The Soul of Man

One of the beauties of studying the Bible is that it paints vivid pictures in our minds of various topics. One such topic is the soul that is within each man. The word of God reveals two very fascinating aspects regarding man's soul. First, the soul is alive (see Genesis 2:7). Secondly, man's live soul will go on for all eternity (Revelation 20:10-15). The soul of a man is "the essence of being or life; the animating principle, ultimately derived from God, who 'breathed' (Hebrews nepes) into mankind, thereby creating a 'living soul'" (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia v. 4, pp. 587). At times we should all stop and ponder a great truth to this life. Each one of us have a live soul that is designed to go on for eternity. Such a valuable thing must be taken care of now so that it will be healthy forever.

Man's soul is very important. Jesus said, "For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26). Each one of us that lives today has been blessed with an alive and eternal soul. That soul is very important to each of us. What we do with our souls and how we treat our souls will determine where our individual souls spend eternity. Ultimately, God has the final say so as to where our souls are to spend eternity (see Proverbs 24:12). Let us consider a few things revealed in Proverbs about the human soul.

First, each man and woman is responsible to take good care of their soul. Those who gain wisdom and knowledge in this life will be pleasant and loving to their own souls (Proverbs 19:8).
That soul filled with the knowledge of God and discretion bring life, as opposed to death, to their own soul (Proverbs 3:21-22). If a man be merciful and speak words of truth he will do good to his own soul (Proverbs 11:16-17; 14:25). Truthful words of a righteous man bring sweetness and health to his soul (Proverbs 16:23-24). Such a one will preserve and keep their souls (Proverbs 16:17; 19:16).

There are men; however, who have no respect for the eternal live soul they have. Such a one destroys his soul through acts of adultery (Proverbs 6:30-32) and speaking foolish words (Proverbs 18:6-8). His lack of knowledge of God's divine revelation is just not good for his soul (Proverbs 19:2). He utterly despises his soul when he rejects wise council (Proverbs 15:31-32). When this foolish man makes friends he does so with thieves and thereby complicates the condition of his soul. Solomon tells us that when one makes such acquaintances he displays hatred for his own soul (Proverbs 29:24). When this man, who hates his own soul, sins against God's divine law he wrongs his own soul (Proverbs 8:35-36).

The vivid picture drawn in man's mind regarding his own soul is a direct correlation to the fleshly body. It must be taken care of. Some are very hard on their bodies and thereby die before an old age. Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco consume their lives. Sin is the dreaded cancerous disease that can destroy man's soul. Like the alcoholic or drug addict that destroys his body with hard living even so the soul of a man can be abused with sin and sent to an eternity of torment rather than peace and joy. Take good care of your soul now and it will be eternally healthy!

John C. Robertson
The Lord Jesus Christ

Introduction:

The confidence of the Christian rest in the hands of the loving Jesus. The horrific sacrifice of the Lord upon the cross enables sinful men to cast aside their shame and have hope of eternal life. Let us examine our Lord Jesus Christ this morning that we may fully understand that all the fullness of the godhead bodily dwells within him (see Colossians 2:9-10).

I. The Superiority of Christ (Hebrews 1:1 - 2:4):
   A. Jesus is creator of the world.
   B. Superior to the angels.
   C. Superior to Moses.
   D. Jesus is a superior High Priest.
   E. The priesthood of Jesus is superior to the Levitical Priesthood.
   F. The heavenly sanctuary is superior to the Mosaic Tabernacle.

II. The Preeminence of Christ (Colossians 1:15-19):
   A. The image of the invisible God.
   B. The firstborn of all creation.
   C. Creator of all things.
   D. Head of the body, the church.
   E. The beginning.
   F. The firstborn from the dead.

III. Eternal Glory through Christ (Hebrews 2:5-18):
   A. Man's glory is Christ's objective.
   B. The high cost of man's glorification.

Conclusion:

The Apostle Paul referred to the Lord Jesus Christ as the "only Potentate, king of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Timothy 6:15). The power to take the eternal souls of men and receive them into heaven or reject them into hell rest in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is superior to all things of this life. He holds preeminence above all things. He has the power and position to save us. Will you not accept his gracious offer of salvation?