

## **A TIME FOR REFLECTION** – [Pastor Gene Henderson]

Who are you? What are you? Where did you come from? Where are you going? Questions slightly more important than “**Where are we going for lunch after church today?**” Questions the Bible has a few things to say about.

So, what is that invisible, immeasurable, immaterial “**thing**” that lives inside us? This question has fascinated human beings for as long as we’ve been conscious, sentient. The Bible uses two words to describe it: “**soul**” and “**spirit**”. The Bible is by no means the only piece of writing that discusses soul and spirit, but we’re in church so we’ll talk about what the Bible says. Here’s a quick recap.

*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.* (Genesis 2:7 KJV)

*And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni, but his father called him Benjamin.* (Genesis 35:18 ESV)

*For then [at death] the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.* (Ecclesiastes 12:7 NLT)

The first quote provides a clue from the view of creation. Like an EMT performing mouth-to-mouth, God breathed into Adam (which means “**man**” or “**mankind**”) the “**breath**” (which means “**wind**” or “**spirit**”) of life. The phrase “**breath of life**” is often called in other writings “**life force**”. The additional phrase “**living soul**” can be translated “**living being**”. And we often use it that way. We call ourselves human beings. The word “**being**” is just as fascinating as the word “**soul**”, and they are often used interchangeably.

The second quote refers to Jacob’s wife Rachel who dies in childbirth. “*As her soul was departing*” tells us that the soul exists beyond the body. The section of the quote that deals with the child matters, too. Rachel calls him “**child (ben) of my sorrow (oni)**.” Jacob calls him “**child (ben) of my right hand (jamin)**”. A lot of emotion in both of those reactions. Rachel’s sorrow rises from knowing she will not see her son grow up. Jacob does not contradict Rachel. He affirms that she will always be with him, at his right hand, through Benjamin. The take-away here is that the soul represents passion as well as personhood.

Solomon’s quote says **God gave us life which does not end when the body falls**. For obvious reasons we need diving suits and space suits, but we are not the suit. We need our bodies (earth-suits), but we are more than that. Say “**Hi**” to the soul next to you.

# Welcome!

April 22, 2018



*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way.”*

### **SERVICES**

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity In Prayer: 6:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM;

Kid’s Club & Youth

Prayer ½ hour before services

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Bible Study – We are studying the Book of Romans. We will be meeting in the basement during the winter to save on fuel costs.

Snacks For Children – There is a basket in the foyer for donations of snacks for Children’s Church and Wednesday night Kid’s Club.

Women’s Ministries – Capital Section Spring Event – April 28<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at Capital Church, 31 Vly Road, Colonie. Please see the insert in your bulletin. For more information, please see Caroline Zeyak.

Men’s Ministry Breakfast – Saturday morning, 9:00 AM at Denny’s on Route 4. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

Teen Challenge Service – the Teen Challenge team will be with us on May 6<sup>th</sup> for a great service. We are announcing this with much anticipation so you can invite those you know who are struggling with addictions of any kind. God can set them free!



Some Qualities of God’s Word

- I. God’s Word – **Transforms us**
  - A. Title: \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Description: \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Effect: \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_
- II. God’s Word – **Gives Us Wisdom**
  - A. Title: \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Description: \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Effect: \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_
- III. God’s Word – **Brings Us Joy**
  - A. Title: \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Description: \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Effect: \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. God’s Word – **Drives Out Darkness**
  - A. Title: \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Description: \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Effect: \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_
- V. God’s Word – **Produces Stability**
  - A. Title: \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Description: \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Effect: \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_
- VI. God’s Word – **Promises Justice**
  - A. Title: \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Description: \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Effect: \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_

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