

The Church of Christ @ Fremont

3361 W. State Street, Fremont, OH 43420

Worship Services

Sunday Bible Study 10:00 am
Sunday Worship 10:45 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Classes for all ages

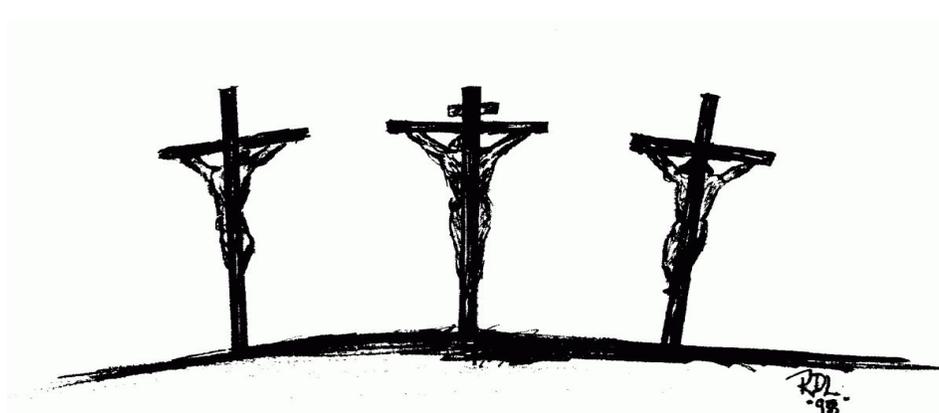
Preachers: Ted Bowen and Sean Rizer

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Learn the truth (Hear) (John 8:32; 17:17; Rom 10:14-18)
2. Believe in Christ (John 8:24; 20:31; Heb 11:6)
3. Repent of all sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; Rom 2:4; 2 Cor 7:9,10)
4. Confess faith in Christ (Rom 10:10; Acts 17:30; Matt 16:16)
5. Be baptized into Christ for remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
6. Live faithfully (Revelation 2:10)

7 THINGS TO REMEMBER DURING THE LORD'S SUPPER!

- 1 LORD. "There is one Lord." (Ephesians 4:5)
- 2 THIEVES. "There were also 2 others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death."
(Luke 23:32)
- 3 CROSSES. (Luke 23:39-43; Ephesians 1:7)
- 4 PARTS of HIS GARMENTS. "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier, a part, and also the tunic." (John 19:23)
- 5 WOUNDS. His head was crowned with thorns. His back was scourged.
His side was cut open. His hands were pierced. His feet were pierced. (John 19-20)
- 6 HOURS of AGONY. Christ was crucified at the 3rd hour and died at the 9th hour.
(Mark 15:25-37)
- 7 SAYINGS of The CROSS. (Matthew 27:46; Luke 23:34, 43-46; John 19:26-30)



July 31, 2022

Songs & Lord's Supper:

Chris Frantz

Speaker: Ted Bowen

Wednesday Song Service

Birthday

- 03 Mack Stanley
- 14 Brian Wagner
- 16 Ashley Hall
- 19 Judson Appelhans
- 27 Connie Rowan
- 29 Heidi Frantz
- 31 T.J. Smith

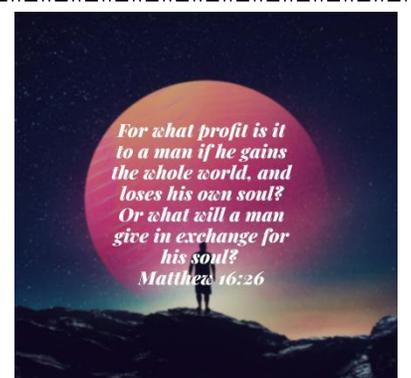
Anniversaries

- 29 Jim & Jean Adkins
- Aug 4 Tony & Tina Smith

Prayer List

Gen Stanley
Jean Adkins
Tina Smith
Tony Smith
Betty Davis
Kathy Foos
Mack Stanley
Jacob Runion

For what profit is it
to a man if he gains
the whole world, and
loses his own soul?
Or what will a man
give in exchange for
his soul?
Matthew 16:26



STEWARDS OF THE SOUL

*“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?
or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:26)*

A steward is responsible for something entrusted to him. Human beings are stewards of their souls, made in the image of God. Man’s body and soul are gifts involving his stewardship. The soul is the inner, invisible part of man including his heart or mind. The soul thus controls the body and utilizes it as an instrument of its will for good or evil. Each of us will give account to God for the use of our body and soul. This stewardship of body and soul makes possible every other phase of our stewardship.

Soul Created by God in His Image

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him” (Gen. 1:26). God is a spiritual being without a body of flesh and blood, but the spirit of man created in God’s image lives in a fleshly body. Soul and spirit are often used as synonyms (Isa. 57:16). Every soul enters the body and the world innocent, free from sin, just like Adam and Eve, because God alone is “the father of spirits” (Heb. 12:9).

Soul Inhabits Body

The body was created from the dust of the ground to serve as a home for the soul (Gen. 2:7). When the widow’s son died, “there was no breath [neshamah] left in him,” but Elijah prayed, “O Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child’s soul [nephesh] come into him again.” The Lord answered this prayer and “the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived” (1 Kgs. 17:21-22). The soul leaves the body in death and returns in the resurrection of the body.

The Soul Alive Separate from the Body

“The body without the spirit is dead” (Ja. 2:26). At death, the soul lives without the body in sheol (Hebrew term) or hades (Greek term). David prophesied the resurrection of Christ in these words: “His soul was not left in hell [hades], neither his flesh did see corruption” (Ps. 16:10; Acts 2:31). It is clear that the soul is not annihilated at the death of the body but remains in sheol or hades until the body is raised. The soul of Jesus did not remain in sheol but returned to the resurrected body.

In the parable of the rich man, Jesus pictured God telling the carnal, self-sufficient rich man, “Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee” (Lk. 12:16-21). The story of the rich man and Lazarus confirms that the soul survives the death of the body. Both the rich man and Lazarus died and entered the hades world. Their souls were conscious, they knew themselves, and they knew each other (Lk. 16:22-25). Both Jesus and the penitent thief died and were buried, but the inner man or soul of each person went to a paradise prepared by God in the hades realm (Lk. 23:43).

Functions of the Soul

The soul has a mind, intelligence, and rationality. It is capable of understanding right and wrong, and making a choice based on understanding. “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul” (Ps. 19:7-8). The soul is capable of comprehending facts and information (“that my soul knoweth right well,” Ps. 139:14), and remembering them so as to make rational and right choices in the conduct of life (Deut. 4:9; 11:18).

Love and hate are functions of the soul. God abhors false religion and sinful man abhors God's Word: "my soul shall abhor you....their soul abhorred my statutes" (Lev. 26:30, 43). We are to love the Lord with all the heart, soul, and mind (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37).

Grief and hope are functions of the soul. As the body suffers excruciating pain, the soul within mourns (Job 14:22). We "lay hold on the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul" (Heb. 6:18-19). The soul filled with hope is well anchored against the trials, temptations, and tragedies of life.

The soul functions in prayer, worship, and service to God. Repentance leads the erring back to God, "if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul" (Deut. 4:29). Hannah's "soul," "heart," or "spirit" was active as she grieved and fervently prayed for a child (1 Sam. 1:10:15). In Psalm 42, the soul of David deeply longed for and sought God when surrounded with enemies, dangers, and temptations:

*As the hart panteth after the water brooks,
so panteth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God:
when shall I come and appear before God?*

*Why art thou cast down, O my soul?
And why art thou disquieted within me?
Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him,
who is the health of my countenance, and my God.*

It is clear from such passages that the soul longs, is discouraged or cast down, hopes, and praises.

The Soul Accountable to God

The soul must give account for itself to God. This accounting is individual and personal: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die....Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive" (Ezek. 18:4, 27). The seat of volition, will, or choice is the soul, and so it is the soul that makes choices and must give account for them.

In view of the coming judgment, Paul prayed, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body by preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:23). The "you" wholly sanctified by God through His Word is "your whole spirit and soul and body." "Spirit" and "soul" refer to the invisible nature of man and "body" to the visible. "Spirit" points to man's eternal, immortal nature, "soul" to the life or vitality of his nature, and "body" to the home of the invisible nature of man. The soul bears the blame and guilt of sin, or enjoys the absence of blame and guilt.

The soul can be punished and tormented, or rewarded and comforted. "Both soul and body" will be cast into the eternal torment of hell, which is what it means to "lose" the soul (Matt. 10:28; 16:26). Knowing how grievously the soul suffers under the heavy yoke of sin and guilt, Jesus promised, "I will give you rest....ye shall find rest unto your soul" (Matt. 11:28-29). In hades awaiting the final judgment, the rich man was "tormented in this flame" while Lazarus was "comforted" in Abraham's bosom (Lk. 16:23-25).

The Soul Saved

Our soul can be saved from sin and punishment before the final judgment day. God provided a way of forgiveness of our sins through a perfect sacrifice, the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son (Lev. 17:11; Jn. 1:29; 1 Jn. 4:10). The individual soul avails himself of the cleansing blood of the Lamb by obeying

the gospel of Christ. Money cannot redeem the soul, but we are saved “by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot....seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth” (1 Pet. 1:18-22). Though fleshly lusts “war against the soul,” Christ protects and delivers us as “the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls” (1 Pet. 2:11, 25).

Our sins are forgiven when we submit to the gospel by faith, repenting of every sin, confessing Christ as God’s true Son, and submitting to water baptism. Jesus promised, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,” which is equivalent to receiving the “remission of sins” (Mk. 16:16; Lk. 24:47). Those who are saved from their past sins look forward to “the final salvation of your souls,” when on the last great day we receive “an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Pet. 1:9, 3-5).

The Soul Immortal

Our soul passes through three stages of existence, reflecting its immortal nature. First, the soul inhabits the earthly body (Ja. 2:26). Next, in death the soul inhabits hades without its body, a state compared to a naked person, one without clothes (2 Cor. 5:3). There it waits in torment or comfort to enter its final state in heaven or hell. Finally, our souls will inhabit the resurrected body, and we will suffer the eternal torments of hell or the eternal bliss of heaven, both body and soul (Jn. 5:28-29).

What Kind of Stewards?

How we handle the stewardship of the soul determines ultimately how we handle every other stewardship God gives us. If we are failing in these stewardships, it is because we are failing in the stewardship of the soul. If we give attention and diligence to the stewardship of our soul, we will do the same toward every other stewardship.

In Matthew 16:26 Jesus challenges us with the question, how much do we value our souls? “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” The soul is eternal and immortal. Will we exchange the eternal happiness of our soul for a moment’s pleasure, or for the sake of our own stubborn will? We should be willing to make any sacrifice and pay any price to obtain the hope of eternal fellowship with God in heaven!

Let us resolve to be good stewards of the soul, and we will become good stewards of all other blessings and duties given to us by God