

Lesson 5

1. MAN'S MORTALITY – THE MEANING OF SOUL

Death is the cessation of life, thought and action. The doctrine of the immortality of the soul is the lie the serpent taught. Christ brought life and immortality.

"Soul" in the Bible is used in many different ways:-

Genesis 12:5	It defines the bodies of men
Numbers 31:28	It is used for men and beasts
Proverbs 19:15	It is capable of hunger
Job 33:22	It goes into the grave.
Psalms 30:3	It comes out of the grave
Genesis 1:30	Birds, fish and animals have souls

The Bible word "soul" is used frequently in the sense of mind, disposition, life. Though the word "soul" is used 800 times in the Bible, it is never referred to as immortal.

The mortality of man is emphasised in many passages of the Bible for the whole purpose of God's Word is to reveal to men a way of escaping from death's domination. He may die but it is possible for God to make him live again, i.e. resurrect him.

Some of the passages that speak of man being mortal are:-

Job 4:17	Rom. 8:11	"Mortal man"
Gen. 3:19	Job 34:14-15	"He returns to dust"
Psa. 6:5	Psa. 146:3-4	"No knowledge in death"

2. THE BRINGING FORTH OF SIN

Eve's desire was the legitimate result of her God-given appetite for things. Sin is "brought forth" only when desire is consummated in unlawful action.

God had said "Ye shall die", the serpent said "Ye shall not die". While Eve believed God's Word involving the dire consequences of sink her natural desires were held in check and she refrained from sin. When she was deceived into believing he lie, the restraint which had held back her natural desires was removed and her desires were exercised in an unlawful manner. God ha set a line beyond which she must not go. Now she crossed that line and became a sinner. Her desire was consummated and brought forth sin.

Adam's offence was different. With full knowledge that Eve had transgressed the commandment and knowing the consequence, he deliberately chose to be united with his wife in sin and consequent death rather than to be at one with God (I Tim. 2:14). His was an act of rebellion which he sought to justify. The woman Thou gavest me" i.e. the one of whom You said "man shall cleave unto his wife They shall be one flesh".

Perhaps Paul has these things in mind when he says by one man sin entered And also by man came death (bearing in mind John's definition "Sin is lawlessness").

TEACHING METHODS

1. Confine comments in this lesson to the essential principles as it is easy to fall into the error of including ideas which are not revealed.
2. Emphasise the consequences of sin, not speculation on uncertain detail surrounding its introduction.
3. Establish a firm foundation for future lessons on Gen. 3:15
4. Refer specifically to quotations concerning immortality and eternal life.