

## TRUTH AND LIFE IN CHRIST

Do you find yourself under stress lately? Are the pressures of life getting to you? Well, the Bible is very clear about the time frame were living in. **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:1** says “know this, that in the last days perilous times will come”. **This word perilous means:** treacherous actions of a traitor, treason, acts of disloyalty, to cheat, dangerous, violent, fears, wild, difficult, grievous, hard to bear, distressing. Wow! After all that said, this describes the present time we’re living in. That being the case, you can see clearly why there is such an attack on the minds of people in these trying times.

Mental health issues are on the increase, creating more problems in our society. The soul of man is so unique because it is the very life of man’s existence. The Scripture **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:45** says “The first man Adam became a living being.” Now our translator used the word “being” which holds a truth that he is now alive. But he was never designed for physical death, because life existed out of his spirit through the physical. The scripture should have been translated “The first man Adam became a living soul.” After the fall of Adam, humanity began to lose his spiritual identity. It was a slow process and we don’t really know how long it took, but we do see the loss of spiritual identity defined in **Genesis 6:3**. “And the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh;’” **The Hebrew word for strive means:** to rule, to govern, to sway, judge or regulate. Do you ever wonder why the members in Adams family lineage lived so long? God was still walking with them according to their spiritual life; He still had influence over their thought life.

**Humanity was unaware of the concept of a physical death** until God could no longer rule over the inner thought life; the soul of the man. **Genesis 6:5** says “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Spiritual death is when a man has lost his real identity as a spiritual being; the part of him that never ceases to exist. That’s the part of Adam that originally existed with God and had communication with God in the Garden of Eden.

**Genesis 6:11 + 12** says “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth”. It is very clear now when you read **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation”. This word creation means “back to his original formation”.

So today, a person that is a new creature in Christ can once again communicate with God through his spirit; just as in the beginning, the same way God spoke with Adam. I heard an Old Testament scholar give the Hebrew meaning for the verse in **Genesis 2:7**. It should have been translated “man became a speaking spirit” when God formed Adam out of the dust of the ground and breathed in him. (**Hebrew:** the breath of lives—plural) Humanity had no concept that the nature inherited from Adam after the fall would grow in his earthly being until he died physically.

This is very interesting, but there is no mention of medical science accessible until after the flood of Noah’s time. (**Genesis 8:1**) So why should we even venture into this teaching about the soul of a man? I feel it’s very important to know and understand that the soul contains the mind of the spirit and the mind of the flesh. Proverbs has a lot to say about the soul (thought life) and how it affects each individual. I want to call your attention to a scripture in **Proverbs 29:18**. **The Hebrew word for the phrase;** “where there is no ‘revelation’” is “hazon”. **This means:** The revelation a prophet gives, the people cast off restraint. This word for restraint means left naked, and no protection. Or we could say it this way; that without a word from God people abandon themselves to their own ways. **Hosea 4:6** says “my people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge”.

In the next newsletter we will be explaining the soul and how it functions. I want to give you a clear understanding how Satan’s methods penetrate our soul; being able to dismantle us through deception and stress. The verse in **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:11** Paul says “lest Satan should take advantage of us”. We are currently living in difficult and perilous times. When we read **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:1**, along with the list of things to expect it can be somewhat depressing. But there is good news! As believers, God has not left us alone. We have the tools not only to survive, but to overcome in these present times.

Happy New Year!

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Pastor Jann recommends the book:

**Last Days Survival Guide** BY Rick Renner

