermon on faith and belief, all members were asked to go by a table in the rear of the sanctuary and pick up their box of envelopes for the new year. These were easy enough to find, all arranged alphabetically.

En route home in their auto, one of the youngsters tugged at my sleeve and handing me a pastel envelope from the box, asked, "Aren't these pretty?" They were indeed colorful. Written in bold letters were the words, "Stewardship Envelopes for Every Sunday of the Year."

Obviously they were offering envelopes intended for each Sunday's collection plate. On each envelope was written the following verse: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as [Yahweh] has prospered him, that there be no collections when I come," 1 Corinthians 16:2.

Upon noting my examination of the envelope my friend quipped, "That makes it pretty plain, doesn't it, that we are to gather on the first day of the week?" With that my friend stopped at the curb and upon exchanging pleasantries, let me out.

As he drove away I pondered the meaning of the verse. It did not establish the first day of the week as the day of worship at all. Yet, many churches assert that because this verse seemingly commands that an offering be given on the first

thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Yahshua Messiah, Philippians 1:6.

Perhaps one of the biggest thrills facing the *ekklesia* is in the time ahead when the Messiah returns and sets up His Kingdom. It will not be the individual who thought it was "just you and me, Yahshua." It will be those who have been faithfully keeping the commandments of Yahweh and living the faith of Yahshua day by day.

Some Avoid Responsibility Involved

At times the reluctance to meet with an organized group is because of a fear of the responsibilities involved. It is much easier to "go it alone" and automatically be absolved of any accountability. In any organization obligations and duties befall some of the individuals for the good of the group. Any meeting needs scheduling. Arrangements must be made to ensure a rewarding and productive gathering. By pretending to reject groups or organizations, such responsibilities are avoided.

A muscle that goes unused atrophies. Yahweh wants involvement from His people. They in turn will grow, strengthen, and be qualified for rulership. No one can effectively rule in the Kingdom if he has not learned to get along successfully with others now.

Which Organization Is The Right One?

But the question arises, how can we determine which is the correct group? Does the Bible give us a clue to the characteristics of True Worshipers? How can we know which organization is teaching truth? Besides truth of Scripture, what are the other signs that identify the true assembly?

Revelation 14:12 tells of the patience of the saints who keep the

commandments of Yahweh and the faith of Yahshua,

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of Yahweh, and the faith of Yahshua.

The saints, then, must be willing to endure situations that may not be pleasant. They will be hard put to stand fast in the truth. Conditions will be brought that will severely test their dedication and resolve to be true to the end. Much of their faithfulness will be tested as to whether or not they will keep Yahweh's commandments.

While the teaching is plain from Scripture that the Messiah came and fulfilled the sacrificial law and animal offerings of temple whorship, many religious groups have taught that all the Old Testament laws were abolished. Now we are obligated to follow only the New Testament teachings of the Messiah and the writings of Paul, they teach.

But Revelation 14:12 and many other New Testament verses maintain that Yahweh's law is still in effect. A careful study of those verses that purportedly teach the doing away of Yahweh's law do not teach that at all; in fact, these verses teach the keeping of the law.

We Must Have Yahshua's Faith

The latter part of Revelation 14:12 tells of the saints who have kept the faith of Yahshua Messiah. Not faith IN Yahshua, but the same faith He had. They have the same faith that allowed Yahshua to withstand all His trials and persecutions and permitted Him to continue unwavering on the course that was set before Him, which led to His death on the tree. This is the same unyielding faith His followers are to exhibit and maintain unto the end. It is this group of believers that will give a resounding "yes" to the question raised by the Messiah in Luke 18:8:

When the Son of Man returns, will He find the faith on the earth?

He also refers to those inheriting the Kingdom as "a little flock,"

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom, Luke 12:32.

Characteristics of the True Body

There are certain hallmarks that characterize the true Body of believers. Here are a few of the more obvious:

- The true Body of Messiah is obedient to all the commandments of Yahweh, Revelation 14:12; 22:14.

