**BIBLE QUESTIONS: SESSION 15**

**Questions: What happens when a person dies? Is there a separation of body and soul? If so where does the soul of the saved and unsaved go? What is soul sleep and what cult teaches this? In heaven, do the saved continue with their own personality? What kind of body do they have?**

1. **What happens when a person dies?**
   1. The immortal soul separates from the mortal body.
      1. immortality of the soul means that the soul does not die or cease to exist with the death and corruption of the body.
      2. After the resurrection, we will be given immortal bodies.
         1. Saved will have Spiritual bodies without no corruption (1 Cor 15:44)
         2. The Damned…their worm will never die, fire never quenched (Mark 9:48, Isaiah 66:24)
   2. Evidence for the eternal immortality of the soul is attested to in 1 Samuel 28:12-19, Luke 23:43, 1 Peter 3:19-20, and Revelation 6:9-10
      * 1. Some claim Annihilism, which teaches that the damned simply cease to exist. This is clearly not biblical.
        2. destroy the body but cannot destroy the soul (Matt. 10:28)
           1. Although this passage says God can destroy the soul in hell. Nevertheless, it draws the distinction,, funcitonally saying that no one (except God) can destroy the soul.
2. **Is there a separation of body and soul?**
   1. yes
3. **Where does the soul of the saved and unsaved go?**
   1. Saved go to a safe place with God, the unsaved go to a place of torment. We can call these places “heaven” and “hell” respectively; However,
      1. This heaven is not the “New heavens and New earth” (Rev. 21) or “New Jerusalem” (Rev. 3:12, 21:2) which is the destination of the saved after the resurrection. Rather, it is a place for the soul to wait for the resurrection
      2. This “hell” is not to be confused with the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10) prepared for the devil and his angels, which the resurrected bodies of the damned will be cast into after the judgment. (Matt. 25:41)
   2. Saved go to “Abraham’s Side”, unsaved “Hades.”
      1. Luke 16:22-23: The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, **23**and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.
         1. This passage is prior to the resurrection of the dead because the rich man expresses concern for his five brothers who are still alive and
   3. Saved souls go to “Paradise”
      1. Luke 23:43 **42**And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” **43**And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
   4. Saved are placed under the altar of God
      1. Revelation 6:9-11 **9**When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. **10**They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” **11**Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.
   5. Unsaved go to “prison”
      1. 1 Peter 3:19-20 **19**in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, **20**because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.
         1. This specifically speaks of those who were disobedient in the days of Noah. Therefore, this is not demon spirits, but the souls of people.
   6. Note: In the Old Testament, “Sheol” was often talked about generically as the place of the dead. Sheol is always referenced as a place removed from God’s presence, so it would likely be hell, hades, prison, referenced above.
4. **What is Soul Sleep?**
   1. The false doctrine that the dead lose all consciousness until the resurrection. This is directly contradicted by:
      1. Revelation 6:9-11 (souls under the altar cry out to God) and Luke 23:43 where Jesus from the cross tells the thief “*Today* you will be with me in paradise.”
   2. “Soul sleep” is based on a twisting of Scripture where the New Testament speaks of death as a “sleep”. However, this is a euphemism used to teach the resurrection, that the dead will arise, just as those sleeping awake. To those who remain on earth, the dead are as sleeping, because they cannot interact with us. But they are not sleeping in the sense that they are unconscious.
      1. “She is not dead only sleeping”
      2. Also from a misreading of Job and Psalms which talk about how the dead cannot praise God. Again, only from the perspective of the living.
5. **What cult teaches soul sleep.**
   1. Jehovah’s Witnesses. They are a cult because they don’t confess the Triune God, but claim that the Son is of Subordinate Divinity to the Father.
   2. Seventh Day Adventists teach this as well. Although they have many false teachings, including Judaizing, they are not a cult in the full sense because they do confess the Tri-unity of God.
6. **In heaven, do the saved continue with their own personality?**
   1. Presumably yes, insofar as they are the same person. The saved will be the same, only without sin; the unsaved will have nothing but sin and torment.
      1. There’s not much direct scriptural evidence of the personality of dead souls, except the rich man in Hades (Luke 16) who remained arrogant, selfish, and unrepentant.
7. **What kind of body do the dead have?**
   1. The dead have no body, they are pure spirit. However, they are somehow localized without a body, and are even given white robes (Rev. 9:11).