WHAT ARE OUR PRECIOUS DEAD DOING?

Now we're gonna talk about a subject that is of interest to every human being on the top side of the earth. A subject that strikes fear into the hearts of whole nations. A subject that has been robbed of its sting to the Christians, through the power of resurrection. We're gonna talk about death. And let us begin by turning to Job 14:10. The Bible says “But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?”

Now there is the question that we're asking as we go to the scriptures. And as we find the question in the Bible, thank God that we can find the answer in the Bible. I am personally happy that when God called me, He called me to preach the truth. And He called to preach something that's clear. Something that's in the Bible. I don't have to go around making up something to tell folks. The Bible is full, if we just stay with it. And if we would just believe it.

Now the first recorded lie is in Genesis 3:4, where Satan said to Eve, “ye shall not surely die: ….” Now God said in Genesis 2:17, “in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Eve had a choice of believing God or the devil. That's our choice tonight. Now because she chose to believe the Devil, she plunged herself and her husband into sin. And the whole human race has received a heritage of a sinful nature because Eve doubted God and believed the devil. And this lie told in the garden of Eden, has come down to us in ___ on this day with all its original appeal. People do not believe that dead people are really dead.

In john 8:44, the Bible says “the devil is a liar, and the father of it.” If I said nearly everybody here is scared of dead people, I'd probably be right. There are not many here tonight who would walk alone in a graveyard midnight on a dark night. But you're safer in the graveyard at midnight than you are in ___ because those folks on ___ will blow your brains out, but those dead folks you don't have to worry about.

Now this is a serious subject, and I know it. And some of you, because you believe God, are going to have your minds changed tonight for the first time on this subject. Now I wanna say something nice: God never sends His truth to embarrass anyone, He sends His truth to enlighten and to save. And instead of being embarrassed we ought to be thankful. It's not God's fault that we don't know the truth, it's been in here all the time.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, strong theologians preach that the soul never dies. And this is an attempt to comfort the bereaved by telling them that the soul never dies and that the dear someone is off somewhere enjoying himself. But let me assure you, inspite of how beautifully it is said or sung, the Bible never one mentions a never dying soul. I'm only interested in one thing: and that is, you understand, God's word. Now this is a touchy subject, because it means that minds have to be changed

when they become aware of the word of God. And I don't mind telling you that if I had to depend on my own mentality to come up with this subject, I wouldn't even preach on it. I could leave it alone, but never was the Bible clearer on any subject than it is on this one. So our salvation is to stick close to the Bible.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:13, the Bible says, Paul speaking, “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them that are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.” Paul said to the church, I don't want you ignorant concerning the dead. Now pagans have always been ignorant concerning the dead.

The Indians in this country believe that when a man died, he went flying off into the happy hunting ground. And nearly every other pagan group has some idea about a man when he dies, going off into a big something in the sky, or to some resort, or to some place where he can relax.

Now there is a difference between the soul and the spirit. In Genesis 2:7, the Bible says, “And the Lord formed man in the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.” Please note: the Bible says God breathed into the nostrils the breath of life and man was given a soul, or he had a soul. It says he “became” a soul. He was a soul. The whole man was a soul. God made man of the dust of the ground. That was only a body. Then the Great God of heaven, breathed into the nostrils of that body, the breath of life, and man became a living soul, the Bible says. Now the breath was the only thing God gave to that body. And the Bible says when that breath was given to man from God, he became a living soul.

In Psalms 104:29, the Bible says, “Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.” When God made man, He gave to that body the breath of life and man became a soul. Now the Bible says, “Thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.” When God put the breath into that body, it became a soul, a living soul. When the breath is taken away, it becomes a dead soul.

Man is not only soul. In Revelation 16:3, the Bible says, “And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea: and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.” Whatever breaths the breath of life can be technically called a soul. For the soul is the union of the breath and the body.