- They observe the weekly, annual, and Sabbatical sabbaths because these observations are a sign between Yahweh and His

people, Ezekiel 20:20.

- His people will know His Name and use it, Isaiah 52:6; His people will be hated because of His Name, Matthew 24:9; but they will not deny it, Revelation 3:8.

- His people will be humble and obedient and called by His Name, 2 Chronicles 7:14.

If a religious group is not keeping all these signs of the true Body of Messiah, they are probably not His Body. This list is in no way complete, but will help to reveal those who are striving to declare the whole counsel of Yahweh,

For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of Yahweh, Acts 20:27.

The closer an organization adheres to the truth of the Scriptures, the fewer there will be in that group.

While many claim to use the Bible as their guide, tradition plays a big part in many of the doctrines that are taught,

Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men, Mark 7:7.

Others may essentially ignore entire sections of the Bible, such as the Old Testament or the Book of Revelation.

But seek the Kingdom we must. The gate is strait, and the way narrow,

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, Matthew 7:13-14.

Yahshua has set up His Body of called-out ones with individuals possessing talents to guide and lead those assembled. Paul wrote about these in 1 Corinthians 12:28 where he mentions first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, miracle workers, healers, helps, guides, and tongues. He further mentions the various parts or

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Mini - Study



Worship Today

Direct parallels exist between the Old Testament sacrificial system and modern worship. As Israel was to come before Yahweh, we are to appear in worship before Him now.

Bible commentators have pointed out that Yahweh took only six days to create this world, but took 30 days to reveal to mankind His prescribed and proper worship, Ex. 40:17-Nu. 1:1.

The worship Yahweh expects and desires of us is very precise, and building the proper spiritual character within mankind requires much time. Even getting His attention is prescribed for us in His word, and we must diligently seek Him.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to Yahweh must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him," Heb. 11:6.

The Corban Offering

Notice Lev. 1:2: "...If any man of you bring an offering unto Yahweh, you shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock." This voluntary offering is known as the "corban," an admittance or approach offering.

To approach a monarch or superior in the East, a gift is brought to secure an audience with him. It is often referred to as "the face-offering." After the "corban" was accepted and admittance gained, then the real offering or present was given.

members of the Body in Romans 12:6-10:

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.

Paul Lists Duties in the Body

Paul became more and more mindful of the part each member of

the Body played in becoming a part of the Body. In Ephesians 4:11, he was inspired to write of the offices or jobs that would be available to those in the Body. He begins with apostles, then prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers. Paul then points out that these were placed in the Body for the building up of the assembly. Each of us has a place in the Body and we are to unitedly advance to the oneness of the faith, to a fuller knowledge of the Son of Yahweh. Growing in the Messiah is both an individual and a collective effort,

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Messiah: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Yahweh, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Messiah: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, Ephesians 4:12-14.

Those claiming to go it alone are rejecting one of the most rewarding and necessary areas of growth. We all have a part to play, a role to fill in the Body of Messiah. We may not be the eye or the tongue, but if we are the toenail, we should be the best toenail the body has.

To be a part of Yahshua's true assembly, we must find our niche and help the other members of the Body achieve their full potential.

We must realize like Paul, that when we have helped another believer along the way to the Kingdom, it is as if we had done it to the Savior Himself. All members of the Body must work together to be a full-bodied assembly counsel of Yahweh, Acts 20:27.

Elder Donald R. Mansager

<from **Heaven** page 7>

"Who has ascended into Heaven?" The answer is, "Yahshua, and no one else, at this time."

"Do we go straight to heaven when we die?" Especially, as is conceptualized today, with brethren receiving wings and entering into the pearly gates of heaven and resting on clouds looking down on the earth playing harps? The answer from Scripture is a resounding, "No."

For further study, see our mini-study on the question of, "Do You Have an Immortal Soul?" Studies, which we provide as a free service, are to help you go to the source, the holy Script, for the answers.

Elder David Brett

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Mini - Study



Does Acts 20:7 Teach Sunday Worship?

Was Paul really preaching on Sunday in Acts 20:7? A close look dispels this popular belief and discloses important days for observing today.

