



Battle for
Immortality

Q_{uest}
for
Eternal
Life

Dr. Lester Sumrall

STUDY GUIDE

**INDIANA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

**THE
BATTLE
FOR
IMMORTALITY**

A Lecture Series by
LESTER SUMRALL

This special study guide is a college workbook. The space prepared for your personal notes is for the text to grow into your own material. A video and audiotape is available to assist you.

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STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

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LESSON 1

WHAT IS IMMORTALITY?

INTRODUCTION:

In this lesson we will explore twelve pertinent truths regarding immortality.

Immortality is probably the most exciting of truths. Most of the things we know on planet Earth have a beginning and an end. Even human beings, who are immortal, die and pass from the immediate scene of history.

Mankind is involved in the mortal manifestation, the temporal experience of the immortal creature. However, we can step into the beyond to comprehend immortality.

Man's greatest desire is for immortality. Man was created for immortality.

READING:

Isaiah 57:15, *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

Romans 1:20, *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*

1. IMMORTALITY IS LIVING FOREVER

- A. Deuteronomy 32:40, *For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever.*
- B. Deuteronomy 33:27, *The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.*

What is Immortality?

Lesson 1

We have direct relationships with Eternalness.

He is our refuge.

His everlasting arms uphold us.

2. IMMORTALITY IS BEING FIRST AND LAST, AT THE SAME TIME

Immortality is not subject to chronology.

- A. Isaiah 41:4, *Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.*
- B. Exodus 3:14, *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

3. IMMORTALITY IS ENDURANCE

- A. Psalm 90:2, *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou are God.*
- B. Proverbs 8:23, *I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.*
- C. Revelation 1:8, *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*

4. IMMORTALITY IS IMMUTABLE

Hebrews 6:17-18, *Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:*

v. 18, *That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.*

What is Immortality?

Lesson 1

5. IMMORTALITY IS UNCHANGEABLE

- A.** Malachi 3:6, *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*
- B.** Hebrews 7:22-24, *By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.*
 - v. 23, *And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:*
 - v. 24. *But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.*
- C.** James 1:17, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

6. IMMORTALITY IS ETERNAL DOMINION

Revelation 11:15, *And the seventh angel sounded: and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

7. IMMORTALITY IS INVARIABLE AND INFALLIBLE

- A.** James 1:17, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*
- B.** Acts 1:3, *To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*

8. IMMORTALITY IS INCORRUPTIBLE

Romans 2:23, *Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?*

What is Immortality?

Lesson 1

9. IMMORTALITY IS RELATED TO ALMIGHTINESS

Genesis 17:1, *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.*

10. IMMORTALITY IS PERFECTION

Matthew 5:48, *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

11. IMMORTALITY IS TAUGHT BY CHRIST

John 4:10, 14, *Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*

v. 14, *But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

- A. Christ taught that it was a gift.
- B. He taught that it was sufficient and continual.
- C. Christ said that drinking it meant that you would never thirst again.
- D. He said it was refreshing like cool water in a desert area like Samaria.
- E. Christ said it was life!

12. THERE ARE THREE GREEK WORDS FOR LIFE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. *Bios* is biological or natural life like animals have. Men who have not been born again live this type of life. It has to do with only the natural physical functions of the body.
- B. *Psyche* is soulical life. This has to do with life lived in the mental, emotional, and willpower areas of the soul.

What is Immortality?

Lesson 1

- C.** *Zoe* is the God-kind of life. It has to do with a spirit that has been reborn. It is *Zoe* life that Jesus offers, and describes as true immortality.

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LESSON 2

WHO HAS IMMORTALITY?

INTRODUCTION:

The true source of immortality is of the highest importance. It is a question 6,000 years old—as old as man.

For example:

Is man more than dust and air?

Is man an eternal creation to abide forever?

Is man born of eternalness and immortality?

The only one who could promise immortality is one who is immortal. I accept the truth of man's immortality by its infallible proofs in Acts 1:3.

The human person is not mortal. He is not subject to annihilation or extinction.

The Greek word for immortal is *aphthartos* which means “not corruptible” or “not perishable.”

God's Word speaks of immortals as those beings who exist before and after time.

READING:

I Timothy 6:16, *Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*

1. WHO AND WHAT DOES NOT HAVE IMMORTALITY?

The best method of penetrating the truth of immortality is to study the nature of things about us. These are some things which are not forever:

A. Earth and heaven are not eternal.

Revelation 21:1, *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away. . .*

Therefore, the present heavens and earth are not everlasting.

B. Tears are not eternal.

Revelation 21:4, *. . . And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; . . .*

C. Death is not everlasting.

Revelation 21:4, *. . . there shall be no more death. . .*

D. Sorrow is not forever.

Revelation 21:4, *. . . neither sorrow. . .*

E. Crying is not perpetual.

Revelation 21:4, *. . . nor crying. . .*

F. Pain is not forever.

Revelation 21:4, *. . . neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

G. Darkness is not eternal.

Revelation 22:5, *And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

H. Mountains do not possess immortality.

Revelation 16:20, *And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*

Who Has Immortality?

Lesson 2

- I. The sun does not possess immortality.

Revelation 21:23, *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it; for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

- J. The seas and the oceans are not forever.

Revelation 21:1, *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

2. WHO DOES POSSESS IMMORTALITY?

- A. God the Father.

I Chronicles 29:10-13, *Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.*

v. 11, *Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.*

v. 12, *Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.*

v. 13, *Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.*

This is a glorious and wonderful insight into the eternalness of the Almighty!

- 1) Revelation 1:8, *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*
- 2) Romans 1:20, *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*
- 3) Deuteronomy 32:40, *For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever.*

Who Has Immortality?

Lesson 2

- 4) Deuteronomy 33:27, *The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.*

B. God the Son.

- 1) II Timothy 1:9-10, *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*

v. 10, *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

- 2) Revelation 22:13, *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*
- 3) Revelation 11:15, *And the seventh angel sounded: and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

C. God the Holy Ghost.

- 1) Hebrews 9:14, *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*
- 2) Genesis 1:2, *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

D. Angels

Revelation 7:11-12, *And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,*

v. 12, *Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.*

Who Has Immortality?

Lesson 2

E. The Believer

John 3:15-16, *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

v. 16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

F. The devil

Revelation 20:10, *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

G. Bad Men

Revelation 20:11-15, *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

v. 12, *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

v. 13, *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

v. 14, *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

v. 15, *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

H. Demon angels

Revelation 14:9-11, *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*

v. 10, *The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:*

Who Has Immortality?

Lesson 2

v. 11, *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

Immortality is a proven fact. To say it does not exist is the same as denying the law of gravitation.

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THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 3

MAN WAS CREATED FOR IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Man has been in hot pursuit of immortality for 6,000 years.
- B. The Holy Grail was sought for by the knights of King Arthur's Round Table.
- C. The Spanish adventurer Ponce de Leon spent time and fortune seeking the Fountain of Youth.
- D. King Herod took hot baths at the Sea of Galilee, where the medicinal warm waters still continue to attract wealthy people seeking extended years.
- E. From where did this inherent desire for knowledge of perpetuity and immortality come?

It came from birth to the human race at the maternity ward in the Garden of Eden. God spoke immortality into the human heart.

Genesis 1:26-28, And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

v. 27, So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

v. 28, And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

READING:

Romans 2:7, *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.*

1. MANKIND LONGS FOR IMMORTALITY

Man's deepest desires are for immortality. He wants to live, yet Satan inspired men and organizations to teach millions of people to deny the everlasting entity of man.

Immortality teaches that though man had a beginning, he has no ending. On the first page of the Bible, recording the beginning of rational existence on planet Earth, God created man in His own image and likeness.

God has given man the ability to swing bridges across the chasms, to construct buildings a thousand feet into the air and to project a television image 22,300 miles to a satellite in the twinkling of an eye.

This is part of man's functioning and revealed desires for immortality. Man alone on planet Earth stands in solitary splendor of immortality!

2. MAN'S SEARCH FOR IMMORTALITY

Matthew 19:16, *And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?*

Man has never lost hope in his search to understand immortality.

3. ONLY GOD CAN INFORM AND GUARANTEE MAN'S IMMORTALITY

I Corinthians 15:53-54, *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

v. 54, *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

4. THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE HUMAN SOUL TEACHES IMMORTALITY

I Peter 3:4, *But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*

5. DEPARTURE FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN VEILED THE IMMORTALITY OF MAN

Genesis 3:22-24, *And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

v. 23, *Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*

v. 24, *So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

From the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were driven from the presence of God and the tree of life. Otherwise, they would have lived forever in earthly immortality.

6. MAN'S ARRIVAL IN THE NEW JERUSALEM

Revelation 22:2, *In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

Calvary is that tree of life where all mankind can eat and live forever.

7. MAN IS UNIQUE IN HIS IMMORTALITY

On planet Earth, immortality is limited to man.

All earth's treasure and beauty are to be consumed at the end of the age. Only man survives this earth.

Revelation 20:11, *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

Revelation 21:1, *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

8. MAN'S MORTALITY HIDES HIS IMMORTALITY

- A. Christ reveals man's eternal relationships.

Philippians 3:21, *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

- B. II Timothy 1:8-10, *Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;*

v. 9, *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*

v. 10, *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

9. THE HIDDEN SECRET OF IMMORTALITY

To the sinner, the ungodly, and the wicked, immortality is a secret.

- A. John 12:24, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*

- B. I Corinthians 15:36, *Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die.*

No seed lives to produce until after death. Life is the fruit of death. Life is the perpetuation of death.

- C. Romans 6:5, *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.*

We shall bear fruit in this life if we understand immortality and live by divine principles of truth.

10. MAN'S IMMORTALITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN UNDER ETERNAL ATTACK

Some of the major areas of attack against man's immortality involve:

- A. The devil and his lies subverting truth,
- B. Heathen religions and cults, and
- C. Humanism falsely teaching man that he is an end in himself.

11. MAN'S GREATEST QUESTION IS WHETHER OR NOT HE IS IMMORTAL

Thoughtful minds seek answers:

- A. What fate awaits man when he dies?
- B. Is life a candle consumed by its own activities?
- C. When the curtains of death are pulled, what about the soul of man?
- D. Does it fold its wings in annihilation?
- E. Is man indestructible, possessing an inner person of divine creation with the God-essence of immortality?

12. WHAT IS MAN'S ANSWER?

- A. He comes to a Savior, the Lord Jesus.

II Timothy 1:10, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

- B. At the end of human life, he gives himself back to God.
Luke 23:46, And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

- C. In His resurrection, Christ became man's total answer to immortality.

I Corinthians 15:20, But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

**13. MAN DEMANDS AN ANSWER BECAUSE LIFE IS INCOMPLETE
HERE**

- A.** Death is a separating of the spirit of man from his corporal body. Death is a hallway into super-abundant living and the giving up or the giving back of the spirit of man to God.
- B.** Soloman wrote in Ecclesiastes 8:8, *There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.*

**14. MAN'S CONCEPTION OF IMMORTALITY GOVERNS HIS EARTHLY
LIFE AND HIS ETERNAL LIFE**

- A.** Voltaire said, "I must die abandoned by God and man."
- B.** D.L. Moody said, "When you read in the paper I am dead, don't believe it. I shall be more alive than ever before."
- C.** Science offers volumes of words with no fundamental basis.
- D.** Philosophy offers volumes of words with no fundamental basis.
- E.** Poetry described it, but cannot define it.
- F.** Music sings about it, but in the end leaves man in the dark.
- G.** Christ is the total answer here and hereafter.

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THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 4

THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

There are many battles seen and unseen, visible and invisible. The heart and mind of man are battle zones. All satanic attacks are against immortality, but immortality will be Satan's down fall.

God, in sovereign power and infinite wisdom, conceived the manner of permitting Adam and Eve, man and woman in union, to produce immortal creatures.

Man (*homo sapiens*) is unique in that he has the ability to bring into being eternalness—his sons and daughters.

Man alone stands in solitary splendor of immortality. All of earth's treasure is to be consumed.

Every temptation from the devil strikes at the immortality of men.

READING:

Revelation 12:7, *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.*

1. CHRIST SPOKE OF THE DEVIL'S HATRED FOR IMMORTALITY

John 10:10, *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

The Battle For Immortality

Lesson 4

It is obvious that an unseen battle is raging for the immortal soul of man. Christ said the devil is:

- A. A thief.
- B. A killer.
- C. A destroyer.

2. THE DEVIL HATES MAN'S IMMORTALITY, KNOWING HE IS DESTINED TO SPEND HIS ETERNAL EXISTENCE IN TORMENT

Revelation 20:10, *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

3. SATAN HATES ETERNITY

The devil would certainly hope to cease being, rather than spend eternity in the lake of fire, paying for his rebellion. However, he is immortal and cannot cease to exist. God has predetermined Satan's end, and there are not enough forces in hell to alter God's determinate counsel.

As the prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 46:9, *Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.*

v. 10, *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.*

4. SATAN CANNOT CHANGE HIS OWN DESTINY

The devil realizes this and is, therefore, busy attacking the destinies of those whose immortality has yet to be determined.

Deuteronomy 30:19, *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.*

5. SATAN WANTS TO DESTROY MAN AND BRING THE HUMAN RACE INTO AN IMMORTAL STATE OF TORMENT TO ACCOMPANY HIM AND HIS ANGELS

Matthew 25:41, Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

6. SATAN ETERNALLY HATES GOD

This is the reason for the battle between Deity and devils for immortality which Satan has initiated.

Paul, speaking of the coming Antichrist, wrote in II Thessalonians 2:4, *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

7. SATAN KNOWS THAT HE CANNOT DESTROY GOD

This is why he attacks the thing closest to God—Man, made in the very image of God and breathing the very breath of God.

Genesis 1:27, So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 2:7, And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

8. SATAN'S ATTACKS IN THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY CAN BE LIKENED TO TERRORIST ATTACKS

Terrorists seldom attack the governments which they hate. They attack a member of the private sector in an attempt to influence the government to yield to the terrorists' demands. Satan knows that he cannot conquer God, but feels he can affect God by taking mankind captive.

As terrorism rises astronomically in our world, so will the satanic terrorist attacks accelerate in the last days. For example, in 1972 there were 206 terrorist incidents in the world. But eleven years later in 1983 there were over 3,500. The rate increase from 206 to 3,500 in just over a decade reveals demonic fury.

The Battle For Immortality
Lesson 4

We have the Red Brigade of Italy. We have Carlos, the international terrorist who eluded world officials. We have the PLO—the Palestinian Liberation Organization that tries to be recognized even though it is a terrorist organization. We have the SLA which is the Symbionese Liberation Army. We have the IRA or the Irish Republican Army. Terrorism is as contagious as small pox.

Jesus speaking of these times, said in Matthew 24:22, 24, *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

v. 24, *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

The battle for the immortal soul of man is reaching a crescendo of violence and human sorrow.

When Christ comes, all trouble shall cease and all promises of immortality shall be fully consummated.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

STUDY GUIDE
INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY
LESSON 5
OF DEITY AND DEVILS

INTRODUCTION:

The battle for immortality is a war in three worlds: heaven, earth and hell. The true warriors are spiritual—Deity and the devil!