Now what is a spirit? In Job 27:3, Job says, “All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils.” Spirit, interpreted 100 times in the Bible, means wind, or breath, or air. In Genesis 7:22 the Bible says, “All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, … died!” So the breath of life is the key to life. Animals and men differ, but we all breath the same air. Now the Bible says in James 2:26, “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Now let's go over some of the things we have studied. 1. Man and beast are pretty much alike. But God made man more intelligent. In Ecclesiastes 3:18-20, the Bible says, 18. “I said in mine heart concerning the state of the sons of men, that God might see that they themselves are beasts.” 19. “For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts: even one thing befaleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence about a beast: for all is vanity.” 20. “All go into one place; all are of the dust, and all return to dust again.” Now Ecclesiastes 12:7, the Bible says, “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

Now you've read that many times. But I know the concept is that when a man dies, a little man jumps out of him and starts up to heaven. Not that's not the truth. This text says that when a man dies, doesn't say whether he's a good man or a bad man, when any man dies, the Bible says he returns to the earth, as he was. And the spirit shall return to God who gave it. And so what did God give? God gave the Spirit. And man became a living soul when he received that. When man dies, the spirit goes back to God. The breath goes out of man, he stops breathing, he is dead. Death means that when a man dies, he does not live. And if we would believe that, we would believe God.

If you're scared of dead people, if you think they're still listening to you, if you think they come and visit you at home, you do not believe they're dead, you do not believe that God says. In Psalm 146:3, 4, the Bible says, “Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.” Now if your wife thought about you all the time, that's beautiful. But if your wife dies, she's not thinking about you anymore. She cannot think. The Bible says in that very day, her thoughts perish. What about those who say, “I can see my mother up in heaven now praising God?” Let's read the Bible, Psalms 6:5, I am scared not to just give you scripture. I don't wanna do a lot of talking. The Bible says in Psalms 6:5 “For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?”

Now while the're in the casket, people like to put on demonstrations. Deacons have to carry folks out! Now I've been to funerals, and I'm not taking death slightly, and some of the most precious people in the world to me have been called asleep. So I'm not being cold and callous while I'm telling you this. But I have seen some funerals, where I know that daughter didn't treat mamma right. And that son wouldn't even visit her. But when she is laid up cold, they stand up and cry, and they even faint away so somebody can carry them out, trying to prove to the public, how much they loved. Ladies and gentlemen, if you have a dear old mother or father living, if you plan to show them love, do it now. If you got any flowers to send, send them now. Plan to do some visiting now. Do it now.

Job 14:20, 21. Write it down, please. If it's not in your Bible Pastor Baker is telling a lie! If I tell

you and can't prove it from the scriptures, don't believe me. Is that fair! Job 14:20, 21: “Thou prevailest forever against him, and he passeth: thou changest his countenance, and sendeth him away. His sons come to know, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.” You can come and cry all you want to, mamma doesn't even know you care. The only thing she can know, is when you're nice to her while she's living. While she can smell the flowers, while she can hear the compliments. That's the time to honor your father and your mother, and God has commanded us to do that. When they're dead you can yell and scream all you want to, you're not impressing them anymore, they're gone.

Now here's the important question: is a soul never-dying? Let me read you the answer. Ezekiel 18. What did I say? Ezekiel 18:4, listen. “Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth shall die.” There is no such thing as an ever-dying soul. God says, that the soul that sinneth, it shall die. Verse 20 of the same chapter: “the soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.” God says if you live right I'm gonna save you , if you sin you're gonna die, and nobody else can pay your debt for you.

What about purgatory? Is there a place, to where a man can go, while his family raises money, and later, he can be prayed out of it? Ladies and gentlemen, in Ecclesiastes 9:10 the Bible says this: “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” Now I told you, if you plan to be nice to your parents, do it now. If you plan to serve God, now is the accepted time. Today if you hear His voise harden not your heart. If you have ever plan to obey God, start now. Because if you wait until you're dead, the Bible says you've waited too long.