A MOST CONTROVERSIAL AND DEBATED passage in the entire New Testament is found in Acts 20:7: "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."

Often cited as proof that the early disciples had been instructed by the Savior to observe Sunday, this verse supposedly shows that they were indeed now keeping the first day of the week instead of observing the day we know as Saturday.

Certain translations of this passage render it the same as the King James Version, namely, "the first day of the week." However, other translations render it Saturday night (New English Bible, Good News for Modern Man). How are we to understand this enigmatic passage?

Churchianity's understanding of this passage is divided. Those who worship on Sunday insist this is a powerful passage in support of Sunday-keeping, and is a paramount verse used to show that the Apostle Paul was now keeping Sunday as a day of worship.

But Sabbath-keepers contend that it is indeed a Saturday evening message Paul preached that lasted into the night, into the first day of the week that begins at sunset (known to us as Sunday). They cite verses 8 and 9 to substantiate that it was evening and that there were many lights in the upper chamber. The evidence indicates that this latter understanding provides a clearer explanation. Biblical days end with sunset as well as start at sunset.

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Mini - Study



Do You Have an Immortal Soul?

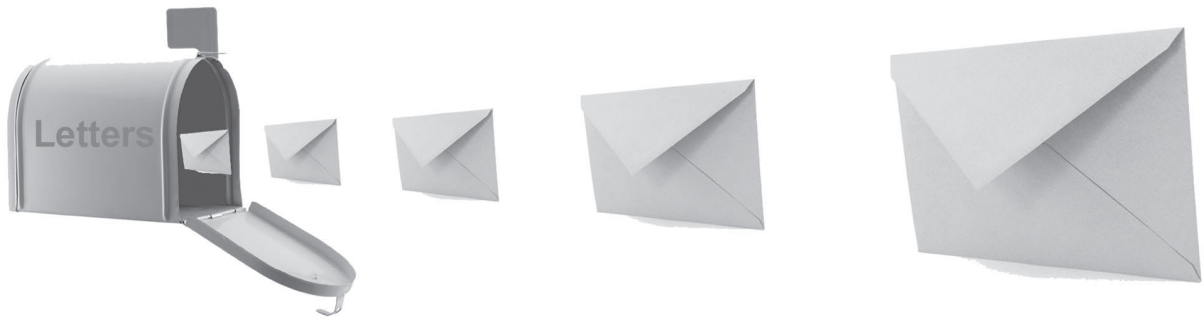
Churchianity in general teaches that the real you, the real person, is living in a fleshly, temporal body. Our fleshly body is likened to a container of sorts that is embalmed at death and buried in the ground while the real person, the real you, is invisible, having wafted off to heaven – or maybe to an ever-burning hellfire. This ethereal something is referred to as the "soul".

"His soul has departed from the body and is now in heaven with the Lord" is a popular summation of death at many funerals. Often the eulogy alludes to whatever attributes of the deceased are suitable, and concludes by noting that the dead person is actually more alive than ever without the body. The person's body is about to be put in the ground to await the resurrection to heaven, but the soul is already there according to the popular belief.

No Immortal Soul in Scripture

Yahweh's Word presents an entirely different picture of the "soul." Try to find the expression "immortal soul" anywhere in the Bible. It is not there! Nowhere does the Bible declare that the soul or body is naturally immortal. In fact, the opposite is true. Souls can be destroyed. The body is not the soul, because Yahshua said Yahweh is able to destroy both body AND soul:

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell," Matt. 10:28.