READING:

Ephesians 6:12, *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

1. LESSONS REVEAL

As these lessons reveal, there has been a bloody battle roaring in three dimensions since time immemorial. This battle began in heaven when Lucifer was dethroned, and it continued on planet Earth.

It culminated in the bowels of hell when Christ defeated Lucifer and strode forth through the gates of Hades with the keys of death and hell rattling at His girdle.

Revelation 1:18, *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

2. THE BATTLEGROUND

Immortality's battleground has been cosmic, earthly and of the nether-world.

3. THE WARRIORS

Deity, angels, devils and men are the warriors involved in this battle.

4. THE CAUSE OF THE BATTLE

The cause of the battle was jealousy, hatred and pride in the heart of Lucifer, the fallen archangel.

Ezekiel 28:11-19, *Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

v. 12, *Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.*

v. 13, *Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.*

v. 14, *Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.*

v. 15, *Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.*

v. 16, *By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.*

v. 17, *Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.*

v. 18, *Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.*

v. 19, *All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.*

This is dreadful language. Any person can understand that this was not Tyrus, a human being. Tyrus might have been filled with this evil person which is the devil and Satan, but Tyrus did not live in the Garden of Eden and Tyrus had no relationship with “old times.”

Therefore, from the reading of this scripture one very quickly understands this battle began before man was created. Adam became involved in the Garden of Eden through transgression. This brought the battle to earth along with all the sadness of human history.

5. THE RESULT OF THE BATTLE

The result of this battle is the salvation or damnation of the immortal soul of all mankind.

6. NO WAR CHRONICLE LISTS SUCH A BLAZING ARRAY OF EVENTS OR PERSONS

7. TO UNDERSTAND

To understand the world in which we live in this last hour, we must have an understanding of the battle for immortality

8. JESUS DESCRIBED THE BATTLE

Regarding this battle, the Lord Jesus gave a striking parable in Matthew.

Matthew 21:33-41, Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

v. 34, And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

v. 35, And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

v. 36, Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

v. 37, But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

v. 38, But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

v. 39, And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

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v. 40, *When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?*

v. 41, *They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.*

This remarkable story describes the actual history of mankind. Jesus said God planted a vineyard—that is this earth—and that God sent His prophets as stewards or servants to bring back a report to Him, but they were badly treated by the inhabitants. Finally, God sent His own Son to correct the anarchy. When they saw the Son they rose up in anger and killed Him.

This story given by Jesus constituted the Battle for Immortality, of the millennia and generations.

This struggle lasted for 4,000 continuous years from the Garden of Eden to Mt. Calvary. It became the sensation of all ages. It is the most dreadful and actually the only real battle of human history.

9. CHRIST PINPOINTED THE BATTLE

John 10:10, *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

10. THE APOSTLE PAUL DESCRIBED THE BATTLE OF DEITY AND DEVILS

Paul, the apostle, said in Ephesians 6:10-12, *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

v. 11, *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

v. 12, *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

Paul shows us that in the battle for immortality there is more than the natural eye can see. There are principalities or kingdoms of evil that are rulers of darkness. As Christians we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against strange powers. The true battle of the ages is a spiritual one—a battle that cannot always be detected with our five senses.

11. ISAIAH DESCRIBED THE BATTLE OF THE AGES

The great prophet Isaiah takes us a step further in understanding the origin of this awful war. The great prophet, speaking under holy anointing said:

Isaiah 14:12-17, *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

v. 13, *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:*

v. 14, *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

v.15, *Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*

v. 16, *They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;*

v. 17, *That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?*

Now we can see that Lucifer was an archangel in heaven. He possessed tremendous power. He not only weakened nations, but boasted that he would ascend into heaven and put his throne above the stars of God. Verse 16 says that he made the earth to tremble, shook kingdoms and made the world into a wilderness. Only a creature of great power could do such things. Anyone who has seen the devastation of war knows what it means for the earth to tremble. I have seen bombed-out cities from the last war, where a city becomes a wilderness.

God further said of Satan, verse 17, . . .*that opened not the house of his prisoners.*

There are millions of prisoners in this world today bound down by every evil thing that you can imagine, and the devil will not open the prison houses. He will not let them go free. Jesus Christ must set them free!

12. TERMINATION OF THE BATTLE

Revelation 20:1, 3, 7, 10, *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

v. 3, *And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

v. 7, *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

v. 10, *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

The battle of Deity and devils comes to a dramatic finale. The adversary of the Most High is forever incarcerated.

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THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 6

THE SEED TRIUMPHANT

INTRODUCTION:

After the fall of man, (when his spirit died), God continued battling Satan for man's immortality. Now he was living through his physical and soulical parts. God had a plan to bring spiritual life and immortality back to man. This amazing revelation of the seed triumphant is revealed in what we call the Dispensations.

READING:

Genesis 3:4, 15, *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

v. 15, *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

1. SATAN'S ATTACK IN THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE

- A. Satan had been dethroned in heaven and now wanted to dethrone man who had been given great earthly dominion by God.
- B. He attacked man by getting Adam and Eve to submit to the advice of the serpent. We must remember that Adam was given dominion over "every creeping thing" in Genesis 1:26. Now Adam was giving away his authority by submitting to the creeping serpent rather than making the serpent submit to him. Adam listened to the serpent rather than God.

- C.** Satan's objective was to destroy the immortality of man. He knew that man would die in the day that he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God wanted man to live in a state of innocence, never knowing sin. He wanted man to live without ever needing a law to tell him right from wrong. God wanted man to know only good, and not both good and evil.

Man failed in this first plan, but God initiated a new plan. He allowed man to live by his conscience. Man was given, through eating the forbidden fruit, the intrinsic knowledge of right and wrong. This is his conscience.

- D.** The battle during the Dispensation of Innocence.

The Dispensation of Innocence lasted from the Creation to the Fall of Man. We do not know exactly how long a time this was.

- E.** God's plan for man in the Dispensation of Innocence.

God gave man the bounty of the earth as his inheritance.

Genesis 1:29, And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

2. THE DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE

- A.** The Dispensation of Conscience can be defined as a time when men were led by soulical reasoning. God had not given a law or specific set of rules for living, but He built into the heart of every man a conscious awareness of the laws of right and wrong. Today we see people living by situation ethics. The Dispensation of Conscience was the time that God ruled man in this manner. Each person knew what to do in each situation.

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B. Conscience still exists in the heart of mankind.

Romans 2:14-16, *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

v. 15, *Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*

v. 16, *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

C. The Dispensation of Conscience lasted 1,656 years. It began with the Fall of Man and ended with the Flood.

D. God's battle plan for the Dispensation of Conscience.

God did not want to destroy the human family from planet Earth; yet, it seemed the only way to rid the earth of the wickedness of those humans who followed only an evil conscience.

Genesis 6:6-7, *And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*

V. 7, *And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*

He had already prophesied through Enoch that such a destruction would come. Enoch named his son Methuselah which means "at his death destruction comes." For 969 years of Methuselah's life, God held off the destruction, waiting for someone who would follow the good conscience rather than to continually do evil. Finally there came a man named Noah who was righteous.

Genesis 6:8, *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

Through him, God saved the human race. Again, God totally confounded the devil's plan. This time He took one family and preserved the gift of immortality.

3. THE DISPENSATION OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT

- A.** The Dispensation of Human Government can be defined as the time when God turned man from the leading of his individual conscience to the direction of a God-appointed leader. It was during this period that man became responsible to judge other men's actions. For example, Genesis 9:6 relates the first time a directive is given by God that justifies capital punishment of murderers, *Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.*

The first human governor was Noah. He was a just and perfect man before God and his fellow man:

Genesis 6:9, *These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.*

- B.** The dispensation of Human Government was short. It lasted only 429 years, beginning at the Flood and ending at the Tower of Babel.
- C.** God's plan for man in the Dispensation of Human Government was that man would follow a righteous man like Noah.

Since mankind had proven they were bent on following an evil conscience, perhaps they would do better by following one individual who was living a good life.

- D.** Satan attacked the human family in the Dispensation of Human Government by corrupting the leadership. By the end of this dispensation, Nimrod had become a mighty leader of all the earth.

Genesis 10: 8-10, *And Cush began Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.*

v. 9, *He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.*

V. 10, *And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.*

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In his kingdom of Shinar, he united the people under one government. The people were so unified that even God confessed that nothing would be impossible to them

Genesis 11:6, *And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.*

However, the purpose to which they had set themselves was evil and in rebellion against God.

Genesis 11:4, *And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.*

Satan's plan was to take God's system of human government and so totally pervert it that the human family would be in revolt against its Creator.

- E.** God terminated the Dispensation of Human Government with two dramatic events. Both had to do with confusing and disrupting human unity.

He established two great barriers that have divided nations even until today.

- 1) The division of languages.

Genesis 11:7, *Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.*

- 2) The division of natural boundaries.

Genesis 10:25, *And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.*

All ethnic and national divisions occur along these two lines. Politics, religion and ideologies are often considered to be dividers of mankind, but these factors are only minor when compared to the great barriers of language and oceans.

- F.** In ending this dispensation, God chose one man and gave him the promise and privilege of preserving the gift of immortality.

4. THE DISPENSATION OF PROMISE

- A.** To Abraham, God said in Genesis 12:2-3, *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

v. 3, And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

At the end of the Dispensation of Innocence, God spoke a curse upon the earth and the human race. This curse had to do with death and sorrow. Even though immortality was to be preserved through childbearing, it was to be with much pain. Now, as God moves human history into further dispensations, He speaks blessing into existence. This blessing also has to do with immortality. The ultimate blessing of the new age was eternal life through Abraham's seed, Jesus Christ.

- B.** The Dispensation of Promise can be defined as the time when God first asked men to live by faith. He gave them promises and covenants and asked them simply to believe in His trustworthiness to fulfill His promise.

The Dispensation of Promise was short, lasting only 430 years. It began with the call of Abraham just after the Tower of Babel and ended with the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai.

Romans 4:20, *He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.*

Abraham "staggered not at the promise of God."

- C.** God had a battle plan for the Dispensation of Promise.

He preserved one man out of the entire people who continued to believe the promises of God. That man was Moses. God used Moses' confidence in the promises of God to deliver the entire people of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Moses believed God and challenged Pharaoh, the Red Sea, and the Sinai Desert.

Hebrews 11:24-29, *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;*

v. 25, Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

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v. 26, *Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.*

v. 27, *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

v. 28, *Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.*

v. 29, *By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.*

5. THE DISPENSATION OF LAW

- A. The Dispensation of Law is defined as the period of time when God gave a codified system of “do’s” and “don’ts” by which the people were to be justified.
- B. The Dispensation of Law covered some 1,524 years. It began with the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai and ended with the giving of God’s own Son on Calvary.
- C. This dispensation brought blessings and cursings, depending on whether or not the people would follow the written legal statutes.

Deuteronomy 28:1, And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.

6. THE BATTLE RAGES ON

This pattern followed from generation to generation. It is amazing what happened to David when God ordained that through his seed he would bring the Redeemer. The devil tried in many ways to destroy him. He brought a bear against him; God gave him power to kill the bear. Then the devil brought Goliath against him. When David stepped out before the huge giant, the devil said, “Now I will surely take care of this little one and stop the Redeemer again.” God, through the miracle of a small, round stone, caused that mighty giant to fall with a deep impression imbedded in the top of his head. As Goliath fell down dead, God again said, “This is the Battle for Immortality and My Redeemer shall come. He will come through my servant David.”

7. SLAYING THE SEED

On through the story of the kings, for succeeding centuries, the devil persistently tried to destroy Jerusalem where the temple of God was, and to destroy the royal seed, hoping to destroy the promised seed. At one dark moment, Athaliah, a wicked queen, usurper of power, decided that she should slay all the king's sons. This was a master stroke of the devil through this temptress—a wicked, sinful woman—that the Messiah would not be able to come through David. What God did is recorded in II Kings.

II Kings 11:2, But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the kings' sons which were slain; and they hid him, even him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain.

God called Jehosheba to hide Prince Joash. It was through Joash that a continuation of the seed of David was to sit upon the throne of Israel.

8. DARKNESS BEFORE DAWN

A new turn of events in this battle is very sad. It is what we call the dark period—or the period of silence of 400 years before Jesus was born. It seemed to be a waiting period between the devil and God. It was a time when God was not speaking and the devil was lurking everywhere to see where God would strike next and what would happen. He felt the world was on the verge of something—when the sun would rise in brilliance and the Messiah would rise in dazzling strength to “bruise his head.”

9. THE SEED IS BORN

That deadly silence was broken one starry night when the herald angels proclaimed in no uncertain words, “Peace on earth, good will toward men.” The devil heard this angelic message to the shepherds.

Luke 2:10-11, And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

v. 11, For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Satan heard the proclamation that “today a Messiah is born in Bethlehem.” It startled him into action more than he had been for 4,000 years.

He observed what was happening and instantly marshaled all his forces together.

He screamed to his demons: “What shall we do? We have waited for 400 years in this period of silence. Now this promised seed is actually living here on this earth. What can we do to stop him now?”

10. SATAN’S ATTACK

With all his diabolical cunning, Satan entered into King Herod’s heart, and said, “Herod, there’s going to be a king over you. You must destroy this usurper. He is born in Bethlehem!”

Matthew 2:16, Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Herod’s diabolical orders for his soldiers to slay all the babies in Bethlehem and the border towns were carried out. The world still remembers the atrocity of that Satan-inspired act. Lucifer was frightened.

The seed had come to give the fatal blow on his head. He felt impending doom. Now his authority and power to hurt men by diseases and demonic possession would be challenged.

God saw fit to do His wonders also. He caused three wise men to rise up out of the Orient and travel in haste to Bethlehem where they rendered unto Jesus gold for His journey to safety; frankincense because He was the true temple of God, offering worship to the Messiah; and He would go forth with myrrh—the perfume of a king.

God won again in this 4,000 year struggle and Jesus was taken into Egypt. There He was nestled in safety as a fulfillment of prophecy. He must live in Egypt because God said He would bring Him up out of Egypt.

Hosea 11:1, When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

This was the battle for immortality which began in the book of Genesis, on the first page of human history when God said, “And I will put enmity between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” It was a running battle for 4,000 years.

Now the Messiah is on the human stage. This man has come, not the seed of a man, but the seed of woman, who will bruise Satan's head. How will he do it?

11. THE PERSONAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN JESUS AND SATAN

Jesus Christ returned to His own land from Egypt only to discover all hell turned loose against Him.

At the opening of His ministry, there was a great confrontation at the specific meeting place where Lucifer offered Christ all the kingdoms of the world if He would give up the battle and not bruise his head. Christ boldly responded, "Get thee hence, Satan." The hour was dramatically approaching; the deadly blow was about to descend on Satan's wicked head. He battled from without with scheming sinners and from within with weak disciples.

In Nazareth where He grew up, as soon as Jesus announced He was the true Seed and the promised Messiah, performing miracles to prove it, His own fellow citizens of Nazareth pushed Him to the edge of town to a steep precipice, and tried in vain to throw Him bodily into the valley below. They wanted to destroy the Messiah. This was the daily battle with the devil. He inspired politicians and religious leaders to conspire against Jesus.

