



Able to Destroy the Body in Hell

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(Mat 10:28) And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

There is an obvious clarity to the first part of this verse. This Old Testament verse teaches its audience to have no fear of people who can kill the human body, but cannot kill the soul. Man can kill another man, but they can't kill the soul. Can you see your soul? No, of course not. It is spirit. The five senses are in an entirely different plane of life.



You can't form a fist and smack the soul in the head. You can't touch a soul. I'd like to take a short side trip for a moment and talk about the soul. The soul in man is the source of his life and breath.

(Gen 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.

Considering only a natural man, one who is not a born again

Christian, that person is made of two parts: body and soul. (A Christian man has an additional, third part called the gift of holy spirit.)

(1 Th 5:23) And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's talk about the natural man. This man of only two parts, body and soul, functions quite well according to God's design. His body does amazing feats, and his soul propels him along as his source of life. Today's religions, many Christian and

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non-Christian alike, teach that a man's soul is eternal. The Bible never teaches this. It does teach that the soul dies when the man dies (or takes his last breath). The body and soul man has a very finite existence, beginning with birth, and ending with his death. *There is nothing sacred about the soul.* Animals have souls too, but they aren't ever born again and given an opportunity to spend eternity with God. When a natural man breaths his last breath, his soul dies and his life is over with. Man lived like this for thousands of years. This Godly design is fabulous and is still with us today.

Now, let's talk about a Christian man. What makes life even more special is when man chooses to become a Christian and then receives a unique, third addition into his being. He then becomes a complete man according to

God's Word.

(Col 2:9-10) For in him [Christ] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. {10} And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

The soul of man is spirit, but it is not eternal spirit. It is the same soul that your cute, little, kitty cat has. Rover the dog has it, too. And, the pretty birds that feed in your back yard have this same soul, as do the great whales in our mighty oceans. Yes, it is spirit, because it has life in and of itself, but it is not eternal life spirit, and it does not give you unencumbered access to the many planned events of eternity. If it did, then the Mormons would be right with their animal heaven teachings. But, they are not. Earth's animals do not have a heaven, and they do not have access to anything eternal,

whatsoever. But they should if the teaching that man's soul is eternal is correct. That's right! If "eternal" applies to man's soul, it must also apply to "all" souls. Sorry, but for some, this logic is too strong. Nonetheless, it's true. You don't have the authority to rewrite creation and God's plan. "Soul" was first created in the great whales, and animals.

(Gen 1:21) And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

It was later given to man when God breathed it into his nostrils. By the way, God doesn't breathe. He's spirit. Spirits don't breathe. This is a figure of speech whereby God attributes, to Himself, human attributes, thus placing

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emphasis on it. He wanted you to understand how man received his life.

Well, it is this same soul that man cannot kill. If man could, all the rules of warfare would drastically change. World powers would no longer need their terrible forms of destruction, all designed to kill bodies. A soul must occupy a body. Otherwise, it no longer functions. But, it is not eternal. When the body dies, the soul just ceases to exist. It doesn't go to heaven. No verse in the Bible ever teaches something like this. It is tied to the senses realm, so to speak, and there is where it must abide. Now, back to my comment on warfare. There would be some other way used, a way that would target spirit – soul. Just think about it for a moment. The human being is of the five senses realm. He has seeing, hearing, tasting, touching and smelling at his disposal. There are the

only avenues of learning given to him as a natural man. He is absolutely not of the spiritual realm, well almost not. The soul of man is spirit, though, but it is not eternal spirit, and it is not Holy Spirit. It is man's life source, and it is temporal. This two-part man lives his life in a limited, sense-knowledge realm until he becomes a Christian and receives the gift of holy spirit, one which is eternal. Now, this later part, too, is of the spiritual realm.

Man has never invented a method whereby he could kill or destroy spirit. He can only kill the body. And, that is what the first part of Matthew 10:28 teaches. Only God can destroy spirit. To date, there is no Biblical record of Him doing so. We know that the worst of the spirits from Lucifer's failed overthrow attempt are in chains

of darkness today, but they were not destroyed.