Thank you for all the work you do to get Yahweh's truth out to us all. May He bless each and every one of you with His love and protection. — **LC, AK**

Greetings in our Father's Sacred Name. And, may His peace and grace be with you always. Thank you so much for the CDs and your publications. You are a great help to me here. I wish I could do more to help the ministry from here. I share what you send. — **LF, OH**

I am writing to let you know that your ministry has helped me grow in our Savior Yahshua. I just want you to know how grateful I am for all that you have done for me. May Yahweh continue to bless you in all you do for Him. — **TW, PA**

Thank you so much. I just received a package of information from you: mini-studies, booklets and the new Beacon magazine. I devoured all of it within a couple of days and now I am pouring over it in detail so that I can share the information with others and respond to their questions. I am so grateful for your swift response to my request. — **RS, OH**

Let me start off by telling you how much I appreciate your studies. I LOVE THEM. Thank you all so much. These studies mean so much. I glean so much from your information and eagerly wait for the next set of booklets. I use them in group studies and individual lessons. I just wanted you to know how much your ministry is appreciated. — **RU,**

I just want to say, along with the tithe I am sending, that you are my family now, and I am honored to be a part of the assembly. I know this journey won't be too easy, but I will be obedient and stay the course because I have found this new freedom in Yahweh and He has opened my eyes to the never ending love He has for me. Furthermore, I will not let this opportunity pass me by to grow in understanding and wisdom. Thank you for all your literature. May Yahweh continue to bless everyone in the assembly.

I cannot begin to express how happy I am about the materials received from you previously. Everything I have received has been viewed over and over. Thank you so much. I also received my first Beacon, and never before have I read a publication from cover to cover upon first receiving it. My only disappointment was that it seemingly ended so quickly. As always, I will be eagerly awaiting the blessing of an envelope from YAIY in the next mail. — **ML, CO**

How are you all doing? Well, I pray. May Yah and Yahshua bless you all over and over for the wonderful work that you all do. Praise the name of Yah forever. Thank you so much for the booklets you have sent to me. Yes, they are loaded with information. Yah is the Creator of all things. Yes, He sure is. Take care and keep up the good work. May Yah and Yahshua keep you all safe at all times. — **MI, NC**

Thank you for all your good work. May Yahweh continue to bless you all. — **LC, PA**

Thank you so very much for mailing me your DVDs of your Sabbath services and Bible lessons. I watch them every Sabbath because I do not have a place nearby to attend where they keep the Sabbath and Holy Days. I wish I could have fellowship with other believers who are teaching and preaching the truth. I wish I could meet with all of you. — **SA, OH**

Hello. I am writing to you today to thank you for your wonderful booklets and to thank you for all you do. — **AH, TX**

Greetings in the name of Yah! I am writing to say thank you for everything you all have done and sent me. Your literature is excellent and filled with such great truth. May Yahweh continue to bless you all and continue to give you understanding. — **TH, NV**

The Almighty bless you for sending us your literature. We enjoy reading it as it leads us every time to find more about our Savior. — **MO, TX**

Greetings in the name of the Most High, Yahweh. I was recently blessed with a copy of "The Mistaken J." Wow! Praise Yahweh for a ministry which publishes truth. I am very eager for any and all material you can send me. — **JN, FL**

I want to thank you very much for the well received Beacon. It is great. Have a great and blessed day. — **GG, CA**

I am delighted with all of the material that you have sent to me. It has been a great help. All of my life I have been ignorant of the blessings of obedience that come through remembering to keep the Sabbath to keep it holy. Please send me more material on the Sabbath and Halloween, and all of the pagan holidays so that I can use them to teach the truth that makes people free. Thank you for distributing the truth that makes people free. You are doing a great work for Yahweh our Great Elohim.— **CG, GA**

My sincere greetings to you all at YAIY. And, also my thanks to you for sending me the YAIY Beacon. It is loaded with beautiful studies. — **RA, CA**

I hope this finds you all well. I wanted to let you know that I think your articles are Yah blessed. I thank you for caring for so many people where I am. May Yahweh continue to use you and bless your work and all parts of your lives. — **KF, NC**

Greetings in the name of Yahweh. I pray that all is well and that your work is prospering. I want to acknowledge the receipt of the DVDs you sent. I thank you for providing spiritual meat for the hungry. We have a great opportunity before us for getting Yahweh's truths out. May we be faithful in the work at hand for fast approaching is the hour of darkness, a time when no one will be able to work. — **RA, KS**

