

Sermon Notes – 09.21.2025 – A Soul that Prospers

3 John 1:2-4 Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. **3** For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, *that is*, how you are walking in truth. **4** I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

The Soul – Hebrew “Nephesh” - A Living Breathing Being

Genesis 1:24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth **living creatures** (nephesh) after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. **25** God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good. **26** Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...**"

Lord God Made Everything that has Life. God Made Animals and God Made Us.

Genesis 2:7 Then **the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being** (nephesh).

What Lifts Us Up Above the Animals and Makes Us Special is Two-Fold

- God Created Us “In His Own Image”
- We “Became a Living Soul” When God Breathed into Us
 - o Other Creatures – Were not breathed to life by the breath of God

Adam & Eve Sinned & We Became Sinners

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as **through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin**, and so **death spread to all men, because all sinned**—

The Unsaved Condition of the Soul

Ephesians 2:1-3 **And you were dead in your trespasses and sins**, **2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, **indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath**, even as the rest.

Not Yet Mature Condition of the Soul

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to **men of flesh**, as to infants in Christ. **2** I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, **3** for **you are still fleshly**. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? **4** For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," **are you not mere men?**

Continuing in the Flesh is Hostility Toward God

Romans 8:5-8 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Regenerated Condition – The New Creation – “Created in the likeness of God,” Again.”

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Ephesians 4:23-24 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Soul submitted to God. - led by Holy Spirit

Romans 8:12-13 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

A Spirit Led Soul Prospers

3 John 1:2-4 Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. ³ For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, *that is,* how you are walking in truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.