

What is Man that You are Mindful of Him?

Introduction:

- A. We considered the matter of the Great Glory of God in lesson one; in lesson two, we will consider the state or condition of being man
- B. Clarifying what one believes
 - 1. Interpreting evidence in court is a matter of standpoint; the prosecution begins with the assumption that the man is guilty and interprets the evidence to support his premise; the defense begins with the assumption that they man is innocent and presents the evidence is such a way as to support that position.
 - a. The evidence is neutral and objective, it is not subjective
 - 2. Everyone begins with an assumption
 - 3. The evolutionist is not on any firmer ground than the Creationist
- C. The scientific world is not united
 - 1. The greatest danger to contemporary answers to the question of origins is at the biochemical and cellular levels
 - 2. Expelled, Ben Stein, segment 8 to Eugenie Scott
 - 3. Books written by evolutionary scientists questioning the status quo
 - 4. Illustration: Mr. A. Square of Flatland
 - 5. Why affirm what you cannot see or prove materially?
 - 6. Everyone commits 100% to a paradigm without incontrovertible evidence; you are going to believe something and direct your life by that conviction

I. MAN WAS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

- A. Gen. 1:26-28 - Those instincts for good and noble characteristics are reflections of our Divine "DNA"
 - 1. Ecc. 7:29
- B. Why did God create man?
 - 1. Why did God create man in His Own Image?
 - 2. Apart from being self-determinate (free will), why does man, made in the image of God, succumb to the temptation to commit sin?
 - 3. What is our purpose for being in this world; in other words, why didn't God just create us and put us in heaven with Him?

II. LIKE JESUS, MAN IS A TWO-FOLD BEING

John 14:1-12 - What Jesus said of Himself will one day be true of us.

- A. Chief mystery - 1Tim. 3:16
 - 1. Matt. 10:24-33
 - 2. vs 28 -- Jesus clearly states the two-fold nature of man.
 - 3. BODY and SOUL.
 - 4. The world recognizes this dual nature, in that we see two sciences: PSYCHOLOGY and PHYSIOLOGY, thus dealing with these two sides of man's nature.

“Human beings are totally unique and distinct from all other creations of God. We are unique in that we were created with a soul – a thing likened into the soul of God. To provide our souls with individuality, we incarnate into the flesh and are given a physical body and a spiritual body. And thus, while living on earth, in our coats of flesh, we have a dual nature – a physical body which we must nurture and provide physical sustenance, and a spiritual body, which is a manifestation of our soul, which we must also nurture and provide spiritual sustenance.”

III. BIBLE WORDS THAT ADDRESS THIS TWO-FOLD NATURE:

- A. Body - (Greek σῶμα soma) is the corporeal or physical aspect of a human being.
- B. Flesh - (Greek σάρξ, sarx) represents the physical awareness, interests, desires, and will of the body, the corporeal aspect of the dual-natured human
- C. Soul - (Hebrew nephesh and Greek psyche). The immortal and incorporeal part of the human being that survives the death of the body
- D. Spirit - The spirit (Hebrew ruach, Greek πνεῦμα, pneuma) is likewise an immaterial component. The self that lives in the identity, attitudes and desires of the soul; the orientation of the will of his incorporeal self."

IV. THESE TWO ARE AT WAR AGAINST EACH OTHER

- A. The war begins as soon as the spirit begins to assert itself
 - 1. Rom. 7:22-25 - Paul's conflict.
 - 2. James 4:1-4 - Conflict between good and evil.
 - 3. 1Peter 2:11 - abstain from fleshly lust....
 - 4. Rom. 6:17-23 - the old man vs. the new man.
 - 5. Rom. 12:2 - must keep ourselves under control.
 - 6. 1Cor. 9:27 -- must discipline the body, control self.
- B. The struggle is illustrated in Gal. 5:16-25