I pray that this letter finds you and your assembly in good health and filled with joy. I found myself thinking about you today as I often do and I decided to send you a short scroll. I wanted to say "thank you" for all of your help and guidance over the years. Our telephone conversations so often provide a great deal of comfort. There are so many times that I don't know where I'd be without your support. Once again, thank you. — **DS, MO**

Brother, let me start off by saying the latest Beacon I received recently is an awesome read. I open and begin to read the pages and immediately I feel Yahweh speaking to me through the pages. I am going to make this a slow read so I can absorb all of the information given. Your information in the literature has given me a greater understanding of the word and it should be spread across the world.—**TC, OH**

Greetings and blessings to you and your amazing ministry. All glory and praise to Yahweh through His Son our Savior Yahshua the Messiah. I thank you so much for all you provide. This is the time to be disciplined and brought out of churchianity. Thank you so much for all your publications and I look to study them for years to come. I cannot express my thankfulness to Yahweh, through Yahshua, for being brought to your ministry. — **DR, NV**

Greetings and blessings in the name of Yahweh. First off, let me just say thank you for providing such great literature. It has been extremely helpful in my walk and studies. I would like to ask you for the Bible Correspondence Course you offer. Thank you all again for everything your ministry does and you are always in my thoughts and prayers. — **TH, NV**

Thank you so much for the Beacon and all the information that is in it. Wow! Praise you. Your magazine has helped us to really understand so many things. For sure, yes, it has. — **MI, NC**

I continue to be awed by the way Yahweh is using your ministry. I have seen so many positive reactions as truths are being revealed. All that can be done is to plant the seeds and to use the many resources received from you in doing so. Praise Yah and continue to pray. — **ML, CO**

I want to thank you for the information you have sent me thus far. I also want to thank you for the Bible Correspondence Course. It has been very uplifting for me and helped me to grow in Messiah. Please put me on the mailing list for the Beacon magazine. — **RH, PA**

Thank you for sharing the wisdom of the words of Yahweh. Blessed be the Elohim. Please know I am humbled by your help you bring to the people that are hungry for understanding. — **JS, GA**



Revealing the Truth

Yahweh's Assembly in Yahshua's television program is on the air in the cities listed below. Visit www.yaiy.org for the latest information and to download select programs.

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Mondays, 2:30 am

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USA, Kentucky, Highland Heights
Campbell County Community Media, Channel 17
Wednesdays, 5:30 pm; Fridays, 10:00 pm

USA, Massachusetts, Mashpee
Mashpee Public Access, Channel 99
Saturdays (Sabbath), 11:00 am; Fridays 3:00 pm

USA, Massachusetts, Sandwich
Sandwich Public Broadcasting, Channel 13
Saturdays (Sabbath), 3:00 pm

USA, Missouri, Columbia
Columbia Access Television, Channel 3
Sundays, 8:30 pm; Mondays, Wednesdays, 2:00 pm

USA, Missouri, Jefferson City
Jefferson City Access Television, Channel 3
Mondays, 11:30 am; Fridays, 8:30 pm

USA, New Mexico, Albuquerque
Quote...Unquote, Inc., Channel 27
Sundays, 5:00 pm

USA, New Mexico, Los Alamos
Public Access Channel, Channel 8
Check local listings for air times

USA, New York, Rotterdam (Upstate New York)
Time Warner Cable, Channel 18
Mondays, 7:30 pm

USA, New York, Schenectady
Schenectady Public Access, Channel 16
Tuesdays, 7:00 pm

USA, Oregon, Ashland
Rogue Valley Community Television, Channel 15
Saturdays (Sabbath), 5:00 pm

USA, Oregon, Portland
Portland Community Media
Channel 22 - Tuesdays, 10:00 am
Channel 23 - Saturdays (Sabbath), 8:30 am

USA, Oregon, Salem
CCTV, Channel 23 - Thursdays, 5:00 pm;
Fridays, 1:30 pm; Sundays, 2:30 pm

USA, Oregon, Salem
KPJC 1220 AM (Hebrew Nation Radio*)
Monday thru Fridays, 1:30 am, 12 Noon;
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