

God's Invisible Creation

The Soul

Sermon Discussion Guide

May 3, 2020

New Life
Christian Church
4701 E CR 462
Wildwood, FL 34785

nchristian.org

STUDY NOTES

The Soul. The Bible doesn't provide a comprehensive definition of the soul, but the words biblical writers use offer insights about its meaning. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for the soul is *nephesh* (neh'fesh). New Testament writers use the Greek word *psyche* (psü-kha ´) to name the soul. The root words for both *nephesh* and *psyche* refer to "breath."

In biblical usage, *nephesh* and *psyche* are words that encompass all that makes a person a living being, (*continued on the next page*)



1. What are ways the word "soul" has been used? What does this say about the value of the word?

Your soul is the deepest thing about you. Jesus said that the soul is more valuable than the world when he said, "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? (Mark 8:36) So why would we not value it? Two things are true: 1. You have a soul, 2. It is the only one you will ever have.

As believers, we do not want to forfeit our souls. But what exactly is the soul? Can we identify it or describe it? Can we locate it in an x-ray? It would seem that something so important as the soul should be understood, protected, and nurtured.

In his message, Matt shared three thoughts about the soul:

- The soul is part of God's invisible creation.
- Our souls are at war.
- Guard your soul.

In this study we will look at each of these three thoughts concerning the soul.

PART OF GOD'S INVISIBLE CREATION

2. The Bible uses the word for "soul" over 300 times. Reading six of those 300 passages, what qualities or characteristics would you use to describe the soul? What is it, what does it consist of, and why does it matter?
 - Deuteronomy 26:16
 - Psalm 63:1
 - Psalm 42:4 – 5
 - Psalm 103:1
 - Matthew 11:29
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:23

OUR SOULS AT WAR

3. What do the following passages say about our souls being at war? What do these passages instruct us concerning that war?
 - Matthew 10:28
 - 1 Peter 2:11
 - Ephesians 6:12

4. What do you think it means to lose one's soul? (Matthew 16:26)

STUDY NOTES

summing up . . . the whole personality, of the whole self of a person. In essence, they are words that refer to your life as an integrated whole and all the components that make you uniquely you.

GUARDING OUR SOUL

5. What does Proverbs 4:23 say about the soul care for our souls? What difference does it make?

6. If you were to describe the characteristics of a person who has lost his soul, what would you expect to notice about their demeanor, their actions, and their interactions with others?

7. Your soul connects your thoughts, your sensations, your emotions, your will, and integrates them into an entire being. In light of those parts of your life, how would you assess the health of your soul?

8. Who is it that you have put in charge of guarding your soul? What impact has it made with your soul?

* Possible Responses to Question 1: A person's last name – David Soul, name of a car, type of music, type of food, name of a movie, name of TV show – Soul Train, Soul Mate, Soul Sister, Soul Brother, name of stationary bicycle, name of a type of yoga.