



Daily Verse and Comment

Ezekiel 18:4

(4) Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Ezekiel 18:20

(20) The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

King James Version

The church of [God](#) does not accept the Doctrine of the [Immortality of the Soul](#), instead believing God's Word, which says indisputably, “The soul who sins shall die” ([Ezekiel 18:4](#), 20). One of the very first things God taught Adam in the Garden of Eden was the consequence of [sin](#): “you shall surely die” ([Genesis 2:17](#)), a truth the serpent hastened to contradict ([Genesis 3:4](#)).

In the New Testament, [Jesus](#) teaches in [Matthew 10:28](#): “Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in [hell](#) [*Gehenna*, a symbol of the Lake of Fire (see [Revelation 20:11-15](#))]”. Paul writes, “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” ([Romans 6:23](#)). Humans are mortal, and God must give eternal life; we do not have it inherently (see [Romans 2:7](#); [I Corinthians 15:53-54](#); [I Timothy 6:16](#)).

We believe that man indeed has a spirit ([Job 32:8](#)), “the breath of the Almighty [that] gives him understanding,” but that it is not his soul. When

combined with a human brain, the human spirit allows a person to have the powers of mind. When he dies, the body returns to the dust, but his spirit returns to God ([Ecclesiastes 12:7](#)), who safeguards it as a record of his life.

Solomon also informs us that “the dead know nothing” ([Ecclesiastes 9:5](#)), and “there is no work or device or knowledge or [wisdom](#) in the grave” (verse 10), meaning that there is no consciousness in death. The person knows nothing, learns nothing, communicates nothing, does nothing—until the [resurrection from the dead](#) when God will unite that spirit with a new body, either a spiritual body or another physical body, depending on the resurrection (see [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#); [John 5:24-29](#); I Corinthians 15; [I Thessalonians 4:13-18](#); Revelation 20).

— Richard T. Ritenbaugh

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