It is interesting that even the demons, or fallen angels, when He faced them, would scream, "We know who you are, thou holy one of God." No wonder they did. They had been at the devil's conference table when it was discussed that He was born and they had heard their supreme commander Lucifer say, "This is the one who will bruise my head and destroy our work." When they met Him face to face they knew they were not equal to Him—that he would cast them forth by His own mighty power.

12. THIS BATTLE CONTINUED BLOW-BY-BLOW RIGHT TO THE DEATH OF CHRIST.

First was the denial by Peter. The devil put it into his heart. Peter would never have wanted to deny Jesus, but the devil overwhelmed him in a moment of frustration.

Then Judas sold Christ for only 30 pieces of silver. He betrayed his own master, one he loved more than his own father. Judas did love

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Jesus. It was the devil who filled his heart and mind with covetousness and jealousy. Judas was almost an insane man the moment he bargained off his Savior and Redeemer. It was the devil moving in all the fury of hell, with pent-up wrath of 4,000 years, knowing his time had come. He thought it ingenious to cause one of Christ's own disciples to betray Him and sell Him for the price of a slave! Then Satan boasted, "I've won! I've won! My head is not bruised!"

However, he did not know the plan of God. He had not won.

He did inspire a Roman ruler named Pilate to stand up before the people and, like a child, wash his hands in water and say, "This man—His blood is not on me!"

Pilate knew better than this. He was a magistrate—he knew jurisprudence. Yet that day he stood vacillating like a weakling because he was full of Satan's fear. He would not listen to his own wife who had dreamed of the innocence of Christ. Not only the political powers were under the sway of the devil, but the High Priest was deceived also. He did not want to pass an evil verdict against a righteous man. But suddenly he was part of a screaming crowd yelling, "His blood be upon us and our children!" They did not want such a thing to happen! But they were full of the devil at that moment and the devil thought he was winning in this terrible drama after 4,000 years of the battle!

When Christ was being led out to His crucifixion with His back bleeding from the cat-o'-nine-tails, with His brow bleeding from the cruel thorns piercing His head, the devil said, "Now I am winning, there will never be a Redeemer; there will never be a Savior; there will never be a promised seed to deliver humanity. I am going to forever win this battle. I will damn every human being. I will again exalt myself." In fact, all hell held a carnival as the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross. It was the darkest moment of all recorded history. No wonder the clouds covered the earth and lightning swept through the skies with its brilliant blade in cosmic fury!

Again, Satan did not know the divine way of victory. Jesus had to offer Himself as the Lamb of God. His cross became an altar. Jesus was obligated to shed His blood as a propitiation for our sins. He had to die as a sacrifice, not just die. There were creatures down below in chains—the first priesthood—that had to be redeemed. He had to go to preach to them, but the devil did not know this part of the battle. Therefore, when Jesus left the battlefield on Calvary, He quickly

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descended into the bowels of the earth, and found those bound in chains of darkness, who had fallen in the time of Noah (I Peter 2). He preached to those sinful creatures in prison who had been members of the great Melchizedek priesthood, that they might hear the Gospel and be redeemed from their sins if they would receive Him as their savior.

13. THE SEED TRIUMPHANT

The greatest and most exciting moment of all history came three days after the death of Christ. There, up through the caverns of hell—up through the blackness and darkness of the inferno of Hades, we see a bright light approaching! We see One striding forward! We see One so glorious and so majestic! **IT'S JESUS!!!**

Behind Him is the devil lying flat with a bleeding head. His head had been bruised. His head had been broken. The Messiah hit him a deadly blow! You will see dangling at the Messiah's girdle, keys—they are the keys of death and hell.

Revelation 1:18, *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

He is the winner! He is the Savior! As He comes triumphantly back up through the caverns of the dead, He walks back through the grave He had entered and into the golden sunlight of Jerusalem while angels proclaim, "He is not here, He is risen!"

The glorious resurrection story was in action. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the True Seed, had now paid the full price and purchased man by His own blood.

Mankind was now set free from every power, from every disease, from every sin that Satan had placed on him. He possessed freedom through our Lord Jesus, and only through Him.

By His resurrection, the Lord Jesus assumed the primacy of rulership of the whole world. He is now the Lord of lords and King of kings!

14. TRANSFERRED POWER

At the moment of His ascendancy to dwell at the right hand of God, Christ spoke these final words to His evangelists:

Mark 16:15-18, *. . . Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

The Seed Triumphant
Lesson 6

v. 16, *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

v. 17, *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*

v. 18, *They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

He was placing His robe of divine authority around the shoulders of Christian soldiers. They were to exert the power He had gained when He bruised the head of the devil.

Through the centuries, those who have believed in Christ's power have obeyed the injunction to. . .*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you* (James 4:7).

STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 7

THE MARCHING IMMORTALS

INTRODUCTION:

For more than 4,000 years of human history, the battle for immortality raged, with Satan destroying and devouring the human family. Finally, God struck the winning blow—sending His Son, as a member of the human race, lifting humans to the position of conquerors in the battle for immortality.

READING:

Revelation 12:11, *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

Romans 8:37, *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

1. OUR PRESENT DISPENSATION OF MARCHING VICTORY

The Dispensation of Grace can be defined as the period when God gave man His salvation, power and authority through unmerited favor, rather than by man having to keep certain laws or do religious deeds.

Ephesians 2:7, *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

v. 8-10, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

v. 9, *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

v. 10, *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

2. THIS DISPENSATION OF GRACE AND POWER HAS LASTED FOR ALMOST 2,000 YEARS

Beginning at the cross and continuing through the Great Tribulation, this dispensation marches to victory.

3. GOD'S PLAN IN THIS AGE IS TO GIVE TO MAN THE POWER OF SALVATION WITHOUT THE CURSE OF HAVING TO EARN THESE BLESSINGS.

Simply by believing on Christ and being in Him, men can receive the full benefit of all God's blessings

- A. Galatians 3:29, *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*
- B. Romans 8:1, *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
- C. Mark 16:15, *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*
- D. John 1:12, *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*

4. SATAN'S ATTACK ON MAN IN THIS AGE IS TWO-FOLD

- A. First, he tries to convince man that this salvation by grace is too easy. He makes men believe that they must also keep certain laws or regulations.

The Scripture teaches that it is foolishness to believe that the keeping of ordinances can add to what God has done through grace.

Galatians 3:3, *Are ye so foolish? having begun in the spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

This was one of Satan's major attacks on the church in the New Testament period.

Acts 15:1, *And certain men which came down from Judæa taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.*

The Marching Immortals
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This lie is still being used today to trick men and women into believing that they have to help earn their salvation by their good works.

- B.** Secondly, he tries to convince men that they are saved by grace, that they can sin and get by with it. The Scripture is explicit that once a person is saved by grace, he should no longer practice sin.

Romans 6:1-2, 15, *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

v. 2, *God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

v. 15, *What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*

Galatians 5:15, *But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.*

5. GOD HAS A SPECIAL WEAPON HE IS USING IN THE BATTLE OF THIS PRESENT DISPENSATION

The person of the Holy Spirit is the key to the Dispensation of Grace and the revealer of immortality.

6. OUR SERVICE TO GOD IN THIS DISPENSATION COMES TO US THROUGH THE SPIRIT

Romans 7:6, *But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.*

7. OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD COMES THROUGH THE SPIRIT

Romans 8:15, *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

8. THE KEY TO VICTORY COMES THROUGH THE SPIRIT

Romans 8:26, *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

9. LIFE AND PEACE COME THROUGH THE SPIRIT

Romans 8:6, *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

10. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SEAL OF THE PROMISE AND THE DOWN PAYMENT ON ETERNAL LIFE—IMMORTALITY

Ephesians 1:13-14, *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel or your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

v. 14, *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

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THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 8

**PHYSICAL DEATH
AND IMMORTALITY**

INTRODUCTION:

Man's most frightening mystery is what happens to him at death.

Can the inexplicable be explained?

Can man possibly survive after death?

READING:

I Corinthians 15:54, *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

1. GRAND EQUALIZER

Physical death is the grand equalizer. It is the phenomenon of most "general interest" on planet Earth.

2. TOTAL APPOINTMENT

Total mankind has an appointment to meet death.

Hebrews 9:27, *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

3. CERTAINTY AND UNCERTAINTY

In a generation of uncertainty, you can certainly count on death.

4. POPULAR STUDY

Death has become one of the most popular subjects to study in universities and colleges. Students are intensely interested; they have group seminars on the subject.

In one school students lie in a casket or coffin, seeking to know the death experience.

5. SCIENTISTS EXPLORE

Today, scientists study this topic to experiment. Some are doing research studies on the far frontiers of human existence.

People are dying to know where they are going when they die.

Explaining the inexplicable.

The world's most dramatic mystery.

We have the Iron Curtain and the Bamboo curtain, yet death is the greatest curtain. It hides the life after death. It divides:

- A. Time from eternity,
- B. Space from the beyond, and
- C. The finite from the infinite.

Man is not equipped mentally or spiritually to adequately comprehend eternity.

Who wants to be "the late" Mr. so and so?

6. DEATH IS AN ENEMY TO MAN

Revelation 21:3-5, *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

v. 4, *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

v. 5, *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

Physical Death and Immortality
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I Corinthians 15:26, *The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

Death is the last enemy.

Death is not a friend to man.

7. DEATH IS A CURSE

God said in the day you rebel, you shall die.

Genesis 2:17, *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

8. LIFE AFTER DEATH IS IMMORTALITY

All human persons experience life after death.

It is not the quantity of living, but the quality.

God only has contact with the total of all dead.

The Bible answers every inquiry concerning the dead.

The pagans have a special relationship with cemeteries. They believe in vampires, zombies, ghosts and ghouls.

9. THE RESURRECTION AND IMMORTALITY

A. Acts 7:53, *Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.*

v. 54, *When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.*

v. 55, *But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,*

v. 56, *And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.*

v. 57, *Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,*

v. 58, *And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.*

Physical Death and Immortality
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v. 59, *And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.*

B. John 11:25, *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.*

C. Philippians 1:21-23, *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

v. 22, *But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.*

v. 23, *For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.*

D. Luke 23:43, *And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

E. John 14:1-3, *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

v. 2, *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

v. 3, *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

F. John 12:26, *If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*

G. II Corinthians 5:8, *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

10. THE UNHOLY WILL EXPERIENCE IMMORTALITY

A. Luke 12:20, *But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*

B. Revelation 20:12-14, *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

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v. 13, *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

v. 14, *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

- C. II Peter 2:9, *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.*

11. SALVATION IS A RESURRECTION TO IMMORTALITY

- A. Ephesians 2:1-2, 6, *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

v. 2, *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

v. 6, *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*

- B. Ephesians 4:21-24, *If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:*

v. 22, *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

v. 23, *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*

v. 24, *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

- C. Colossians 3:10, *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.*

- D. I John 3:9, *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

- E. Romans 6:11, *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

12. WHO BELIEVED AND TAUGHT RESURRECTION?

A. Job

Job 19:25, *For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.*

B. Isaiah

Isaiah 26:14, 19, *They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise: therefore hast thou visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish.*

v. 19, *Thy dead men shall live, together with my body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.*

C. Daniel

Daniel 12:2, *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

D. David

Psalms 16:10, *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

Psalms 17:15, *As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*

E. Jesus

Matthew 16:21, *From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.*

Matthew 22:23-31, *The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,*

v. 24, *Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.*

v. 25, *Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother.*

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v. 26, *Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.*

v. 27, *And last of all the woman died also.*

v. 28, *Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.*

v. 29, *Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.*

v. 30, *For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.*

v. 31, *But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,*

v. 32, *I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.*

Luke 14:14, *And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.*

F. John the Revelator

Revelation 20:4, *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

G. Peter

I Peter 1:3, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

I Peter 3:21, *The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

H. Paul

Romans 1:4, *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

Romans 6:5, *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.*

I Corinthians 15:12, *Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?*

13. CHRIST CHANGES MAN'S MORTALITY TO IMMORTALITY

Philippians 3:21, *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

14. CHRIST THE REVEALER OF MAN'S IMMORTALITY

II Timothy 1:10, *But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

15. THE HIDDEN SECRET OF IMMORTALITY

John 12:24, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*

I Corinthians 15:36, *Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:*

No seed lives to produce until after death. Life is the perpetual fruit of death.

Romans 6:5, *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.*

There is much fruit in life if we move toward immortality.

16. TEN QUALIFICATIONS FOR IMMORTALITY

1) Be in Christ.

I Thessalonians 4:16, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.*

II Corinthians 5:17-18, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

v. 18, *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*

2) Be Christ's.

I Corinthians 15:23, *But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

Galatians 5:24, *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

3) Be blessed and holy.

Revelation 20:4-6, *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

v. 5, *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

v. 6, *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

Hebrews 12:14, *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.*

Physical Death and Immortality
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4) Be good.

John 5:28-29, Marvel not at this: for the hours is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

v. 29, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

5) Be worthy.

Luke 21:36, Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the son of man.

6) Be in the Church.

I Corinthians 12:13, For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Ephesians 1:20-22, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

v. 21, For above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

v. 22, And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.

7) Be pure.

I John 3:2-3, Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

v. 3, And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

8) Be without spot or wrinkle.

Ephesians 5:27, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Physical Death and Immortality
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9) Live and walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:19-21, Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

v. 20, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

v. 21, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

10) Walk in the light.

I John 1:7, But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Colossians 2:6, As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.

17. IN RESURRECTION BE LIKE YOUR ORIGINAL SELF

I Corinthians 13:12, For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

18. IMMORTALITY IS TAUGHT IN NATURE

I Corinthians 15:35-54, But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

v. 36, Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

v. 37, And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

v. 38, But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

v. 39, All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

v. 40, There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

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- v. 41, *There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.*
- v. 42, *So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:*
- v. 43, *It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:*
- v. 44, *It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*
- v. 45, *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*
- v. 46, *Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.*
- v. 47, *The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.*
- v. 48, *As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.*
- v. 49, *And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*
- v. 50, *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*
- v. 51, *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*
- v. 52, *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*
- v. 53, *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*
- v. 54, *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

19. GOOD AND EVIL WILL BOTH EXPERIENCE IMMORTALITY

Poisonous seeds reproduce the same as good seeds.

John 5:28-29, *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,*

v. 29, *And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

Daniel 12:2, *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

20. IMMORTALITY BY CREATION

Man made in the image and likeness of God.

Genesis 2:7, *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

21. THE PURPOSE OF GOD IN CREATION—LIVING FOREVER

A. II Corinthians 5:8, *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

B. I Thessalonians 5:10, *Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*

C. I John 5:11, *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

22. MAN'S GREATEST DESIRE IS TO SEE THROUGH THE VEIL OF DEATH

A. What is reality? Is it humanly possible to commute between two worlds? Almost all report that your former life is reviewed quickly.

B. II Corinthians 12:2, *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*

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- C.** Hebrews 11:10-11, *For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*
- v. 11, *Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.*
- D.** Hebrews 12:22, *But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels.*

STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 9

MURDER AND IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

Possibly the taking of human life is the number one blow at the immortality of mankind.

Almost on the first page of human history, and for sure the first page of family relations, an awful blot of murder appears.