(2 Pet 2:4) For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

The subject of man's soul is a fantastic area of interest to many. Once you understand the nature of the soul, it becomes fairly simple to understand its role. Remember. Never attribute meaning and definition to the soul if you can't substantiate those things with Scripture. Man teaches magnanimous volumes of sheer hearsay on this subject, but as students of research, we must be prepared to validate each and every point with Scripture. Now, let's apply what we have learned to our theme verse.

(Mat 10:28) **And fear not them which kill the body,**
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but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

We are not to fear man who can kill the body, but cannot kill, harm, or otherwise tamper with our temporal spirit – the soul.

Then follows the more challenging, second part of the verse, “but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

I’d like to say that this verse would not be a challenge AT ALL if our wonderful translators would have stuck to the real meanings of the Greek and Hebrew words. But, they didn’t when they decided to use the word “hell,” from the Greek gehenna. This word should be translated “city trash dump.” It is a place where the fire never goes out. It burns and smolders all day and night, and

continues to do so because of newly deposited trash. It never should have been translated “hell.” Let’s translate it properly and see what the verse says.

“...But rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in the city dump.”

Now, doesn’t that change things? I’d say that it does.

Did you notice that God used the word ‘destroy’ and not ‘kill?’ Only God can destroy. The context of this verse centers around what God can do, not what man can do.

Let me show you a collection of two verses in Luke.

(Luke 12:4-5) And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. {5} But I

will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

We are told to fear, or have respect for the one who has power to cast people into hell. This word ‘hell’ comes from the same Greek word as in Matthew 10:28 – gehenna – meaning, city dump. Remember that the word ‘hell’ was used by the translators, but the Greek word doesn’t mean that. It means, ‘city dump.’

Here’s something that you may not know. When fire is used as in this verse, and fire is implied with the Greek word gehenna, it represents God’s judgment.

Did you know that Christians will never be judged?

We have already been judged in Christ, and we all passed with flying colors. The Gospels are not

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written to Christians, rather, to Old Testament believers, those who lived before Christianity. The subject of 'hell' in the Gospels almost always applied to non-Christians, a little fact that most people don't understand. But, I hope that you understand it, because it will make a huge difference in your understanding of the Scriptures.

Actually, we shall be judges.

(1 Cor 6:2-3) Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? {3} Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

Isn't this fantastic?

(1 Pet 1:17) And if ye call on the Father, who without

respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

Did you know that there is a huge difference between being judged with a sentence of destruction and being judged according to your good works? No punishment mentioned for being good, is there?

(1 Pet 4:16-18) Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. {17} For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? {18} And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

After God finishes talking with

you when you stand before His throne, verse 18 says that you will still be saved. That means that you don't have to worry about ending up in the gehenna!

(Mat 10:28) And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear [respect] him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

So, when you read verse 28, what do you think now? From what I showed you, this verse is written to an Old Testament audience; 'hell' doesn't mean 'hell' at all, it means 'city dump'; and the righteous will be saved even after we stand before God in heaven. Now, you must decide what you believe. The choice is up to you. In my opinion, this verse doesn't tell us that there is a hell. It tells us to respect God and that God holds the power to destroy; no one else ever will.

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Did you ever read the verses following Matthew 10:28?

(Mat 10:29-33) Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And, one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. {30} But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. {31} Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. {32} Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. {33} But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Look at how tender our Heavenly Father is. God pays attention, even to the little birds that fall on the ground. He knows how much hair you have. He tells you to not fear him and compares

you to the little birds. He gives you a choice. Either confess Jesus Christ or deny him. This section isn't about going to hell. It is about how loving our God is to us. It is about us making the right choice by confessing Jesus Christ before men. If you confess Jesus Christ, he will confess you before God! That's what I want to believe. What about you?

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown