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THE TRUE STORY CONCERNING THE SOUL OF EUTYCHUS

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS
NUMBER 90
ACTS 20:7-12

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ACTS 20:7-12 "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted."

We have already studied this incident which interrupted the long service in that upper room in Troas. The Bible conference was suddenly interrupted when Eutychus fell out of the third story window and killed himself. The conclusion of this incident was that Paul performed a miracle and said to them, "Stop crying and screaming, for his soul is now back in him". In this connection in our last study we had started on the doctrine of the soul. Let us briefly review those points on the soul and complete that doctrine tonight.

The Doctrine Of The Soul

1. In mankind the real person, the real you, is located in the soul.
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."
2. The Essence of the soul includes self-consciousness, mentality, volition, emotion, conscience, and the old sin nature.
3. The Bible records a distinction between the soul and the spirit.
HEBREWS 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
4. Only the soul is made in the image of God.

We studied these points because when Eutychus fell out of the third-story window he was killed, and Paul performed a miracle and his soul was brought back into him. This was the reason for our study of the soul at this point. After this tragedy occurred and Eutychus was raised from the dead (Resuscitated) they gathered back in that upper room and the service continued until daylight. So this was one of the longest church services on record. Paul no doubt explained to them how they should act in time of crisis. "Stop weeping--his soul is back in his body." No one can comfort in time of crisis unless he has something to give. Paul, by the power of God, performed a miracle and Eutycus was alive again. Now we continue with the doctrine of the soul.

5. Only the soul is said to be saved. Never the body is said to be saved. This is taught in Psalm 19:7, Psalm 34:23, Mark 8:36-37, Hebrews 10:39 and 1 Peter 1:9. The body is never referred to as saved, it is the soul that has to be saved. In the resurrection, we get a new body. The body, as the result of being spiritually dead, wears out and in the resurrection we get a new body. We will get a resurrection body like that of the Son of God.

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."

It is the soul that has to be saved, because the old sin nature is a part of the soul. When Adam went on negative signals in the Garden of Eden and sinned, he acquired an old sin nature. The same is true of Eve. They lost their human spirits so they were spiritually dead. Ephesians 2:1 and Romans 5:12 and many other passages explain that we are born spiritually dead. The old culprit is the old sin nature. We read, "The soul that sinneth shall surely die". This is taught in Leviticus 5:1 and Ezekiel 18:4 and many other passages. Sin is always said to come from the soul. There are body sins, to be sure. The body does sin, and mankind as such sins, like in the passage "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God". But when you actually pinpoint the part of the body that sins, the Bible says it is the soul. The soul shall surely die. This is very important and very conclusive for it shows the old sin nature is a part of the soul and it is the soul that needs saving.

6. The soul has as one of its essence members the Old Sin Nature. This is why the soul has to be saved.
7. The soul is the seat of human misery. Pslam 6:3, Psalm 119:25-28-81, Psalm 106:15
8. The soul is the basis of love. 1 Samuel 18:1. It is said that the soul of Jonathan loved the soul of David. So this explains to us that love is a mental attitude.
9. In physical life there is what the Hebrews called "The spark of life" in Hebrew it is "Ne-shamah". This is the spark of life said to have been created by God in Isaiah 57. The soul has mentality and mentality is inherited from both father and mother. The old sin nature is inherited from the father only. This is taught in 1 Timothy 2 as compared with Genesis 3. When a baby is born the "ne-shamah" hits mentality resulting in physical life, the "ne shamah hits the old sin nature resulting in spiritual death. One second later the newborn baby is a soul. Little by little the essence qualities of the newborn baby develop. Mentality, self-consciousness, volition, emotion, conscience, and the old sin nature have to develop, but the beginning of all these things comes the moment the baby is born.

Eutychus had a soul. He had a saved soul. He had made a decision to come to the Bible conference and hear Paul preach. He was on positive signals and evidently he knew some doctrine and his presence indicated that he wanted to learn more doctrine. But sleep overcame him and he fell asleep right in church. The point is this--you can fall asleep in church and still be in fellowship with the Lord. (I am not recommending this, but the point is still true.) Falling asleep in church may mean lack of oxygen in the atmosphere, or not enough sleep the night before, or too warm a temperature in the room, or it may indicate that the sermon is dry. The next time you fall asleep in church you remember it is not sinful, and it doesn't necessarily indicate a lack of interest. It may indicate a good many things but it does not indicate that the one who falls asleep is out of fellowship with the Lord.

Look At Seven Points On The Soul Of Eutychus

1. The soul of Eutychus was born physically alive but spiritually dead. He was born with an old sin nature.
2. Someone in Troy gave Eutychus the gospel and he was saved. In the mentality of the soul he believed. Faith is a happening in the mentality of the soul, and means a non-meritorious event which takes part in the mentality of the soul. Possibly he had some emotional responses when he was converted, but his emotional responses had nothing to do with the reality of his conversion.
3. Eutychus was influenced by doctrine, indicated by his presence in the service, and by the fact that he tried to stay awake. He evidently had worked hard that day and couldn't stay awake.
4. His body had a great influence over his soul. A tired body can have a great influence on the soul. We all need to remember this. It is possible to be filled with the spirit in the soul, and still be physically depressed. A change in hormone balance, or in thyroid function, or some other physical function. It is certain that physical condition of the body influences the soul. This was shown quite clearly in the life of Elijah. He was a great Christian and won great victories for the Lord, but when he became physically tired, he lost his spiritual balance and allowed a letter from Jezebel to run him clear out of the country. This kind of thing can lead to a neurotic or psychotic condition. The body can fail to function and cause the soul to leave the body and this we call death.
5. The soul left the body of Eutychus when he fell out of that third-story window and hit the ground. The soul was absent from the body and present with the Lord. In other words, he died.
6. Because of a miracle the soul of Eutychus returned to his body. We call this resuscitation. It was not resurrection. Only Christ has been resurrected. Christ will never die again. But Eutychus was resuscitated and lived some years but he died and is still dead today. He will be resurrected sometime in the future. Paul had this same experience himself at Lystra when they stoned him to death, and he was resuscitated. It was a miracle performed by God. Paul was killed by stoning and Eutychus was killed by a fall. Both were dead and both were resuscitated.
7. The resuscitation of Eutychus was a source of blessing to the Bible conference in Troas. After the miracle and Eutychus was raised up, they went back up into the hall and had a long discussion until daylight. This is a different kind of preaching than the formal preaching done earlier in the evening by Paul. This preaching is "Homi leo" and from this word we get homiletics. It means to communicate with conversation. They would ask questions and Paul would answer them.

So the story ends with the words "They brought the young man alive". So after the death there was a resuscitation and Paul explained to them from a doctrinal standpoint what had happened. So Paul started out with "dia legomai", which refers to a formal type of preaching, and ended up with "homi leo" which refers to the question and answer type of preaching. As a result the congregation was not a little comforted.

THE HUMAN SOUL