READING:

Genesis 4:8-10, *And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*

v. 9, *And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?*

v. 10, *And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.*

1. FROM THE FIRST PAGE OF HUMAN HISTORY

Men have taken the lives of others from the first page of human history to this hour. In our country there is a murder every twenty-four minutes of the year.

2. DECALOGUE GIVEN DIVINELY TO MOSES

In the mighty decalogue given divinely to Moses (the Ten Commandments), the sixth Commandment says:

Exodus 20:13, *Thou shalt not kill.*

The lawgiver, Moses, speaking by the Holy Spirit, said concerning murder:

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- A. Genesis 9:6, *Who sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.*
- B. Exodus 21:12, *He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.*
- C. Leviticus 24:17, *And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death.*
- D. Numbers 35:16, 31, *And if he smite him with an instrument of iron, so that he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death.*
v. 31, *Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death.*
- E. Deuteronomy 19:11-12, *But if any man hate his neighbour, and lie in wait for him, and rise up against him, and smite him mortally that he die, and fleeth into one of these cities:*
v. 12, *Then the elders of his city shall send and fetch him thence, and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die.*

3. THE WISE MAN SOLOMON SAID:

Proverbs 28:17, *A man that doeth violence to the blood of any person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him.*

4. THE LORD JESUS SAID:

Matthew 19:18, *He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness.*

5. THE GREAT APOSTLE PAUL SAID:

Romans 13:9, *For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

6. THE APOSTLE PETER SAID:

I Peter 4:15, *But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.*

7. THE APOSTLE JOHN SAID:

I John 3:15, *Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

8. MURDER IS A SOULICAL EMOTION

Murder is a soulical emotion which comes directly from Satan.

Matthew 15:19, *For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.*

John 8:44, *Ye are your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

John 10:10, *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

9. UNFORGIVEN MURDER BEARS A PENALTY

A. Revelation 22:15, *For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*

B. Revelation 21:8, *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

C. I John 3:15, *Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

Satan, is a deadly enemy to everything on this planet that bears the image of the Most High and is endued with everlasting energy to live forever. Satan does not want man to live eternally with the true Deity of the universe.

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THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 10

SUICIDE AND IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

Beyond contradiction, these are perilous times in which we live. There is more violence per capita on the earth today than history ever recorded. The problem is not local but worldwide in devastation.

Human relationships are violent: wars, rebellion, overthrowing of governments, crime and divorce. It is a blow at immortality.

Not only are men violent, but nature is violent. There are earthquakes, typhoons and hurricanes, as well as devastating fires in many areas.

READING:

Revelation 21:7-8, *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

v. 8, *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

1. THE TAKING OF HUMAN LIFE

Killing has many forms:

- A. Homicide—A man or woman kills another man or woman.
- B. Patricide—a killer of his or her father.
- C. Infanticide—to kill a baby.
- D. Feticide—abortion.
- E. Fratricide—to kill a brother or a sister.

F. Suicide—To kill oneself.

2. WHAT IS SUICIDE?

- 1) Some physicians call suicide a disease.
- 2) The law calls suicide a crime.
- 3) Religion calls it a sin.
- 4) The Japanese glorify it. (hari-kari—Kamikazi)
- 5) Some Arab Muslims go on suicide missions. The Israelite nation abhors it.
- 6) Ancient Rome condoned it. (Seneca, Hannibal, etc. committed suicide.)

3. GLOBAL SUICIDE IS INCREASING

- A. Self-destruction is part of this global violence and a very pressing problem. It is growing phenomenally, with over 50,000 annually in the United States.
- B. Suicide is looming as a world disaster. At a seminar of doctors meeting in San Francisco, they concluded that millions of humans now living are considering taking their own lives.

4. MEANS OF SELF-INFLICTED DEATH

The UPI news recently stated:

- 1) Some people deliberately overwork.
- 2) Others decide to drink themselves into insensibility.
- 3) Many take an overdose of drugs.
- 4) Some turn on the gas in a closed place.
- 5) Many use firearms and shoot themselves.
- 6) Some use a knife and bleed to death.

5. WHY DO HUMAN PERSONS COMMIT SUICIDE?

Remember, self-preservation is man's strongest instinct; he feeds himself, and he protects himself.

- A. The Associated Press reports over 200,000 Americans attempt suicide each year. . .an attempt every 2½ minutes.
- B. Suicide has become number ten in causes of death in the United States. It is the number one way of dying for those under 30 years of age. Psychiatrists commit suicide at the rate of 70 per 100,000, or four times that of the average white male.

Dentists have an extremely high suicide rate; seven or eight to one over the national average (UPI).
- C. Statistics show more women than men commit suicide. The highest rates are among the middle and upper class people.
- D. Men want to die because of their inability to adjust to a society of violence and moral corruption.
- E. Humans seek suicide because of disappointments, because of failure, and because they become mentally sick.

6. SUICIDE IN THE BIBLE

The following are three of the five suicides mentioned in 1500 years of Bible recording!

A. King Saul:

I Samuel 31:4, Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through. . .But his armourbearer would not;... Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.

- 1) The king realized that he had lost the respect of his people.
- 2) Saul had just lost a battle and had seen his comrades die.
- 3) He had a fear of losing his position in life.

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B. Ahithophel, the counselor of King David

II Samuel 17:23, *And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, . . . gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself. . .*

- 1) Shame
- 2) Guilt
- 3) Alienation
- 4) Feelings of hopelessness
- 5) Failure—great depression
- 6) Distress
- 7) Disappointment in love

C. Judas, a disciple of Jesus.

Matthew 26:14-15, *Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, when unto the chief priests,*

v. 15, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

Matthew 27:5, *And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.*

7. WHO COMMITS SUICIDE TODAY?

Among United States college students, the two leading causes of death are auto accidents and suicide, in that order. Dr. Vincent D'Andrea, a Stanford University psychiatrist who has organized suicide hotlines, peer counselors and dormitory advisers to prevent suicides—says 15 out of every 100,000 students end their own lives each year.

8. WHY DOES A RATIONAL PERSON COMMIT SUICIDE?

The strongest instinct in human nature is self-preservation. For a human to break that power and destroy his life means that he has destroyed the strongest instinct given by God and he is no longer a normal person. He could be possessed.

9. IT IS IMPORTANT TO TEACH THAT LIFE IS PRECIOUS

All parents should teach their children that life is precious and to respect life.

The movie and television industry has done a lot to destroy the values of humanity—many films portray violence. The killers just ride away without burying the dead.

Young people see this cruelty enacted and wonder if life really is precious.

10. IT IS IMPORTANT TO TEACH THAT MAN IS AN IMMORTAL SOUL

- A.** You have no more right to take your life than your neighbor's life. God gives life. . .and it stands to reason that you are not to take life.
- B.** When a person takes his life, he is thrown into the vastness of eternity without God's permission.

11. DISPENSATIONAL SUICIDE IN PROPHECY

- A.** Jesus predicted that in the last days men's hearts would fail them for fear of those things coming upon the world.

Luke 21:26, Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

- B.** If men and women would realize their problem is prophetic, they would fight harder to be free.
- C.** God does not want you to take your life!
Your loved ones do not want you to take your life!
You, in your right mind, do not wish to take your life, so there is no one left but the devil. He wants you dead.
- D.** When we leave this life, let it be the home-call from God, saying, "I have your mansion ready, come on home." Until then, we must be faithful to Him.

12. SUICIDAL TENDENCIES ARE PREDICTABLE, RECOGNIZABLE, AND PREVENTABLE

Reasons people give for suicide:

- A. “I can’t live without him.” About two-thirds of this group are female; about one-half of them are in their twenties, 15% in their thirties, and 20% in their fifties.
- B. Middle-age depression. These generally are stable people in their forties and fifties who outwardly are successful, but who have inner feelings of depression and feel they are living a meaningless life. Sometimes they are concerned about waning sexual prowess.
- C. Those who say, “I cannot live with you,” are usually people who are caught up in an abnormal relationship with another person—usually a spouse, a lover, or a mother.

Each seems to bring out the worst in the other. Often, according to Dr. Wold, both partners are suicidal or homicidal.

- D. Why do professional people commit suicide?

Some in this group have had prior psychiatric treatment. They are impulsive, restless and depressed following a disruptive experience. According to Dr. Litman, many violent men can be redeemed if they have the right kind of woman to care for them.

- E. Why do distraught women commit suicide?

Women who have a strong feeling of having been abandoned by a man contemplate taking their lives. Very often, however, such women have had an earlier experience of discarding a man.

They emphasize feminine attractiveness. They were either rejected or felt they were rejected by their parents. People often do not take them seriously. Therefore, they feel hopeless.

- F. Chaotic. Most individuals in this group are psychotics. When the mind of a person is sick they need deliverance from God.
- G. Masochistic women. These women are what Dr. Wold calls “death oriented.” They seem to think about death almost all the time and consider dying an almost welcome end. Some write poetry in which they express death almost as if it were a lover. Almost invariably, they had an unfortunate childhood.

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- H. The pressure of failure. Men and women whose lives have been on a downhill course, for example, the loss of a good job, or a divorce, often contemplate suicide.

Often heavy drinkers become suicidal when they run out of excuses for drinking and there is no one in the world who cares.

Many suicides have had unsuccessful experiences with various agencies set up to help such people. Eventually, even the agencies close their doors to them.

- I. There are adolescent family crises. Girls have a higher suicide attempt rate, but boys more often succeed.

Dr. Wold sees adolescent suicides as an attempt by the adolescent to dramatize a family problem which invariably exists in these cases. "They are responding to the problems of the family far more than to drug effects or college tensions," he said.

- J. The old and the lonely. Often older people with suicidal tendencies have had stable lives, but in old age they feel everyone important to them is dead or that they have outlived their investment in life. They simply feel useless, unloved, and are unhappy.

13. DISILLUSIONMENT TO LIFE CAN LEAD TO SUICIDE

- A. Do not become disillusioned if your dreams do not come true... just dream again.
- B. Do not become disillusioned with life and humanity.
- C. The devil is always the one who prompts a person to commit suicide.

14. DISAPPOINTMENT CAN LEAD TO SUICIDE

- A. A person can become disappointed in business and with his family. The heart becomes downcast.
- B. We have to be bigger than disappointments.
- C. Do not consider for a second that you can escape a problem by taking your own life.
- D. Pray. . . "Oh God, I am going through in Jesus' name."

15. DEPRESSION CAN LEAD TO SUICIDE

- A. Depression can come through sickness or tragedy.
- B. The devil will move in on weaknesses and magnify our sorrows. If we resist the devil in the name of Jesus, he flees and depression goes.
- C. God does not want our spirits and minds depressed. He wants us happy and joyful. He has power to bring peace of mind to every problem in life.

16. DECEPTION CAN LEAD TO SUICIDE

- A. A person becomes deceived in his own mind. He says, "Now suicide is not very bad. I can take some pills and go off to sleep." He is looking for an easy way out of his problems.
- B. Jesus expects us to face up to reality.

17. DEPENDENCE ON OTHER SOURCES FOR GUIDANCE AND STRENGTH

A person who is not able to cope with issues and the stresses of life will often attempt suicide.

18. DEMONIC POSSESSION

An evil spirit can urge suicide and beg a person to end it all. Suicide is a satanic attack on the immortality of man. The depression that precedes the suicide destroys the quality of earthly life and the suicide itself destroys the divine relationship with Jesus Christ and the Father.

JUST DON'T DO IT!

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THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 11

ABORTION AND IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

One of the greatest onslaughts of evil that the devil is thrusting upon the human race today is abortion.

Abortion is certainly not new. It has been known since the earliest periods of history.

The present wave of recent years is astronomically beyond anything known in history.

READING:

Isaiah 44:2, *Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.*

Isaiah 49:1, *Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.*

Jeremiah 1:5, *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

Deuteronomy 18:10, *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch.*

1. WITHIN THE LAST CENTURY ABORTION HAS BECOME AN ISSUE IN THE UNITED STATES

Before 1860, there were so few abortions in our country that there was no reason to legislate against it. The first laws against the practice were passed in the 1860s. The first official church statement against abortion was issued by Pope Pious IX in 1869. In those rulings it was stated that all abortion, except to save the life of the woman, was illegal.

2. ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER SOCIETY BEGAN TO LEGALIZE ABORTION

A. Legal changes were made in Colorado, California, Alaska, Hawaii, Washington and New York. This resulted in great influxes of women to these states for the specific purpose of receiving abortions which were still illegal in their home states. New York City reported that 61.8 percent of the 223,000 abortions performed there in 1972 were for out-of-state women.

B. In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that the abortions through the twelfth week were legal. The decision was to be made by the woman and her doctor under the regulation of state laws, after that point.

3. FORMS OF ABORTION LEGAL AND COMMON IN THE UNITED STATES

A. Suction Abortion, or vacuum curettage. It is a technique for sucking the unborn baby out of the uterus through a narrow tube which is inserted into the cavity of the uterus through the cervix.

B. D and C, or dilation and curettage, is a method in which the doctor first dilates the cervical canal and then scrapes out the fetus with a curette, a long surgical instrument with a spoon-like tip. The unborn baby and the placenta are removed in fragments with forceps.

C. Saline Abortion is a method used after the baby is too large to remove by suction. At that point, a salt solution injection into the uterus will cause a premature delivery.

D. Hysterotomy is similar to a Cesarean section delivery.

E. Prostaglandin is the use of a natural hormone to stimulate a miscarriage.

4. 1973 SUPREME COURT DECISION

Since the 1973 Supreme Court Decision, over 20,000,000 unborn babies have been aborted. U.S. Government statistics indicate that in 1969 there were 6.3 abortions for every 1,000 live births, while in 1980 the ration had grown to 361.8 abortions for every 1,000 live births.

The government statistics also indicate that nearly three-fourths of all abortions are performed on unmarried women.

5. COMMERCIAL USAGE FOR THE BODIES OF ABORTED BABIES

A commercial usage for the bodies of aborted babies has been developed. The biological material can be incorporated into skin creams. This is done by cosmetic plants in France and some of the creams are sold over the drugstore counters in the U.S.

There is now a world bank for receiving the aborted babies and distributing them to the manufacturing plants.

6. THE BIBLE AND ABORTION

The Bible says little concerning abortion since it was not a common practice in Biblical times.

A. The case of an accidental abortion is described in Exodus 21:22-25, *If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.*

v. 23, And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life,

v. 24, Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,

v. 25, Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

This passage suggests that even an accidental abortion can be punished by death—"life for life." How much more certain is the punishment for a determined and premeditated abortion.

B. The case of offering a child to an idol is described in Deut.18:10, *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire. . .*

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Here, the penalty is death. How much more certain is the punishment for killing the unborn child simply as a means of birth control.

7. ABORTION IS MURDER AND BREAKS THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:13, *Thou shalt not kill.*

8. ABORTION IS AN ATTACK ON THE IMMORTALITY OF THE HUMAN RACE

- A. It is the murder of individuals, though yet unborn, who have immortal souls.
- B. It is a direct violation of the purpose of human sexual union—to produce immortality.

Genesis 1:28, *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

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LESSON 12

ADULTERY AND IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

God chose to permit man to become a creator in that he can bring into being an immortal soul who will live forever.

