

B. Dichotomy

1. Definition of the view

Dichotomy is the view that soul and spirit refer to one and the same nonmaterial entity; and that therefore human beings are two fold beings: nonmaterial and material.

2. Scriptural evidence used to support the view

Dichotomy searches the Scriptures to find substantive differences in the significance of the relevant terms or the functions associated with them, but finds none. Instead, it finds synonymous usage, interchangeability of terms, and lack of distinctness of function associated with their use.

The following Scriptures are quoted to illustrate these findings:

a. "Soul" (נַפְשׁ) in the Old Testament

I Samuel 1:15 -- "But Hannah answered and said, 'No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the Lord.' "

I Kings 17:21 22 -- "Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, called to the Lord, and said, 'O Lord my God, I pray Thee, let this child's life return to him. And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child returned to him and he revived."

Psalms 19:7 -- "The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."

Psalms 35:9 -- "And my soul shall rejoice in the Lord;
It shall exult in His salvation."

Psalms 42:1 2 -- "As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So my soul pants for Thee, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God;
When shall I come and appear before God?"

Psalms 103:1 -- "Bless the Lord, O my soul
All that is within me, bless His holy name.'

Psalms 119:167 -- "My soul keeps Thy testimonies,
And I love them exceedingly."

b. "Soul" (ψυχή) in the New Testament

Matthew 10:28 -- "And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.'