

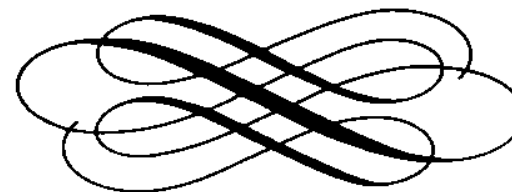
REINCARNATION OFFERS THE FALSE HOPE THAT MAN CAN SAVE HIMSELF BY HIS GOOD WORKS. Reincarnationists teach that through the successive life cycles man is supposed to better himself and his existence based on his previous merits in past lives. The Bible teaches that all men are sinners and will never be able to measure up to the righteous standards of a perfectly holy God (Romans 3). Man is totally depraved and unable to save himself (Ephesians 2:1-10). "Not by works which we have done, but according to His mercy, he saved us..." (Titus 3:5). "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9). Man's only hope of salvation is what God has done for him through Christ. Through Christ's atoning death He has made it possible for man's sins to be forgiven and for every man who will trust in Him to have peace with God (Romans 5:1 Hebrews 10:9-25). When the Lord Jesus died on the cross, He said "It is finished" (John 19:30). All that needs to be done, has been done in order for any man to be forgiven of his sins and be made right with God. It is FAITH IN CHRIST that saves and not our works for Christ (Acts 16:31 John 3:16,36 Romans 10:9,10,13). If man can save himself by his own good deeds, then the death of the Lord Jesus Christ was in vain (Galatians 2:21) Christ had to come "...to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10) or man would have been forever justly condemned because of sin. Notice in this verse it is Christ that does the SAVING, it is man that does the BELIEVING! "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and THOU shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31).

REINCARNATION OFFERS A FALSE HOPE OF FAITH IN GOD RATHER THAN FAITH IN CHRIST: The goal of the reincarnationist is to enter into the eternal oneness of the universe. God is an impersonal eternal force or energy that indwells every man. Salvation is when man discovers the God within. This oneness with the universe is accomplished through a surrender of the mind to the spirit world, where the one who meditates contacts spirit guides. The Bible clearly refutes all this modern day pantheism! The test of genuine faith that results in salvation is determined by what a man believes about Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:13-20). "You believe in one God; thou doest well. The demons also believe and tremble," (James 2:19); but the demons will spend eternity in hell (Jude 1:6). It is not faith in God that saves but faith in Jesus Christ. "By this know ye the Spirit of God; every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God; and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God..." (1 John 4:2,3). The spirit guides of the reincarnationist will not confess Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah who through His incarnation brought salvation to man. Reincarnation, like many other religions bypasses the cross of Calvary and the shed blood of Jesus Christ as our only hope of salvation. It is only through the Son of God's sinless sacrifice on our behalf that we can be made right with God (Ephesians 1:7 Colossians 1:14 Matthew 26:28). "...Without shedding of blood is no remission" of sins (Hebrews 9:22). God is not an impersonal force but a loving heavenly Father who invites every man to be born of His spirit through faith in Jesus Christ to become children of God (John 1:12 Romans 8:5-17 Galatians 4:6,7 John 3). Jesus said "...I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6).
Dear friend, Look to the cross and the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation. Don't be among those who regretfully discover on judgment day that Satan deceived them into trusting a false religion that results in their eternal damnation (Matthew 7:21-23).

THE CORNERSTONE

BIBLICAL ANSWERS TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

REINCARNATION



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What do Buddhists, Hindus, Theosophists, disciples of Transcendental Meditation, Erhard Seminars, Unity School of Christianity, and the New Age Movement all have in common? They all hold to the heretical doctrine of reincarnation. One recent study indicates that perhaps one-third to one-half of the world's population adhere to some form of this deception of Satan. In Jesus day there were religious groups that misunderstood the subject of resurrection and the after life. One such group, the Sadducees tried to theologially trap Jesus with their question concerning the resurrection. Jesus answered this trickery with "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God..." (Matthew 22:29). That is precisely the problem of many today who believe in reincarnation -- they err --- NOT KNOWING THE SCRIPTURES. The purpose of this booklet is to demonstrate that reincarnation is a false doctrine not taught in the Bible and that those who believe in it will one day find to their utter dismay that they are forever lost and separated from God in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8).

