

Believing In The Soul

By Alvin Petty,
retired area minister

Once, long, long, ago, a young princess named Sarah demanded that she be allowed to choose her own husband. Finally, her father, the king, allowed her to do so. She fell in love with a low born wood cutter. But his parents were the salt of the earth. And Joseph, the woodcutter, was strong, handsome, loving and noble of heart.

When the King saw Joseph's nobility of character, he gave Sarah permission to marry him, knowing his daughter would be happy. But, for three nights before the wedding, the angel of death appeared to Sarah in a dream saying, "When you have been married exactly a year, your husband will die!"

On their first anniversary, after Joseph went into the woods to work, Sarah saw the angel of death sitting in her front yard. She went to him and pleaded for Joseph's life, but the deadly harbinger said, "No! I warned you, and when he comes home from work, I will take him."

Sarah fled to the wooded hills where a wise seer-sage, Satern the Seer, lived in a cave. His knowledge of death and the afterlife was legendary. Exhausted, she finally found him; and for the rest of the day, he took her on a spiritual journey of questions and thought that helped her to see the truth of death and the life after. She found comfort, release from fear and finally, how to triumph over death. Perhaps the greatest truth of several that he taught her was to become aware of the soul.

Life is full of illusion that is a subtle form of magic that hides reality from us. Take a piece of ice, a snowflake and a cloud of steam and upon seeing them you are asked, "Do you see any water?" If you say "no," you have been deceived by the illusion. But if you say yes, you have seen through the illusion to the

reality that all three in essence are water. Death is the greatest illusion of all that we must see through to the reality of the matter.

"Sarah," said Satern the Seer, "you knew Joseph would die within a year and yet you married him, why?"

"Because, I truly loved him, I saw his goodness and nobility of soul."

Satern replied, "You saw his essence, his soul. True love is recognizing someone else's soul and joining your soul to theirs. The soul is eternal. It is our consciousness and it can never die. It comes from God, is connected to God and returns to God. To join another in love is communion that can never be lost."

"We bury the dead or cremate them and we see it done, so we believe in death. Our eyes never see the soul, but our heart, our spirit, does. You can stop believing your eyes; death is an illu-

sion. The eternity of the soul is the reality to see. The Apostle in I Corinthians 15 taught that when the physical body dies, we are immediately raised a spiritual body.

Our main duty in life is to get to know our own souls and the beauty that can be found in the souls of others. Getting to know our own soul, becoming aware that the Kingdom or Rule and Power of God abides, there is called the first resurrection in the book of revelation.

Death has no power over those thus enlightened, for they have found the God they are connected to, the God within them.

Your soul and those souls of all others that you love are eternal. Take care of your own soul and nurture the souls of others. This is the work of Heaven on earth.



Church of Christ

Bible Study.....10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 11:00 a.m.

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Garfield Griffin, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.

El Sendero de la Cruz

Roger Velasquez, Pastor
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday Service.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Service..... 7:30 p.m.
Friday Service.....7:30 p.m.

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*How much better
is it to get wisdom
than gold! and to
get undersanding
rather to be
chosen than
silver!*

Proverbs 16:16 (KJV)



First Baptist Church

Josh Faucett, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church

Wilbur Ormond, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 11:00 a.m.

St. John's Catholic Church

938-2936; Office Hours: Wed.& Fri.: 8:30-12

Sunday Mass..... 10:00 a.m.
Friday Mass..... 6:00 p.m.
Saturday Mass..... 5:00 p.m.
Sun. Faith Formation (Grades K-5)..... 9-10 a.m.
Wed. Faith Formation.(Grades 6-12)..... 6-7 p.m.