

2nd October 2016

## The nature of Man – Pt 5 Is made up of soul, spirit & body.

We previously established that the nature of man is inherently sinful. None are righteous, none understandeth, and none seeketh after God, he does that which is right in his own eyes, and rejects instruction, his heart, his mouth and his way are naturally froward, his feet are swift in running to mischief, he worships the works of his hands and serves divers lusts. In this teaching we establish that the nature of man includes a soul, spirit and body, and these three are one.

### Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

#### 1. Man's nature includes his spirit.

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit...be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Thes.5: 23).

A man can have a strong spirit (Lk.1: 80), his spirit can be – troubled (Gen.4: 18, Dan.2: 1 & Jn.13: 21) and stirred (see Acts 17: 16), made willing (Ex.35: 21), and can be made hard (Deut.2: 30). When a man dies, his spirit leaves him (Jud.15: 19). The Lord God in heaven communicates to a man's spirit (2Chr.36: 22), and it is through his spirit that man perceives (Mk.2: 8).

#### 2. Man's nature includes his soul.

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul...be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Thes.5: 23).

Man is a living soul (Gen.2: 7). His soul can be subverted (Act.15: 24), troubled (Jn.12: 27), sorrowful (Mk.14: 34), and he loves with his soul (Lk.10: 27), and it is his soul that is saved (1Pet. 1: 9).

#### 3. Man's nature includes his body.

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Thes.5: 23).

Additional comments on our three points.

A man is made up of spirit, soul and body (these three are one), as is –

"the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" (1Jn.5: 7).

Water can be in three states – water, ice and steam – and these three are one.

### Applying the teaching to our life today.

If a Jehovah Witness came knocking at your door and spoke about the soul, he would turn to his bible in Gen.2: 7 – "Jehovah God proceeded to form the man out of dust from the ground and to blow into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul [Hebrew, ne'phesh]." He would then point out that "The Hebrew word ne'phesh, translated "soul," means 'a creature that breathes.' When God created the first man, Adam, He did not infuse into him an immortal soul but the life force that is maintained by breathing. Therefore, "soul" in the Biblical sense refers to the entire living being. If separated from the life force originally given by God, the soul dies."

### Questions to think about.

Two questions – (a) is your soul your body, and (b) does your soul cease to exist when you die?

My answer to our two questions from the scriptures.

a) no – our soul is distinctly different to our body (Heb.4: 12).

b) The Lord Jesus' soul went down to hell, so how can a man's soul cease to exist when he dies.

The only way a man will exhort and convince the gainsayers, those who are deceived by believing a lie like the Jehovah Witnesses, is to firstly have the holy scriptures, then believe them, and also know what they say. And the scriptures say that "the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow..." (Heb.4: 12). Remember the nature of man is made up of – soul, spirit and body, and these three are one.