Now what about immortality? There are some who say you've got an immortal soul. The word immortal means can't die. Mortal means can die. Now let's see what the Bible says. And if the Bible is not clear, we have a right to be confused. But if the Bible is clear, we ought to settle that thing tonight. 1 Timothy 6:15, 16; “Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality ...” Only God hath immortality. There are people who say the saints are in heaven, having a good time praising God, but I'm gonna read you something in Acts 2.

Now this was on the day of Pentecost and Peter was preaching about David. Now David had been dead for hundreds and hundreds of years and here's what Peter said about him. Acts 2:34; “For David is not ascended into the heavens:” Now if that's not clear enough, let's add verse 29: the Bible

says, “Men and brethren,” Now this is Peter preaching on the day of Pentecost. And maybe some folks say, ok, maybe the old testament folks didn't go, but when Jesus rose from the dead everybody went. When peter preached, Christ had been back in heaven ten days, and he had been resurrected 50 days. Now Peter said in verse 29, “Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the Patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchure is with us to this day.” And in verse 34 he said, David is not in heaven.

Ladies and gentlemen, please keep in mind this is the truth, not because Pastor Baker preaches it, but because it is in the Bible. In Job 17:13, the Bible says “If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.” And then in Job 14:12, Job said, “So man lieth down, and raiseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.” In 2 Peter 3:10, the Bible says when Jesus comes “the heavens shall pass away with a great noise.” Job says man lieth down and stays there until Jesus comes. In Psalms 115:17, the Bible says: “The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence.” all your life you've heard people say, “Oh, don't worry, our brother is up in glory praising the Lord.” The Bible says the dead praise not the Lord. I say when God speaks let God be true. And let everybody else be in error.

In Ecclesiastes 9:5 the Bible says, “for the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.” The dead know what? Verse 6: “Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in anything that is done under the sun.” Ladies and gentlemen, that's clear.

Your heart might be broken and you might hear somebody knock at the door at midnight. You might open the door and something might walk in that looks just like your dead wife, but it's not your wife. If it is, the Bible is a lie, we ought to give up on religion and all go on to hell having a good time. The Bible says when he dies, his love dies. Now on the other hand, a person might die who hated you. And you're scared to death. “Oh, he hated me, he's coming back to bother me.” Scared to go to sleep. If he hated you while he was living, you don't have to worry when he dies, for the Bible says his love and his hatred is gone.

Job 7:8-10: “The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more:… 9. … he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. 10. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.” Now I'm not trying to make fun of people who believe the dead come back home. This is serious business. Job 14:13, “O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me a secret, until thy wrath be past.” Job said “I'm gonna die, but just keep me in the grave till your wrath is past.” Then he said “that thou wouldest appoint me a set time and remember

me.” That's what I'm interested in. If I have to go to sleep, I just wanna know that God knows where I am buried. And that He will remember me.

Ladies and gentlemen, this world of ours contaminated with sin, is slinging around the world's corrupt. leprous! A colony of filth among the pure worlds of God. And God's gonna straighten it out. And the way He's gonna do it is to end the reign of sin down here.

In John 5:28, 29, the Bible says, “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, unti the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation.” Now let's go to 2 Thessalonians 4: 16, 17. “For the Lord himself shall descend” (What does descend mean?) “… shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the LORD.”

That's not beautiful to me! A mother looking down has seen everything, has been everywhere and has gotten used to it. What's beautiful to me is that when Jesus comes the trumpet's gonna sound. And the angel that marked the spot where your mother is buried, is gonna fly down to the spot and call her. And the dusty blanket of earth is gonna come out of that grave, wearing the bloom of eternal youth. And the Bible says we which are alive are gonna be caught up.

There is hope for you, for Christ, His life He gave.

There is hope for you, there is light beyond the grave.

There is hope, I say, for He is mighty to save.

There is hope in Christ for you.

There is hope for you though death may close your eyes.

There is hope for you, the dead in Christ shall rise.

There is hope for you, with Him we'll mount the skies.

There is hope in Christ for you.