The greatest possession in the world is an immortal creature who will live forever—a child.

READING:

Psalm 8:4-6, *What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*

v. 5, *For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.*

v. 6, *Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.*

1. THE MYSTERY OF LIFE

- A. God performed the first wedding ceremony in uniting Adam and Eve. He told them, “You can now produce immortal souls who will never die. This is the highest honor that I can bestow upon you. This is the most sacred function of your existence. This must be guarded with the keys of your heart and in this matter you must never fail me. If you build a nation or an empire, it will die, but these immortal creatures which you shall produce can never die!”

- B. God permitted man to join Him in divinity and in the mystery of creating generations. There are many mysteries surrounding mankind, but the greatest is how two protoplasmic cells unite and generate immortality. God is the giver of all.

2. THE UNIQUENESS OF MAN

God positioned man above the angels.

Hebrews 1:4, *Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*

Angels cannot produce angels.

3. GOD IS PROTECTIVE OF IMMORTALITY

When a man and woman commit a sex sin, they are tampering with the life source of the universe.

Proverbs 6:32-33, *But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.*

v. 33, *A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.*

When God says, it will be “reproach shall not be wiped away,” He is reminding us of:

A. David

Though David was a great warrior, though he wrote the greatest songs of history, though he was a great statesman—David sinned morally and it marred his life. Even killing Goliath could not wipe away his reproach.

B. Samson—God’s strongman became weak.

Samson was the strongest man who ever lived. No man ever single-handedly slew 10,000 warriors. No man ever lifted the gates of a city off its hinges by his own strength and carried them away. Yet Samson, giving himself to a satanic temptress named Delilah, who enchanted him with her sex appeal, destroyed his place in history. The reproach is 3,000 years old.

4. IMMORTALITY IS HOLY

When God proclaims that the producing of immortal creatures is holy, man must never treat it as an unholy thing.

The Apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 10:21, *Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.*

Nehemiah 13:26, *Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin.*

God desires his People, His righteous seed, to be clean and pure.

5. IMMORTALITY, A PRINCIPLE OF LIFE

I was praying in Hong Kong, China, when God revealed to me that this was true because this sin was a transgression against His principle of life. He showed me that when He gave the commandment in Exodus 20:14, *Thou shalt not commit adultery*, it was not to deny man any joy or pleasure which should be his as an intelligent creature. It was a deeper and more meaningful aspect of life; that adultery or an immoral perversion touched the fountain of life and corrupted immortality.

God, in His determinate will, chose to make man a procreator with Himself. God could have made men on this earth like he made angels—neither male or female—but God did not do that. God chose, in His sovereign might, to permit you and me to reproduce other men and women; to be procreators with Him.

By the union of Adam and Eve, it became possible to produce a unity of one—a new life. God created Adam, and God made Eve, but Adam and Eve produced Cain, Abel and Seth.

God chose to let man become almost as God, a creator who could bring into being one who looks like himself—one he can hold in his arms and say, “Look at this baby, he resembles me!”

Adultery and Immortality

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This is the greatest possession in the world; greater than getting a new automobile or a new house. There is one thing truly precious; that is to bring into this earth an immortal creature—a soul who will live forever!

When a person produces life, he is acting in the capacity of a creator and is very closely associated with divinity. Therefore, when a man or woman illegitimately touches that source of life, society will not forgive that sin. They will talk about it (and you) behind your back for the rest of your life.

Because of this sin in the world, there are millions of people who are deformed and insane, who possess strange lusts that no psychiatrist can understand. This transgression finally brings the soul of man to an eternal hell because he tampered with the source of life and the mystery of life (unless he confesses his sin to God, repents and is converted).

God showed me that other sins, although they will take you to hell, are not like this sin, because immortality is sacred to God and everything that pertains to the creation of life is sacred to Him.

This privilege is so sacred to God that the person who violates this great principle of life becomes a marked man.

For example, God loved David, but when David sinned, He still put it in His book (the Bible). God loved Samson, too, but when Samson sinned God also put that account in His book—because God hates sin. God especially hates anything that tampers with the source of life which began in the Garden of Eden.

What a tremendous responsibility!

An oak tree produces acorns that produce other oak trees that will eventually die and disintegrate, but man produces immortal souls that will live throughout the endless ages of eternity!

When any thoughtful person leafs back through the dirty pages of human history, he poignantly discovers that men, women and nations who refused to live correct moral lives were judged.

Adultery and Immortality

Lesson 12

From time immemorial, Jehovah-God commanded His people not to intermarry nor commit fornication with the unbelievers and heathen of the countries through which He sent them. Many times in the Old Testament God thus admonished His people. It is interesting to observe that when God would not permit the mysterious prophet named Balaam to curse the children of Israel, Balaam counseled with Israel's enemies (the Moabites and Midianites) to commit whoredom with Israel.

Numbers 31:15-16, *And Moses said unto them, Have you saved all the women alive?*

v. 16, *Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.*

Because of that counsel, this sin became known as the doctrine of Balaam. In Revelation, Christ rebukes the church because she has gone into apostasy.

Revelation 2:14, *But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*

6. HOLY MATRIMONY

God gave a commandment concerning this holy estate because the man and woman, who have been united in holy matrimony, will be creating immortal souls (who will live forever) and, with such a holy trust, God demands sanctification (holiness, purity) in His followers.

A unequally yoked marriage is a mis-marriage. The two souls form one soul and spirit. An unequally yoked union can destroy the divine nature of spiritual life.

Today, divorce occurs three times as often in mixed, unequally yoked marriages as in marriages of the same faith.

7. GOD AND DIVORCE

God forbids divorce because it prostitutes the sacred mystery of life. Divorce breaks the divine fellowship born in Eden the day God made Eve to live with Adam. God ordained marriage to last as long as both persons live.

Adultery and Immortality

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Matthew 19:3-6, The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

v. 4, And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

v. 5, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

v. 6, Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

It is remarkable that our Lord chose a marriage as the place to perform His first miracle. There were many hungry people, but he did not multiply bread first. There were many sick people, but he did not heal first. He opened his miracle ministry by showing His love toward a newly married couple.

Christ forever placed His sanction upon the same union that God created in Eden.

God made no provision for divorce. When He created Adam and Eve, there was no greed, no selfishness, no hatred, no misunderstanding, no jealousy, nothing that causes divorce.

The Word of God in no place states that God has altered His divine principles in order to accommodate sinful men and women.

8. WHAT TO DO IF DIVORCED WHILE A SINNER

Many times I have been confronted by those who were divorced while yet in sin, and were ignorant of God's law. They want to know if they should now separate even though, in many cases, it would be impossible to be united with their former companions who are remarried and have children by other companions. We believe that we are in divine order when we say, "When you give your heart to Christ you must start your new life that moment." Christ came not to destroy, He came to fulfill.

It would only create more problems to break up your present home. Therefore, we are sure that God wants you to remain as you were when you found Him. Unless, of course, it would be agreeable to all parties concerned and would be possible to return to your former state. This would be a miracle.

9. AMERICA'S BROKEN HOMES

The saddest aspect of America's social problems today is her broken homes. The strength of our nation is the home. Our strength on the battlefield, when our soldiers are fighting for the existence of our nation, is the strength of the homes they come from. When the home life of a nation degenerates and disintegrates, that nation is bound for oblivion. Unless the American home can now be strengthened in God, it will not take Communism to destroy us; our own disease of immorality will eat the vitals of our nation.

10. BROKEN HEARTS

Some of the saddest people I meet on the face of the earth are victims of broken homes. One day I spoke to the boys in a juvenile detention home. One fine looking young man said he was to be released soon. With great pride in his voice he said he had mowed lawns all over the area making money in order to change his name the day he left the reformatory. He said his parents had been in and out of jail so many times that even to bear their name would be a hindrance to his future.

There are thousands of young people in our land who are brokenhearted today because of the broken homes of which they are a part.

The hope of our home is not the divorce court. It is the church, the Bible, the revival meeting, the TV and radio sermons!

It is time for the judge and the marriage counselor to turn to the Bible to find the answers for the multitudes of people seeking marital help. As God created the male and the female, so only God can keep them together.

Millions of people today are afraid of their homes being broken. May I assure you that your only security for a happy home is in Christ Jesus.

Place this motto on the wall of your home:

***Christ is the Head of this house,
The unseen Guest at every meal;
The silent Listener to every conversation.***

11. IMMORTALITY AND THE END OF THE WORLD

Luke 17:28-30, *Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;*

v. 29, *But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.*

v. 30, *Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.*

Many thinking people of our generation are conscious that a cataclysmic event is foreboding. Scientists and theologians alike believe that there is sufficient evidence to prove we are nearing the end of time, as marked by man.

One of the greatest signs of this approaching end of time is the moral degeneration of the human race. The Bible, in its prophetic books and passages, has predicted there would be great moral decline among the human race at the end of time.

Matthew 24:37, *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

In Genesis 6:1-7, we see what happened in Noah's day. It was wrongful intermarriage that created a society of men so wicked that God repented that He had made them. The great sin that brought the flood was not commercial or economic—it was a moral sin. It was a strike against immortality.

Our modern world today is shocked at the prevalence of this sin, but it is not shocked into action. You may ask, "Brother Sumrall, if a person commits adultery, fornication or sodomy, can he be forgiven?" Yes, he can. God will forgive every sin except the sin against the Holy Ghost. The most difficult sin for heaven to forgive is the immoral sin, because it deals with life (eternal souls)—life that God created!

If you have already offended God in this matter, come to the old rugged cross and let the blood of Jesus cover your wretched life. Christ's blood will cover the sins of your life. It will blot into oblivion all your sin and you can live a holy life from this moment.

Leviticus 20:10, *And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, . . . the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.*

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Leviticus 18:6, *None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the LORD.*

Proverbs 6:32-33, *But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.*

v. 33, *A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.*

12. IMMORTALITY, A PRINCIPLE OF LIFE

Why is it more forcefully followed among primitive people than metropolitan folk? Why is history so seemingly cruel in indelibly marking those who sin morally? God now has two objects to love Him, and they loved one another. This gave God the possibilities of unlimited love as He bade man and woman to become one flesh in replenishing the earth.

13. GIFT OF IMMORTALITY

As God observed this new creation He said, "I can give it one more gift. I can allow it to join me in reproductive power.

I can permit it to work with me in procreation. I can have this beautiful creation, Adam, make others like himself and then not only will he love me, but he will love others like himself!"

Thus God saw, in His perfect wisdom, that He must create a woman (womb-man). Rather than beginning again in the dust, He became the world's first surgeon. He took from inside the body of Adam, a portion of his body, and from that created a perfect woman and placed her beside Adam.

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INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 13

DIVORCE AND IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

Divorce is part of the battle against immortality. In separating a man from a woman, the basis of immortality is threatened. To abuse and misuse the divine purpose of marriage is a blow against the first word God ever spoke regarding conjugal relationships. He commanded, "Replenish the earth."

Divorce is certainly one of the United States' greatest problems.

It is wise to take our text from the book of wisdom, the Bible, the ultimate authority!

READING:

Matthew 19:3-6, *The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?*

v. 4, *And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,*

v. 5, *And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?*

v. 6, *Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

Proverbs 5:18, *Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.*

Genesis 2:22-24, *And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.*

v. 23, *And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.*

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v. 24, Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

I Corinthians 7:10, And unto the married I command, yet no I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband.

1. GOD UNITED THE FIRST COUPLE

God created Adam and Eve and made them teammates in the Garden of Eden. It was a paradise of happiness; each served the other contentedly.

God united the first couple. He instituted marriage, and the bond was indissoluble.

- A.** Satan was the first divider of husband and wife. Satan deliberately made the first family quarrel. His system of “divide and conquer” is seen here.
- B.** Disobedience to God’s laws brought the first family dispute.
Genesis 3:12, . . .The woman whom thou gavest to be with me. . .

2. THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MARRIAGE VOWS

Sin is the cause of all divorce. The devil is the author. The \$5 you spend for a marriage license can bring more happiness than any other investment. That same \$5 can bring hell here and hereafter.

3. TODAY AMERICA LEADS THE WORLD IN DIVORCE

Divorce is one of the chief causes of great crime.

- A.** Fifty states and the District of Columbia grant divorces. There are more than 65 legal grounds for divorce in the U.S.A.
- B.** City divorce rates are more than twice as high as rural. Chicago, Illinois, grinds out hundreds of divorces a day! There are thousands of cases pending in Chicago!

4. WHAT ARE THE ROADS TO THE DIVORCE COURT?

There are two aspects:

- 1) The real cause
- 2) What the people say

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Americans laugh too easily about divorce. It is more than hash made from domestic scraps. *The Observer* of Charlotte, N.C., told of a Michigan wife who obtained a divorce because her husband had given each of her five stepchildren a saxophone!

A. Radio and TV programs' increased emphasis on sex.

B. Pornographic magazines.

Half of every newsstand is filled with his/her sex magazines, such as *Playboy*, *True Story*, *True Love* and *True Romance*, that destroy the fortifications of moral strength. It is not love that is being promoted, but lust.

C. Movies

The motion picture industry has deliberately sought to damn America. It has played divorce to the skies in fiction and real life.

D. Difference of religion.

One of the main reasons for divorce is a difference in religion or a lack of religion. The home is weakened when families do not worship together.

E. Economic independence of women.

When a woman says to her husband, "I want to be independent of you," she is undermining her marriage. The man was supposed to support his wife and take care of her. You even hear about executives where the wife works in one city and the husband works in another city and they see each other on weekends. That's the best route to the divorce court that I can imagine.

F. Selfishness on both sides.

Selfishness has no place in a marriage. We are one and what is mine is yours and what is yours is mine. We flow together in protecting possessions and using them wisely as God has taught us. When you want more than you give, your marriage is in trouble.

G. Lawyers wanting money.

The lawyers and judges have found divorces a very lucrative area for making money, so they do not discourage it at all. They will one day give account before God for the advice and decisions that were made.

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H. G.I. Brides

Girls, 15-16 years old, fall in love with soldiers in uniform and immediately they are ready for marriage. So many times hasty marriages mean a fast move towards one of 3,000 divorce courts.

I. In-laws

Judge: "I take it your relatives are not pleasant?"

"Mine are okay, but hers are unbearable!"

In-laws can cause trouble in a marriage. Listen to their advice, but ultimately your home belongs to you and you alone.

J. Liquor—Public enemy #1!

1) Judge Edwin M. Bobsin, Superior Court, Chicago. . . "From an examination of some 300 cases in my court, I have found that 72% of all marital difficulties were directly or indirectly attributed to liquor."

2) Superior Court Judge, John A. Sarbaro. . . "Seventy-eight percent of the divorce cases I have heard resulted from alcoholism. The deadly river of alcohol is rising and threatens to deluge American society."

3) Ninety percent of those petitioning for divorce say it is because of desertion or cruelty—liquor is to blame.

K. Divorce has become fashionable—but was once a shame.

The popularization of divorce by prominent persons, particularly motion picture stars, has changed the public attitude toward divorce. The national divorce rate is 50% of all marriages or equal to the marriage rate! Getting a hunting license takes longer than getting married by a justice of the peace.

5. THE AFTERMATH

A. Three hundred thousand orphans of living parents!

What becomes of these children?

1) Judge Frank Bicek, Juvenile Court, Chicago. . . "Seventy percent of juvenile delinquency is a result of broken homes." (About 3,500 cases last year.)

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- 2) Judge Jacob Braude in Boy's Court in 188 cities. . . "I found the broken home responsible for 80-90% of all juvenile delinquency."

B. They grow up.

- 1) Dr. William Haines. . . "Sixty-five percent of the men and women charged with criminal offenses. . . have a history of divorce in their family. Many tell me they haven't seen or heard from one or both parents in years."
- 2) Dr. Louis Mann said. . . "A child of seven whose parents are divorced, is already on the way to divorce, even though he has never seen his future mate."
- 3) In one divorced family with five children, all went to juvenile court, one by one.
One stole a bicycle.
One robbed a house.
One picked the pockets of a dead neighbor.
Two girls ran away while in their teens to live with men out of wedlock. One of the girls was pregnant with the child of a married man.
- 4) Dr. Kirkendall said. . . "Divorce is not the answer to marital troubles. The best you can expect out of divorce is a new set of troubles."

6. DIVORCE IS ON A DRAMATIC INCREASE

In the beginning of this present century, there was only an eight percent divorce rate in the United States of America. By 1910, one decade later, it rose from eight percent to ten percent, only a two percent gain in ten years. By 1920, another decade had passed, and the divorce rate had risen to thirteen percent, a new gain of three percent.

Then as you advance just a half a decade to 1925, it had already risen to fifteen percent, a gain of two percent in just five years, rather than ten years. This was just after World War I, and that's when the homes began to crumble. Women had to work in the factories and other places of employment, replacing the men who were off to war.

The men came back and found that their homes were not as they were when they left.

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By 1940, the divorce rate was at seventeen percent. By 1950 it was up to twenty-three percent. That is a six percent rise in ten years, or double what it had been before. Another war took its toll in Korea, and divorce took its greatest leap. In the following decade to the 1960s, it rose to twenty-six percent. The worst decade of divorce in our history was from 1960 to 1970 when it rose to thirty-three percent. This was a seven percent gain in one decade.

In the 1980s, fifty-five percent of all American marriages ended in divorce. This was especially true in places like Reno, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York City, and Chicago. The smaller communities have not suffered as much as the others. In some areas, uncontested divorces sold for \$55 to \$65. This is a national shame and it is also moral suicide. The broken home is a true evidence of the soon return of the Lord Jesus Christ. It has caused more sadness than any other sin of the people. Divorce is born of selfishness. Divorce is bred in pride, "I should be a bigger shot than you." Divorce is fed by hate, and I want you to know that selfish pride and hate come from the devil. They do not come from Jesus Christ.

7. WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT DIVORCE?

A. God hates divorce.

Malachi 2:15, And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

B. Divorce is a result of hearts hardened against God.

Matthew 19:8, Her saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

C. Divorce leads to sin.

Matthew 19:9, And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

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- D.** Divorce is an attack on the home, God's institution for preserving immortality in the human family.

Genesis 1:28, And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

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THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 14

HOMOSEXUALITY AND IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

Homosexuality is being presented by the secular world as “an alternate lifestyle.” Therefore, it is becoming “acceptable” and has become rampant in our modern society. However, it is a distinct attack on human immortality.

READING:

Romans 1:24, *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

v. 25, *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

v. 26, *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature.*

1. THE KINSEY REPORT

In 1948, the researcher on sexual behavior, Alfred Kinsey, estimated that four percent of the American population were homosexual. He also reported that 37% of the male population had committed at least one homosexual act, and that 50% had responded at some time in their lives to a homosexual motivation.

2. THE CURRENT CONDITIONS

A. Homosexuality has become an open topic. Once it was a secret sin, but today it is flaunted as an alternate lifestyle. The homosexuals have, as they say, “come out of the closet.” It has been estimated that at least ten percent of American society is

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actively involved in homosexuality.

- B.** Entertainment, sports, politics, military and the education field have all been rocked by the announcement of active homosexuals in their ranks.
- C.** Many homosexual clubs, bars and publications have sprung up around our country. These are not limited to the big cities. The college campuses and small towns from coast to coast have active groups.
- D.** There have been fierce court battles over the right of homosexuals to serve as teachers in public schools and to continue in military positions and public office. In almost every case the ruling has been made in favor of the homosexual.
- E.** Many church denominations have accepted homosexuals as members and even approved their ordination into the ministry.
- F.** Totally homosexual denominations have been established.
- G.** The term “gay” has been substituted in place of “homosexual” to make the sin more respectable.
- H.** Psychologists, who first substituted the word “sickness” for the biblical word “sin,” have in recent years declared that homosexuality is not a sickness. Now, they avow that it is a lifestyle that can and should be accepted.

3. THE SO-CALLED “CAUSES” OF HOMOSEXUALITY

- A.** Glandular disturbances—some doctors say that the problem is nothing more than a hormone imbalance.
- B.** Genetic causes—some psychologists feel that the deviation comes from such parental shortcomings as:
 - 1) A dominant mother,
 - 2) A weak father,
 - 3) An overindulgent mother,
 - 4) Cruel parents,
 - 5) Poor parental marriage relationships, or
 - 6) An overly close relationship with a parent of the same sex.

- C. Lack of appropriate sex education—Many psychologists feel that the inadequate education in sexual matters causes children to experiment with and develop deviate sexual patterns.

4. THE FIRST HOMOSEXUAL ACT IS RECORDED IN THE BIBLE

Genesis 9:20-24, *And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard:*

v. 21, *And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.*

v. 22, *And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.*

v. 23, *And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.*

v. 24, *And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.*

5. GOD DESTROYED AN ENTIRE CITY BECAUSE OF HOMOSEXUALITY

Genesis 19:1-7, 24, *And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;*

v. 2, *And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.*

v. 3, *And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.*

v. 4, *But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:*

v. 5, *And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.*

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v. 6, *And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him,*

v. 7, *And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.*

v. 24, *Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven.*

6. GOD FORBIDS HOMOSEXUALITY AND CALLS IT AN ABOMINATION

Leviticus 18:22, *Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.*

7. HOMOSEXUALITY IS A SIN AGAINST:

A. Nature—Romans 1:26, *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature.*

B. Society—Homosexuality can only be propagated by enticing new victims into the immoral acts.

C. God—Homosexuality is a sinful act of fornication. It is a sin against the body that was bought by the blood of Christ. Therefore, the sinful act in the body shows contempt for the price Christ paid for the person.

I Corinthians 6:18-20, *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

v. 19, *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

v. 20, *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

I Corinthians 3:16-17, *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

v. 17, *If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*

8. HOMOSEXUALITY IS A RESULT OF DELIBERATELY TURNING AGAINST GOD

Romans 1:21-32, *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

v. 22, *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

v. 23, *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

v. 24, *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

v. 25, *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

v. 26, *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:*

v. 27, *And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.*

v. 28, *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

v. 29, *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*

v. 30, *Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*

v. 31, *Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.*

v. 32, *Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

9. HOMOSEXUALITY WILL KEEP A PERSON FROM HEAVEN

I Corinthians 6:9, *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, v. 10, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

10. HOMOSEXUALITY IS AN ATTACK AGAINST THE IMMORTALITY OF MAN

It does not lead to reproduction—the continuance of immortal souls.

Genesis 1:28, *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Romans 1:26, *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature.*

11. HOMOSEXUALITY CAN BE CURED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

I Corinthians 6:11, *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

II Corinthians 5:17, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

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THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 15

PERMISSIVENESS AND IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

Permissiveness is America's newest fad. What is considered the new morality preaches permissiveness to this generation. The Ten Commandments are referred to as out-of-date, and humanism teaches that men and women can do whatever they feel like doing.

Colleges and universities permit, and sometimes promote and encourage, permissiveness through its leadership.

Permissiveness is not new; it has always been. Sodom knew a strong form of permissiveness and carries the name of that sin. God destroyed her because of it.

READING:

Jude: 4, 7-8, 10, *For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

v. 7, *Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

v. 8, *Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.*

v. 10, *But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.*

1. FROM WHERE DID THIS MODERN SPIRIT OF PERMISSIVENESS ORIGINATE?

Modern permissiveness was incubated in the philosophy that man is a mere animal and his total instinct should be released for fulfillment of his desires.

Permissiveness began in the textbooks, strongly supported by psychology and psychiatry.

2. INTELLECTUAL PERMISSIVENESS

A. The human mind can be harnessed and trained in positive, creative functions, or it can be reduced to stupidity, foolishness and finally to insanity.

B. Romans 1:23, *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

This is an exact picture of a heathen temple, and the priest will tell you that the above are subordinate deities. God, the Great One, they dare not approach.

C. Romans 1:24-25, *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

v. 25, Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator. . .

No place in the universe has such an indictment been made except in the Bible. Man made his own religious rules and gods.

3. MODERN RELIGIOUS PERMISSIVENESS

Many forms of religious heresy have been born of permissiveness in the world of the spirit.

A. Apostasy—the falling away from the faith.

B. Cults

C. Demon worship encourages blasphemy and hatred of Jehovah God.

D. Spiritism

E. Transcendental meditation

F. ESP

4. MORAL PERMISSIVENESS

This is the area most people think about when using the word permissiveness.

- A. The world is suffering what is called the silent epidemic. There are 2,700,000 new infections of gonorrhea each year. In some countries it has escalated to ten percent of the population annually.
- B. Perversion—for example, oral sex and homosexuality—has brought millions into several types of social diseases, especially in the mouth and throat.
- C. There are many strains of social disease such as herpes simplex virus, HSV-1 and HSV-2.
- D. Recent studies indicate that some therapists engage in sex with their patients. These therapists tend to be male, older than their patients, and are poor lovers. The experience is usually harmful to the patient. Sex also tends to destroy the efficacy of therapy.

“When sex began, therapy ended,” says Jacqueline Bouhoutsos, one of five authors of a report on 559 patients in *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. The authors found that 90% of patients who were sexually intimate with therapists suffered ill effects. Some even attempted suicide.

- E. At some college campuses in the United States, students are given free contraceptives from the medical centers. For ten years, female students have been given birth-control pills and fitted with diaphragms and intrauterine devices (IUDs). Recently the male students have also been supplied with free contraceptives. Female students are also permitted to take packages of 24 each, (i.e. condoms) for their non-student partners. At one campus, the health director reported that 15 students per day—mostly men—are taking advantage of the offer. “Condoms,” he explains, “are the only contraceptive device that also provides a degree of protection against venereal disease.”
- F. In a survey done by London’s *The Sunday Times*, it was discovered that sexual fidelity on the part of the spouse was listed as eleventh out of 13 factors that make for a happy marriage.
- G. Dr. Alfred Charles Kinsey, in his landmark reports on human sexuality in 1948 and 1953, noted that at least 26% of the women and 50% of the men he studied had engaged in extramarital

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intercourse by age 40.

He pointed out that these were probably minimal figures, and the “actuality may lie 10% or 20% above.”

Later studies have shown a marked increase in the incidence of extramarital involvement among middle-class couples in this country. Moreover, alternative and variant marriage styles have developed that include occasional “civilized adultery,” which one psychiatrist defines as “a couple agreeing before or after legally marrying that the husband and wife probably will engage in extramarital affairs with the full consent of the other and, with relatively little insane jealousy, will back up this agreement.”

Relatively few marriage counselors and psychiatrists consider an extramarital affair enough reason to warrant immediate divorce. They realize that men and women have been more conditioned to and available for sexual adventure than ever before in this century.

- H.** Pornography, sex films, blatant sexual and violent acts on television and in movies, the liberal decisions by politicians and judicial representatives, and the openly immoral lives of many national and entertainment figures have led our nation into permissiveness. Many crimes and violent sex acts have been patterned after presentations on screen and stage.
- I.** Our society has become so permissive that many times large groups have stood around and watched innocent victims be raped without trying to stop the crime. A nation without a conscience is both pitiable and frightening.
- J.** Statistics prove that sexual permissiveness takes its toll on individuals and families.
 - 1)** Every time the couple has premarital sex, they will experience three negative effects—guilty feelings, fear and loss of self-esteem or self-regard.
 - 2)** A girl who has premarital sex is twice as likely to engage in an extramarital affair than a girl who was a virgin when she is married.

5. PERMISSIVENESS IS AN ATTACK AGAINST THE IMMORTALITY OF THE HUMAN SOUL

- A.** Revelation 21:8, *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorceres, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*
- B.** I Corinthians 6:9, *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind.*

STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 16

THE OCCULT AND IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

This subject was never so necessary as now. Millions are involved in various occult practices.

READING:

Deuteronomy 18:9, *When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.*

I Timothy 4:1, *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*

1. THE THREE KNOWN POWERS OF OUR UNIVERSE

There are only three powers known to man. Any action or energy can be based on one of these categories. They are:

- A.** God's power—this is divine, positive and benevolent.
- B.** Man's power—this is a natural force that can lead to either divine or demonic operation.
- C.** The devil's power—his energy is always malevolent, even when he seems like an angel of light to do good, it terminates in evil.

2. WHY MAN TURNS TO OCCULTISM

Man without God reaches for the unknown and the supernatural. He can only discover this through the demonic power of the occult. God is holy and can only be reached through the blood of Jesus Christ. The occult can be reached without holiness or goodness.

3. THE ORIGIN OF THE OCCULT

This study is imperative because the world is in the midst of its greatest demonstration of occultism in history. It is a paradox that in a modern scientific world, occultism enjoys its greatest achievements.

Actually occultism began in the Garden of Eden when Eve had communication with the devil. She believed his lies and fell from God's grace.

Occultism has plagued man from his fall until this moment. Its awful scars have been left everywhere.

- A.** Ancient Egypt had its magicians and soothsayers.
- B.** Ancient Babylon had its sorcerers and astrologers.
- C.** Greece had its legendary gods and goddesses of the stars in the sky and the sea.
- D.** Rome had its deep mysticism and celestial deities.
- E.** India and China have their millions of deities of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism.
- F.** The Near East has Muhammadanism, which is full of superstition and spiritism.
- G.** The American Indians, Africans, and peoples of the islands have various ways of worshipping the devil.

4. MODERN MANIFESTATION OF THE OCCULT

- A.** Fortunetelling and mind reading—either by looking into someone's face or touching a hand, the fortune-teller tries to predict a person's future.
- B.** Crystal ball gazing—this is the form of telling the unknown as to what is going to happen to a person or what is in the future.

