

MSB271

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

Otis Q. Sellers, Founder -- David R. Hetteema, Director

TAKING INVENTORY OF OUR LEGACY OF BIBLICAL TRUTH

By David R. Hetteema

A legacy can be a very valuable thing—a precious gift handed down to the heirs from those who have diligently labored upon it. Its value is confirmed by continually testing and proving its worth. And by ever reviewing it, adding more details of truth, increases the value, making the legacy even more precious.

Many of us today are the fortunate heirs to the legacy of the lifelong studies and Biblical teachings set forth by the late Otis Q. Sellers. His lifelong commitment of seeking out and developing the truth, no matter what the cost might be, has produced a legacy of Biblical truth that has stood the test of time and criticism.

Sellers was a very good teacher in that he had the ability to make the subject plain, to lay out for his listeners both the Biblical facts of the subject and the resultant truths of the matter being dealt with. He always directed his listeners to settle the question by the Word of God so that they could reach understanding and possess the truth for their very own.

Many of us would not hesitate to honor Sellers as one of the greatest Bible teachers of his time; he certainly has given to us, and the world, a great legacy of Biblical truth. This article is not about the man, but it is about his legacy of Biblical truths that are still alive and a great help for any Bible student who seeks to know the truth about the many important subjects in God's Word. Most verses quoted are from the *New King James Version*.

LEGACY ITEM: *UNDERSTANDING THE TRUE MEANING OF FAITH THAT RELATES MEN TO GOD.*

There is importance of having a true understanding about what the word "faith" means in establishing a saving relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Faith is not "strong trust" or "stubborn insistence about something we want." Faith in relationship to God *is taking God at His Word and responding accordingly*. An opportunity for faith comes when God places in front of us some word or action that we can either respond to or reject. Responding is believing. Taking Him at His Word is an act of faith, and faith always brings great reward. That action is put to our account as righteousness, and at the same time the record of our sin is wiped from our slate. Since "faith" and "belief" are the same word in the original Greek (*pistis*), it becomes obvious that to reject God's opportunity for faith is unbelief, and the record of our sin still stands: **He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him** (John 3:36).

LEGACY ITEM: *THE BIBLICAL TRUTH CONCERNING THE NATURE AND DESTINY OF MAN. MAN DOES NOT POSSESS A SOUL; IN REALITY, MAN IS A SOUL THAT CAN DIE.*

Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die (Ezek. 18:4).

What man is he that is living, and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? (Psa. 89:48, KJV).

The vast majority of people in the presumed "Christian world" believe in the Greek philosopher Plato's reasoning and teaching that man is born with an immortal soul. Plato concluded that what we call "death" is a release that frees the "body-encumbered soul" into a higher plane of existence. In my youth I was taught that this baffling doctrine was the truth from Scripture, but studying it left me with many questions that no one could answer. I can now rejoice in the truth, knowing that what God's Word sets forth is quite the opposite. God did not create man to die, but when our original parents disobeyed God, bringing sin and death into the world, that terrible sentence of death touched all of their descendants. We do have an appointment: **"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment"** (Heb. 9:27).

The Lord Jesus told His learners: "***And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free***" (John 8:32). I can rejoice in the fact that under Sellers' teaching from God's Word, I came into an understanding of the truth concerning man's nature and his destiny. It makes good sense. Truth gives freedom to the believer who receives it. But the troublesome fact is that believing Satan's big lie "*you will not surely die*" (Gen. 3:4) is much more comforting than the hard truth spoken by God when He said to failed Adam and all of his descendants: ***In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return*** (Gen. 3:19). What is most comforting is the Biblical truth of resurrection—God's answer to death. There is no salvation without resurrection.

LEGACY ITEM: THE FACT THAT A RESURRECTION HAS BEEN PURCHASED FOR ALL MEN BY JESUS CHRIST. THE ASSURANCE THAT THERE IS AN ORDER OF RESURRECTION FOR ALL THAT ARE IN THE GRAVE., JESUS CHRIST WILL DESTROY DEATH AND REMOVE SIN.

Jesus said, ... I am the resurrection, and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die (be dying in relation to the eon). **Do you believe this?** (John 11:25-26).

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, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation (judgment) (John 5:28-29, KJV).

If you follow it out to all its possible conclusions, the unscriptural doctrine of "man has a never-dying soul" and the idea that "the soul's abode is heaven," it becomes obvious that man does not need a resurrection. There is much "lip service" given to resurrection during the season called "Easter," but as for the truth of resurrection for every man, the glory of Jesus Christ's claim that He is "the Resurrection and the Life" is stripped from His reputation.

Resurrection is *the restoration to life of one who is dead*. In 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, Paul by inspiration deals with the sureness of resurrection for all because Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, and the obvious futility of expecting a resurrection if Christ has not been raised.

IMPORTANT LEGACY: *DISCOVERING AND FITTING INTO PLACE THE MISSING PIECE OUT OF THE GREAT PUZZLE OF PROPHECY. SEEING THE WHOLE PICTURE, LIVING, EXPECTING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS GOD'S NEXT MOVE.*

Throughout his many years of study, especially in the Old Testament, Sellers recognized that the inspired writers in many places continually spoke of that time when the government of the earth would be under God's designated Christ. Ruling from His throne in the heavens, He will bring peace, light, health and much more to the world, ruling in righteousness all governments of the earth (Isa. 2:1-4). Sellers was also convinced that God will approach, forgive and restore estranged Israel as His people (Deut 30:1-2). In Hosea 2:14-20, Jehovah states a declaration of His love for Israel, and foretells of their being reunited with Him: "**... I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord.**"

The 490 years of the prophecy in Daniel 9:24 will be played out in the Kingdom of God consecutively without a break. By God's own words those years are determined for Israel and the city of Jerusalem, while the nations observe and participate in a redeemed earth and in Israel's promised blessings.

The coming Kingdom of God, God's government in this earth, is pre-tribulation, pre-second coming, and premillennial.

There is no unfulfilled prophecy that must first find fulfillment. God's next move which could come at any moment will be the Holy Spirit's guided enlightenment of every living being of all nations: "**... I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh**" (Joel 2:28). This mind-penetrating enlightenment has to do with who Jesus Christ is, and what He is in God's sight. It will be unveiling each individual's record of sin measured against God's righteousness and judgment (see Matthew 12:18-21). It is Jesus Christ who will judge (set the order) for the living and the dead at His blazing forth, even His Kingdom (2 Tim. 4:1). As a man among men, Jesus Christ proclaimed the message of the Kingdom. His record of miracles and signs, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, raising the dead are all indications of what men can expect when God's future government rules the earth.

***A LEGACY OF TRUTH: THE EARTH, NOT HEAVEN IS THE FUTURE
HOME OF GOD'S REDEEMED***

The Psalmist wrote that the submissive ones shall inherit the earth (Psa. 37:11). God has given the earth to the children of men, and the earth is the realm that Jesus Christ will rule from the heavens in the first stage of His government Secondly, this earth is the place to which the glorified Christ will descend at His coming (Gk.-parousid). He will rule all nations from Jerusalem for 1,000 years. Knowing the facts of what blessings God has in store for this earth, what man would choose to be elsewhere?

In the Kingdom of God, many of us who were privileged to sit under his teaching will want to personally thank our friend and mentor, Otis Q. Sellers, for his dedicated teaching to the many ones who wanted to know the truth. May God continue to bless these wonderful legacies of truth.

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