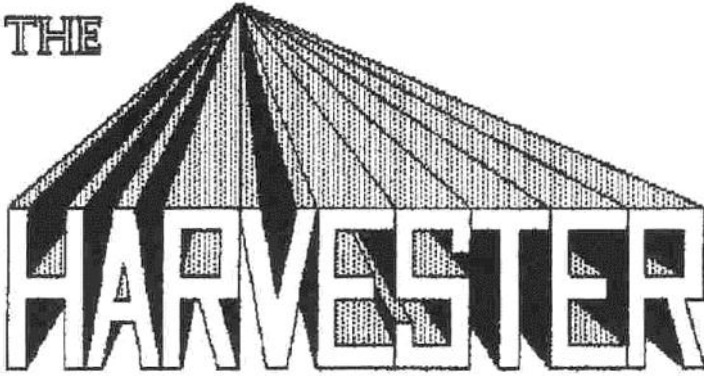


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*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)*

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## THE SOUL OF MAN

Science can tell us many things about the human body. Since every living man has one, it is a topic of interest to most people. The more we know about our body, the better we can take care of it.

There is another thing that every living man has, yet is often neglected: the soul. Likewise, the more we know about our soul, the better we can take care of it. The soul is not visibly observable like the body, so to

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gain knowledge about it, the best source is God's Word. Why? The soul was created by God.

*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Gen. 2:7)*

*The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life. (Job 33:4)*

We will examine eight more facts about the soul that are found in God's Word.

1. The soul is distinct from the body. It can be separated from it.

*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. (Mat. 10:28)*

2. The soul is worth more than all treasure we could gather on this earth.

*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8:36-37)*

*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: (Mat. 6:19)*

3. The soul may be summoned by God and held accountable to Him.

*But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? (Luke 12:20)*

4. The soul has a conscious existence after death. Consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus:

*And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. (Luke 16:22-25)*

5. The soul will be immortal if it is faithful to God.

*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. (Mat. 10:28)*

*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2 Cor. 5:1)*

6. The soul that follows God is promised eternal life.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

*Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting. (Luke 18:28-30)*

*For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. (Gal. 6:8)*

7. The soul is what makes man different from animals.

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (Gen. 1:27-28)*

*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Gen. 2:7)*

8. The soul is in need of salvation. This is the most important thing to know about the soul. Without this knowledge, we have no hope of eternal life.

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (Rom. 3:23)*

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we*

*have turned every one to his own way;  
and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isa. 53:6)*

*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8)*

Adapted from a sermon by JOE YOUNG  
(Deceased)

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## APOLOGIA

QUESTION: In Ezra 9:12 we read:

*Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever:*

In Ezra 10:17, we find that men in Judah put away their "strange wives" to be in obedience with the Law. What about those women who had married "strange husbands?" We find no mention of them.

ANSWER: It appears in the Old Testament that man usually occupied a preferred status over the woman. This is evident in Genesis 2:18, 20-25 where we see that woman was created as a "help meet" for man. It also evident in wording regarding adultery under the Old Law, where the man may take any action against his new wife (Deut. 22:13-21) and in Deuteronomy 24:1-4 where the man is permitted to "*send her out of his house.*"

This is evident also in the New Testament reference to Creation and the relationship between

man and woman.

*Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety. (1 Tim. 2:11-15)*

As it relates to Ezra 9:12, however, Moses had plainly written that to which Ezra referred in Exodus 34:16 and Deuteronomy 7:3-4. Nehemiah repeated these requirements in Nehemiah 10:30 and 13:25.

Submission of the men who had taken "strange wives" is clearly noted in Ezra 10:12 and 17, but no mention is made of the women who had become wives of the forbidden peoples.

*Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do. (Ezra 10:12)*

*And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month. (Ezra 10:17)*

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It is to be noted that among those putting away their "strange wives" were many of the Levites and priests (Ezra 10:18-44).

Two possibilities seem probable as to what happened to the women married to "strange husbands." First, the Law of Moses (God's law) plainly stated that such should not have been done (Deut. 7:3-4) either by man or woman. If such a situation did exist, then the consequence should have been the same with women as with men. Second, it is likely that such situations were few, if any. Normally the wife would reside with the husband in his own land, which in this case would have been at Babylon to where God's people had been deported for seventy years. The wife, therefore, would not have accompanied those who returned to Jerusalem, but would have remained with her foreign husband.

We are not informed as to the situation in question, thus we can only present these possibilities. Where God has not revealed all the details we might desire to know, we must be content to observe what is revealed, make appropriate conclusions, but not speculate too far in uncertainty. Moses wrote,

*The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law. (Deut. 29:29)*

HARRY COBB  
(Wedowee, AL)

# Gospel Meetings

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DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
November 2 - 4	Ephesus Congregation Ephesus, GA	Donald Thompson (Wedowee, AL)
November 2 - 4	Estesburg Congregation Eubank, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. On which day of creation did God bring about humans?
2. Joshua sent out two spies to investigate Jericho, and they stayed with a woman named Rahab, whose occupation was what?
3. According to Jeremiah's final prophecy, which nation was "a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunk?"
4. In the letter to the Romans, where did Paul say he planned to go before he could visit Rome?
5. According to 1<sup>st</sup> John, what three elements bear witness on Earth?

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**Contentment lies not in getting  
more— but in wanting less.**