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- C.** Tea leaf reading—this is a primitive prognosticating through drinking a cup of tea. The eight or ten leaves in the bottom of the cup tell if you will travel, get married soon or change jobs. This was the first form of the occult that I witnessed as a child.
- D.** Handwriting analysis—How your handwriting slants (forward, backward or straight up) and whether it is strong or careless deciphers the character of the writer. Any time a person opens his mind to looking into the unknown, the devil is willing to open the door.
- E.** Ouija board—this simple board to which you can ask questions and get answers is one of the very dangerous operations of the occult. Three Bible students played with it in their room for several nights and were getting their questions answered. When they inquired as to who was talking to them, the answer came back, “Satan.”
- F.** Sorcery—This is a form of charms and magic brought into focus by dancing or music.
- G.** Meditation—meditation with a guru is to expose the inner person to demonic reality. We reach God through prayer, confession and worship.
- H.** Yoga—this body posturing lends itself to demonic possession.
- I.** Witchcraft—the witch who is possessed can cast spells, or pronounce curses, and live in communication with the devil.
- J.** Reincarnation—a doctrine of satanic origin telling man he is born and reborn in a galaxy of forms: a rat, a monkey, an elephant, a human. The Bible says it is appointed unto man once to die.
- K.** Satan worship—this is a pronounced area where a person worships the fallen angel himself. This form is increasing in our land.
- L.** Cults—these are religious groups that create their own bible such as Christian Science with their book, *Science and Health* by Mary Baker Eddy. The Mormons and all the smaller cults have books written by their leaders also.
- M.** Transcendentalism—this is an Indian exercise in relaxing the human mind and transcending through an inner power and the regular process of thought life. It is dangerous when one permits his mind to be captured by any thought process.

- N.** Extrasensory Perception or ESP—it means to have the ability to know things without depending upon any ordinary sense channel to receive it. ESP is more than intuition. Its powers can influence the thinking of others.

5. THE OCCULT IS A SATANIC ATTACK ON THE IMMORTALITY OF MAN

- A.** I John 4:1-3, *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

v. 2, Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

v. 3, And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

- B.** I Timothy 4:1-3, *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

v. 2, Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

v. 3, Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

- C.** II Thessalonians 2:7-12, *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

v. 8, And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

v. 9, Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

v. 10, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

v. 11, And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

v. 12, That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

6. THE OCCULT CAN CURSE A NATION

Every world empire has been challenged by the occult. Some have been destroyed by wizards, crystal ball gazers and witchcraft. In Washington, D.C., there are more witches and fortune-tellers than in any other city in the United States of America. They are there for money. They are there to lie and to deceive. If we give ourselves to them, the devil will move in and help us in many ways in order to destroy us.

Romans 1, shows you why people are deceived. They have refused and turned from the truth of God, and made unto themselves gods that were not gods at all. They are possessed with the same spirit of witchcraft that came against Moses in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon. In each challenge, the God of Moses and Daniel won.

America is the “number one target” of this decade for the occult. Millions of books are being printed to deceive Americans, and all you have to ask about a thing is, “What did this do for the people who practiced it?” Have the people of India become the greatest nation in the world? Are they the most artistic nation in the world? Are they the richest nation in the world? What has it done for them, since it has been there for several thousand years? Name single nation that has been blessed through witchcraft, sorcery, spiritism or occultism. Worshipping the devil, or the human mind, has not brought blessings to any nation.

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LESSON 17

**CULTS
AND IMMORTALITY**

INTRODUCTION:

The cults teach people the wrong doctrines about immortality.

READING:

I Timothy 4:1, *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*

1. HOW TO IDENTIFY A CULT

A. Cults have their own Bible.

- 1) Christian Science has the *Key to Scripture* by Mary Baker Eddy.
- 2) Mormons have the *Book of Mormons*.
- 3) Jehovah's Witnesses have Judge Rutherford's works.

B. Cults have their own savior.

- 1) They are always confused about the godhead.
- 2) Some say that there is no personal God—God is only a thought.
- 3) Some say Christ was only a man.

C. Cults are normally wrong about death.

- 1) Some say the dead are sleeping in the ground.
- 2) Orientals say there are powers of being born again and again.

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- 3) Pagans believe in reincarnation, the doctrine that the soul reappears after death in another and different bodily form.
- 4) Some say that after death, if a person has been good during his time on earth, he will be a good spirit or an angel. If the person has been bad on earth, he will become an evil spirit.

D. Cults do not believe in a literal heaven.

- 1) Most cults do not believe there is a heaven at all.
- 2) Some say this earth will become a heaven.

2. CULTS WHICH DO NOT BELIEVE IN A LITERAL HELL ARE AGAINST THE BIBLE

A. Jesus believed in hell.

Luke 16:22-26, And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

v. 23, And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

v. 24, And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

v. 25, But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

v. 26, And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Mark 3:29, But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.

B. John spoke about hell in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 20:10, And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

3. CULTS DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. Cults do not understand the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Most will not even discuss the subject.
- B. Some say the Holy Spirit in only an influence.

4. THERE ARE FALSE RELIGIONS—ERRONEOUS CULTS

- A. JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES—Charles Taze Russell founded this group in 1879. It now has several forms: Jehovah's Witnesses, the International Bible Students Association, and the Watch Tower Organization. They all subscribe to the doctrine that millions now living will never die. They are vehemently opposed to the state, the social order, the Church and all politicians. They believe eternity will be spent on a rejuvenated earth. Mr. Russell says there is no consciousness beyond the grave, and upon this assumption he builds his doctrine of "no Hell."
- B. MORMONISM, or the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, was founded by Joseph Smith in western New York in 1830. The Mormons regard their church as the true church of Jesus, restored in this "latter day" to its original apostolic form. They accept the Bible as the record of God's dealings in the Old world. They regard the *Book of Mormon* as the record of his ancient followers in the Western Hemisphere. They regard themselves unequivocally as Christians, but not as Protestants.

Joseph Smith and his brother were murdered by a mob at Carthage, Illinois, in 1844. Brigham Young became the new leader and directed the historic trek to the Great Salt Lake Valley. The church has no professional clergy, but is officered by lay members. The head of the church, the president, is termed "prophet," "seer" or "revelator." they believe "Yea, blessed are they who shall. . .be baptized, for they shall receive remission of their sins. . .Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling of the commandments unto the remission of sins" (2 Nephi 12:2, Moroni 8:11). Mr. Young limits the cleansing power of Christ's blood. In his own words, "There is not a man or woman who violates covenants made with their God that will not be required to pay their debt. The blood of Christ will never wipe that out. Your own blood must atone for it; the judgments of the Almighty will come sooner or later, and every man and woman will have to atone for their covenants. . .All mankind love themselves: and let those principles be known by an individual who

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will be glad to have his blood shed.” This statement declared that what Christ’s blood could not cleanse, man’s own blood atonement could cleanse.

- C.** CHRISTIAN SCIENCE—Founded by Mary Baker Eddy, the author of *Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures*. Christian Science is a combination of faith healing and Hegelian philosophy. Mrs. Eddy propagated a profound belief in the goodness of God, so profound, in fact, that she flatly denied the existence of evil. They believe the sinner makes his own hell by doing evil, and the saint his own heaven by doing right. They believe mental anguish is the penalty for sin.
- D.** ROSICRUCIAN FELLOWSHIP. The founder of this group was Christianus Rosenkruetz. Rosicrucianism is not only an eclectic theological system which mixes pagan mythology with Judaism and Christianity, with traces of Hinduism and Buddhism throughout, but it is a system of thinking which seeks to synthesize the basic truths of all religions and absorb them into a master system. The Rosicrucians most certainly qualify along with the Spiritists, Theosophists and Swedenborgians as the most mystically inclined. More than any of the others, they are also devoted to a detailed system of doctrine composed of so many strains of other cult viruses, as to be almost beyond the point of comprehension, much less analysis.
- E.** UNITY—Founded by Myrtle and Charles Fillmore in 1889. Their publication is called *Thought*. Unity is the largest agnostic cult in Christendom. It is by far the best advertised through the printed page, correspondence courses, and multiple publications that have made it the largest mail-order religious concern in the world. Unity adherents usually retain their membership in the church of their choice. It is non-Christian on the basis that it violates virtually every cardinal doctrine of the Christian faith necessary to salvation. Unity believes the repeated incarnations of man to be a merciful provision of our loving Father to the end that all may have opportunity to obtain immortality through regeneration as did Jesus.

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F. SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS. The Seventh Day Adventists Church was founded by William Miller in 1833. Mrs. Ellen White heard him preach and she herself became a prophetess. She had visions and was told by an angel that the Sabbath (Saturday not Sunday) was to be kept as a Holy Day. Seventh Day Adventism spread throughout the world. It is associated with health foods, farming and natural cure establishments. Its members believe in “soulsleeping;” they believe that the dead are unconscious until the resurrection, after which the wicked will be destroyed.

G. CONFUCIANISM. K’ung Chiu, born in 551 B.C., is known to us as Confucius. He was a religious ascetic who brought into being the religion which bears his name. It permits one to belong to its society and at the same time feel free to join any other religion. Many Confucianists are also Taoists and Buddhists.

Confucianism did not become prominent until after the birth of Christ. At that time the emperor made legal sacrifices at the tomb of Confucius, gave him special names, and ordered people to make sacrifices to him four times a year. Over the years Confucius was elevated in rank by Chinese leaders. Finally, in 1907, he was raised to the first grade of worship and was made equal with deities of heaven and earth. Millions pray to him and make him equal to God, yet Confucius did not believe in prayer and had little regard for gods of any kind. He was more a moral leader than a religious leader. He felt deeply for the needs of the great masses of people.

H. BUDDHISM. Gautama Buddha, founder, was the son of a chief of the Kaya tribe of North India. Buddha taught that salvation is acquired by repeated deaths and births of a person. Through transmigration a person becomes purified. Subsequent lives are derminded by the positive or negative forces of karma.

I. HINDUISM. Hinduism is, to the Western mind and as far as biblical revelation is concerned, the strangest of all world religions. It is one of the oldest and perhaps the most diverse of all religions. To capsule an exposition in a brief passage is difficult, if not impossible. Its origin and growth, for example, did not depend upon great leaders, as was the case with other world religions. Hinduism has the richest mythology of any religion in the world. Custom is stronger in India than anywhere else in the world. Yet, Hinduism is strongly influencing our country today through transcendental meditation and yoga. It also teaches reincarnation.

- J. **MUHAMMADANISM.** Muhammad was born on the desert of Arabia about 570 A.D. History records him as one of the most influential persons ever to live. Muhammadanism boasts the second largest religious population in the world. Muhammad announced himself as a prophet of Allah. Muhammad forbade the worship of idols. Muslims teach there is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.

5. CULTS ATTACK THE IMMORTALITY OF THE HUMAN SOUL

By denying heaven and hell, by teaching reincarnation, and by teaching that man can obtain eternal bliss other than by salvation through Jesus, cults deceive man and trick him—just as the serpent beguiled Eve in the Garden.

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LESSON 18

EVOLUTION, HUMANISM AND IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

In this last age of human existence, before the return of Christ, a new and deceptive element has been introduced into the Battle for Immortality. This weapon is evolution and humanism. The Bible prophesied it as a time when men would be willingly ignorant.

READING:

II Peter 2:3-7, And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

v. 4, For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

v. 5, And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

v. 6, And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

v. 7, And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked.

1. ORIGIN OF HUMANISM

During the Renaissance period of the thirteenth to the sixteenth century, a great shift came in the thinking of man. There was a substitution of a worldly point of view for a religious point of view, with reference to art, literature and the state. The center of reference became man rather than

God. This was the birth of humanism. In the philosophical realm, God had been dethroned by man.

2. ORIGIN OF EVOLUTION

In the middle of the nineteenth century, Charles Darwin published a book called, *The Origin of Species*, in which he expounded a concept called “natural selection” or “the preservation of favored species in the struggle of life.” This theory has been widely accepted among scientists who have further developed Darwin’s ideas to include a total “explanation” of the development of all living species from a single celled life mass that suddenly sprang from the primeval sea. The theory of evolution has been applied to the totality of existence to “explain” the development of the very universe and even the existence of religious beliefs. Scientists say that man has “evolved” through various degrees of superstition until he has come to the modern development—atheism. The theory of evolution, like humanism, has dethroned God and replaced him with man as the center of existence.

3. WILLINGLY IGNORANT

In his second epistle, Peter perfectly described the last day plague of humanists and evolutionists. He called them scoffers. It is amazing how Peter, writing centuries ago, was able to foresee the philosophies of these men so clearly.

A. He said they walk after their own lusts.

II Peter 3:3, *Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts.*

B. He said they doubt the second coming of Christ. This means that they have no anticipation of immortality.

II Peter 3:4, *And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.*

C. He says they are willingly ignorant. It is one thing to be ignorant, but it is quite different to be willingly ignorant when the facts are available and to deliberately ignore them.

D. Peter described three areas in which the humanists and evolutionists are willingly ignorant. It is an amazing thing that there has never been a time in the history of man that these facts have been doubted until this present age.

- 1) Creation: II Peter 3:5, *For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water.*

The world “standing out of the water and in the water” refers to the creation as described in Genesis 1:2, 9, . . . *and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. . .*

v. 9, *And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.*

- 2) The Flood: II Peter 3:6, *Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.*
- 3) The Judgment of Sin: II Peter 3:7, *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

Since humanists and evolutionists believe that man lives only in this life, they have no concept of sin or judgment.

E. There is abundant evidence, not only in the Bible, but in the natural order, to prove that the above three statements are true. However, the humanists and evolutionists deliberately ignore the evidence.

- 1) One scientist has compiled a list of over 100 evidences that the earth is only a few thousand years old—not the billions of years described in the theory of evolution.
- 2) The flood is supported by archaeological and geological evidences as well as the fact that every society on every continent of the globe has a flood account in its folklore.
- 3) The judgment of sin is a natural part of life. All societies acknowledge it in their laws and judicial systems. Only the modern humanists have tried to eliminate the idea of sin and punishment. Yet, try as they may, punishment still comes with each sin.
 - a) Immorality brings V.D.
 - b) Drinking brings broken homes.
 - c) Smoking brings cancer.

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d) Abuse brings heartbreak.

e) "When you play with fire, you get burned."

4. HUMANISM AND EVOLUTION ARE ATTACKS ON THE IMMORTALITY OF MAN BECAUSE THEY:

A. Take away his God,

B. Reduce him to nothing more than an animal that lives and dies, and

C. Disregards the eternal nature of the human soul.

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LESSON 19

**REINCARNATION
AND IMMORTALITY**

INTRODUCTION:

This study is important as it decides human destiny. A person who believes in reincarnation will fit his life to the doctrine.

READING:

Hebrews 9:27, *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*

1. WHAT IS REINCARNATION?

- A.** Reincarnation is the philosophy of successive rebirth on this planet.
- B.** Reincarnation teaches the wheel of eternity is recurrent birth and death.
- C.** Reincarnation teaches that human lives are without beginning or end.
- D.** Reincarnation teaches that the human souls of planet Earth successively return to new forms and bodies. It can be an animal, insect, bird or a human person.
- E.** Karma is the force that makes each rebirth depend upon previous deeds in another life.

2. WHERE DID THE DOCTRINE OF REINCARNATION ORIGINATE?

A. The doctrine of reincarnation originated from the devil. Demons were originally angels in heaven. These spirits are ageless, sexless, and do not die. In one generation a certain demon spirit could possess a Babylonian; in another generation the same spirit could possess a Sodomite in Sodom.

B. When these spirits speak through a possessed person they tell of their recurring possessions of human persons.

A person listening to these demons could think it's the man or woman speaking of a former life, not knowing it is an evil spirit talking.

Thus begins the deception. The spirit, for example, can say, "I lived in a French doctor in the 17th century whose name was Jacques. I committed a murder and was never found out, and I feel condemned."