REINCARNATION OFFERS THE FALSE HOPE OF A 2ND CHANCE TO OBTAIN SALVATION AFTER DEATH: The Bible makes it clear that "...it is appointed unto man once to die..." (Hebrews 9:27). Notice the Bible says ONCE to die. The Lord Jesus Christ made it clear that those who die without receiving salvation through His name will be forever lost in a place called Hell (Matthew 25:30 25:46 John 3:16-21). The Son of God clearly revealed the destiny of all those who reject God's salvation. In Luke 16:19-31 an unbelieving rich man died and went to hell. In conscious torment of God's judgment he cries out to God hoping that somehow he can find relief of his suffering. God informs him that his eternal destiny is forever "fixed" (Luke 16:26). Death forever shuts the door of hope of salvation. God gave the people of Noah's day 120 years to repent of their sins and to humbly trust Him to escape the judgment to come. Jesus records that God's warning of coming judgment through Noah went unheeded. The people continued in their daily pleasures with no fear of coming judgment (Matthew 24:38). The ark that Noah constructed was a picture of God's salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. When the floods of judgment came Noah's family was able to escape God's wrath because of the safety of the ark. It is significant that the ark had only ONE DOOR. God himself shut that door when Noah and his family were safe aboard (Genesis 7:16). Many people must have cried and begged to enter that ark when they realized that the flood Noah predicted had come upon them but it was forever too late! Don't be deceived! Man only dies ONCE! When he dies the door of salvation is forever shut. Jesus himself said that He is the door of salvation (John 10:1-10). If you refuse to trust Him and receive His salvation while you are still living, you will not have a 2nd chance after death. "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near" (Isaiah 55:6).

PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five [were] foolish. They that [were] foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, [Not so]; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore,

for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 25:1-13).

REINCARNATION OFFERS THE FALSE HOPE OF NO JUDGMENT: "It is appointed unto man once to die but AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT" (Hebrews 9:27). Death is not the greatest reality that man faces. It is the certainty of judgment after death! Jesus said, "...fear not them who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). Reincarnation offers the false assurance of endless cycles of death and life through which man by his own merits and good works can progress into a state of perfection. But the Bible reveals there is only ONE LIFE, ONE DEATH, ONE RESURRECTION and after this THE JUDGMENT.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 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" (John 5:25-29).

Every man will experience a resurrection of his mortal body to the state of immortality -- either a resurrection unto life or a resurrection unto damnation. The determining factor is acceptance or rejection of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (John 1:12 3:14-21)! Death and life do not continue on indefinitely (Revelation 20:14,15). History has a culmination in the return of Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:11-20:15). Those who have by faith trusted Christ as Savior and Lord will be judged to determine degrees of rewards in heaven (1 Corinthians 3:12-17). Those who have rejected Christ will be judged to determine degrees of condemnation in hell (Revelation 20:11-15). Once the judgment has taken place man's eternal destiny will be forever fixed. Heaven for Christians will be permanent and hell for unbelievers will be permanent (Revelation 20:10,15 2 Thessalonians 1:9 1 Thessalonians 4:17).

REINCARNATION OFFERS NO HOPE FOR THE PROBLEM OF EVIL: For the reincarnationist good and evil exist side by side eternally with no final solution. But in God's Word we find hope! All of history is moving towards the climatic return of Jesus Christ (Matthew 24,25). At His coming He will forever banish sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:20-26). At that time "...God shall wipe away all tears... there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4). The Lord Jesus Christ has conquered the power of sin and death through His own death, burial and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-58). After living a sinless life, He willingly and lovingly bore the sins of the whole world on the cross of Calvary, so that all who put their faith and trust in Him might be saved (1 Peter 2:24 2 Corinthians 2:21 John 10:1-18 Romans 3:21-30). Some might asked: "If Jesus Christ is victor over evil, why doesn't he establish it immediately?" The answer is found in the love and mercy of God. God is allowing men an opportunity to repent of their sins and be saved. When Jesus comes back it will be forever too late! "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise (of the Lord's return), as some men count slackness, but is long-suffering towards us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). At the Lord Jesus' 2nd coming the door of salvation will be forever shut! Are you ready to meet Him?