C. The possessed person of this generation could say, "Oh, that's what I did in my previous life."

The person has not lived before. Rather, a deceptive spirit within him that had possessed another human at a previous time is speaking out.

D. I met a spiritist in Brazil who had spirits in him that had lived in Napoleon the Great. They could describe his actions and desires and voice intonation. The demon-possessed Brazilian would surmise that he was the reincarnation of Napoleon.

E. In several countries of the world we have met demon-possessed people who said they were the reimpodiment of those who had lived in other generations.

F. Therefore, it is clear that the doctrine of reincarnation began with the devil. Its field of operation is mostly in pagan persons who are ignorant of his devices.

3. WHAT IS THE TRANSMIGRATION OF SOULS?

- A.** Transmigration is another word for reincarnation. It means the movement of life from one time period and life species to another.
- B.** For example: In India, the word “avatar” means the reincarnation of any god into a living human person. In its highest religious evaluation, “avatar” is the reincarnation of Vishnu, a prominent Hindu God.

Some teachers of Hinduism believe that Vishnu has been reincarnated numerous times. Other Hindus teach that Vishnu has come as “avatar” nine times: as a fish, a tortoise, a man-lion, a boar, a child-dwarf, Rama, Khrishna, Buddha and Christ.

One can easily determine that this is a form of demon possession and that it is a lying demonic spirit, not a person, living from other generations.

4. REINCARNATION TEACHES THAT:

“The soul in eternity who wins the assignment to a certain person, hovers near the parents for some time to make sure that he is willing to proceed with a return to that physical body. When the time is right and the physical blossoming occurs, he enters that newborn body, usually at the time of ejection, but occasionally shortly before or after. If he hesitates too long, the baby will not live. In the case of a stillborn baby, the body was not perfected, and a soul does not enter it. He will then have to start seeking again for a proper vehicle or wait his turn for those particular parents, if he is intent on living with them.

Surprisingly, there are almost as many candidates for deformed bodies of newborn babies as for the healthy, normal ones. This is an important lesson to be learned. The greater the obstacles in the physical body, the more opportunity for a soul to pay off some past debts and achieve more rapid spiritual growth.”

National Enquirer

5. WHO WERE THE FIRST HUMANS TO BELIEVE IN REINCAR-NATION?

- A. The doctrine of metempsychosis means to put a soul into life, the supposed passing of the soul at death into another body, either human or animal, by transmigration.
- B. The belief in transmigration of human souls began in pagan lands where they submitted to demonic power and refused to follow God.

God speaks to us through the book of Romans.

Romans 1:18-20, 23, 25, *For the truth of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

v. 19, *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*

v. 20, *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse . . .*

v. 23, *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. . .*

v. 25, *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

Countries like India and Tibet were the leaders in teaching the deception of reincarnation.

- C. Hinduism teaches various levels of consciousness.
 - 1) Higher consciousness is the road to nirvana.
 - 2) Unity consciousness seeks to bring a mystical union with the universe.

- 3) God consciousness is when a Hindu considers himself to have actually become a god.

Such states of consciousness are experienced through hypnosis, mediumistic trance, certain drugs and witchcraft.

6. WHO TEACHES THE DOCTRINE OF REINCARNATION?

- A. The term “guru” literally means “teacher.” Hinduism cannot be learned by reading, but must be taught by a guru who has also been taught by a guru. Every Hindu must follow a guru to reach self-realization.
- B. It is through these gurus that tradition is passed from generation to generation.
- C. The guru is worshipped throughout his life and after his death. Many Hindus believe that they can communicate with the guru more strongly after death. A grave of a guru is considered an ideal place for meditation.

7. WHAT SPECIFICALLY DOES REINCARNATION TEACH?

- A. Reincarnation says the unattached soul seeking expression through a physical body can have a preference. He must clear it with a higher authority.
- B. Reincarnation is a doctrine of works based on self-effort.
- C. Reincarnation reaches the achievement of the final state of heaven without the need of God.
- D. Reincarnation denies the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It denies an atonement for sin.
- E. The Bible teaches that:
 - 1) Man is a sinner.
Romans 5:12, Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.
 - 2) He is lost without God.
Mark 16:16, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

- 3) Man can only be saved by Jesus Christ.

John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

- 4) Man must face judgment.

Hebrews 9:27, *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*

8. WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL RELATIONSHIP TO THIS DOCTRINE?

- A. God said, *...it is appointed unto men once to die.* (Hebrews 9:27).

- B. The rich man died and lifted up his eyes in hell.

Luke 16:23, *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

- 1) His memory was alert.

Luke 16:25, *But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*

- 2) His five senses were operating.

Luke 16:24, *And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*

- 3) His brothers were still living.

Luke 16:28, *For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.*

- 4) God said man will be there forever.

Luke 16:26, *And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.*

9. HOW DOES ONE GET INTO THE DOCTRINE?

- A. Oriental Meditation

- 1) T.M. and Zen seek to project a person from rational thought into a higher state of consciousness.

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- 2) These could be the paths of nothingness, the surrender to cosmic forces.

B. Yoga

This is literally “yoking” or having union with Braham. The ultimate goal is union with the absolute.

- 1) Yoga teaches breath control and discipline of oneself to denounce all desires. Yoga seeks to induce a state of trance or to be removed from reality.
- 2) A yogi is one who has attained higher status from a proficiency in yoga. The true yogi cuts himself off from all sense perceptions including his family, friends and human relationships. He lives beyond space and time.

10. REINCARNATION PROPAGATES

- A.** Deception and false hope,
- B.** Debasing and
- C.** Fatal lies to destroy the immortality of its followers.

STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 20

COMMUNISM AND IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

Bolshevism was born in the rebellious heart of Karl Marx, and was transplanted into the heart of Vladimir Lenin, and then into the bloody heart of Joseph Stalin in atheistic Russia. It then went into Mao Tse-tung of China, Ho Chi Minh in Viet Nam, and Castro of Cuba. This is a deadly blow to the immortality of the creation God called Adam. It is not an economical or political war, but a moral and spiritual war directed against the immortality of man.

READING:

Psalm 14:1, *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.*

1. COMMUNISM IS AGGRESSIVE

Certainly Russia and China will become more aggressive, not less aggressive. All the peace overtures that are put out are simply to deceive people to give them more time to consolidate in order to reach forward and grasp again that which does not belong to them. In the last 70 years, bolshevism has been on a global march to establish a communistic world. If you think Russia or China are satisfied anywhere at any time, you are wrong. Until the last human is under communism, and the last person who fights Bolshevism is dead, communism will try to march if it possibly can. World communism wins when she can without war. She will fight on the diplomatic front in Geneva, in Paris, or in the United Nations. Anywhere she can, she will fight the war at the debate table. However, do not ever discount the fact that they are ready

for war. Communism will fight. She wins what she can at the peace table; when she cannot, she wins with war. Communism is willing to arm any gangster who will cause insurrection in any democratic society. They have been behind the past upheavals in Central America, Africa, North Korea, North Vietnam and Cuba. Communism has caused more disruptions since World War II than in all the history of the human race. God's day of judgment is coming for anti-Christ system.

2. COMMUNISM IS BLOODTHIRSTY

Today, Russia is deeply involved in Poland to make sure she does not lose Poland. Millions of Poles would like to be free from communism. They have no choice but to tolerate their masters in the Kremlin. The world was shocked when Russia invaded Afghanistan several years ago. To date, thousands of Afghans have died fighting against communism. They laid down their lives fighting it, but Russia is still there. She will subject that country to the most humiliating poverty, the most humiliating privations, to anything that she possibly can to let them know that she rules the world. Russia is meddling in almost every country in Africa. She is seeking to bring down any democratic regime and establish a totalitarian regime under the dictates of Moscow. Russia is supporting Syria and the PLO to fight against Israel—not yesterday, not just today, but constantly, with no letup. She has decided within her own heart to destroy Israel. God will one day deal with her because of her hatred toward the land that God loves. God loves the land called the Holy Land. Israel is where the Bible was born, where the Savior walked, where the prophets lived. It is a holy land unto God. Russia will always support Syria and the PLO as long as they are antagonistic toward the country of Israel.

On September 1, 1983, a Korean commercial jetliner was shot down by a Soviet interceptor in Soviet airspace outside Japan. All 269 people aboard the jet, including 61 Americans, died. Many NATO countries banned air traffic between Moscow and their capitals in protest against Russia.

Russia still controls areas that she once overran, such as Cambodia, Ethiopia, and Vietnam. Russia is still not satisfied. Her leaders have screamed that they will ultimately bury American democracy and crush the free world. That is what they hope to do.

3. COMMUNISM IS SLAVERY

Under communism, the world's greatest prison camps will increase, not diminish. Totalitarian governments have labor camps. I understand that only six percent of the population of planet Earth live in a free society. You can thank God that you are in that six percent of human beings that live in an area of freedom of thought and freedom of living. I have seen the prisoners of slave camps of Siberia with my own eyes. I was riding that famous Trans-Siberian Express, coming up out of Manchuria in Asia, across to Moscow, through Poland, and into Europe. It took nine days to cross that great expanse. I witnessed large prison camps along the railroad tracks. The camps were located there so that the goods made in the camps could be put on the train. There was no other transportation out at the time. We waited as the train unloaded food for the camp and took on goods. We would sometimes be at a prison camp three and four hours.

We could see the inhabitants there. Their faces were lean. Some of them had pieces of old cloth or rug wired around their feet rather than shoes. My spirit heard the prisoners of Communist Russia cry out with torture saying, "Someone help me!" But there was no one to help them. When I lived in Hong Kong, I was very close to the heartbeat of communism. I know how it slaughtered thirty million people in order to subjugate that vast land into its own dictatorship. Communist Cuba is immediately south of the United States.

Through our own thinking and stupid actions, we have permitted communism to seize Cuba. Just because the government was corrupt there, we assisted the present regime to come into power. Had it not been for America's assistance, Castro would not be in power today. The state department helped to support him with ammunition and everything else he needed to get into power and to overthrow the former government. The previous ruler was corrupt, but we can endure corruption more than we can totalitarianism, which kills and slaughters. Cuba joined the communist nations of the world in torturing her citizens who cry out for human rights. They want to be free.

4. COMMUNISM IS AGAINST ITS ADHERENTS

In Communist Poland, the party and the army are in conflict with the workers they are supposed to protect. The fight is neither against the dentists, nor against the doctors. (I guess they killed all of those they wanted.) They are against the workers. They will not permit the men

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who work in the factories to be free, in a regime that is supposedly a worker's government.

5. COMMUNISM IS DEMONIC DECEPTION

A. It teaches that there is no God.

Psalm 14:1, The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

B. It teaches that man is simply an animal with no "immortal soul."

II Timothy 1:10, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

C. It teaches that religion is the opiate of the people.

Romans 1:16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

STUDY GUIDE

INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

LESSON 21

HOW TO WIN THE BATTLE FOR IMMORTALITY

INTRODUCTION:

The most important thing to understand in the Battle for Immortality is how to win the battle. You must know how to make your calling and election sure.

II Peter 1:10, *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.*

Romans 8:37, *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

READING:

John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

1. IMMORTALITY COMES THROUGH KNOWING CHRIST

John 1:4, *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

I John 5:12, *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

Colossians 3:4, *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

2. IMMORTALITY IS IN KNOWING GOD, THE FATHER

John 5:26, *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.*

3. IMMORTALITY COMES THROUGH KNOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT

II Corinthians 3:6, Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

4. IMMORTALITY COMES AS A GIFT

Romans 6:23, For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I John 5:11, And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

5. IMMORTALITY COMES THROUGH KNOWING GOD'S WORD

John 6:68, Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

John 5:24, Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Philippians 2:16, Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

6. IMMORTALITY COMES BY COMING TO JESUS

John 5:40, And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Revelation 22:17, And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

7. IMMORTALITY COMES BY REPENTANCE

Acts 11:18, When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

8. IMMORTALITY COMES BY HOLINESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Matthew 7:14, Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Romans 5:21, That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:22, *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

Matthew 25:46, *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

9. IMMORTALITY COMES BY BELIEVING

John 3:15-16, 36, *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

v. 16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

v. 36, *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

10. IMMORTALITY COMES BY LAYING HOLD OF THE PROMISES OF GOD

I Timothy 6:12, 19, *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

v. 19, *Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

I John 2:25, *And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.*

11. IMMORTALITY COMES BY HOPE

Titus 1:2, *In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;*

Titus 3:7, *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

12. IMMORTALITY COMES BY BEING SPIRITUALLY MINDED

Romans 8:6, *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

13. IMMORTALITY COMES BY REIGNING WITH CHRIST

Romans 5:17, For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

14. IMMORTALITY COMES BY DOING GOOD

John 5:29, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

15. IMMORTALITY COMES BY SOWING

Galatians 6:8, For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

16. IMMORTALITY COMES BY BEING IN THE BOOK

Revelation 3:5, He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Revelation 20:15, And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

17. IMMORTALITY COMES BY FOLLOWING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

John 12:50, And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

18. IMMORTALITY COMES BY INVESTING IN THE NEXT LIFE

Luke 12:15, And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Mark 10:30, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

19. IMMORTALITY COMES THROUGH THE NAME OF JESUS

John 20:31, *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

20. IMMORTALITY COMES IN THE RESURRECTION

John 11:25-26, *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

v. 26, *And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*

I Corinthians 15:51-57, *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

v. 52, *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

v. 53, *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

v. 54, *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

v. 55, *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

v. 56, *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*

v. 57, *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Revelation 21:1-4, *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

v. 2, *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

v. 3, *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

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Lesson 21

v. 4, And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

John 11:25, Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.



Lester Sumrall
1913-1996

The voice of Dr. Lester Sumrall remains prominent in the Christian world today. More than 65 years of ministry in over 100 nations made Dr. Sumrall a respected source of wisdom and understanding. He was an author, teacher, missionary, evangelist, and the pastor and founder of Christian Center Church in South Bend, Indiana.

Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Sumrall worked tirelessly to fulfill the Great Commission by carrying the gospel to the ends of the earth. In 1957, he founded LeSEA, a multi-faceted global outreach. Today, LeSEA's outreaches blanket the world through television, satellite, FM and shortwave radio, LeSEA Publications, and LeSEA Global Feed The Hungry®.

What is immortality? Man's most frightening mystery is what happens to him after he dies. Can he possibly survive after death? Is man born of eternalness and immortality? These questions are 6,000 years old, as old as man. In this study, Dr. Lester Sumrall deals with man's age-old battle for immortality.

Lesson Titles:

- ***What is Immortality?***
- ***Man Was Created for Immortality***
- ***Of Deity and Devils***
- ***The Marching Immortals***
- ***Murder and Immortality***
- ***Abortion and Immortality***
- ***Divorce and Immortality***
- ***Permissiveness and Immortality***
- ***Cults and Immortality***
- ***Reincarnation and Immortality***
- ***How to Win the Battle for Immortality***
- ***Who Has Immortality?***
- ***The Battle for Immortality***
- ***The Seed Triumphant***
- ***Physical Death and Immortality***
- ***Suicide and Immortality***
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- ***The Occult and Immortality***
- ***Evolution, Humanism, and Immortality***
- ***Communism and Immortality***

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