

## **Dear Mr. Annihilationist**

(Answering a Letter from an Annihilationist)

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig

Not long ago a letter was brought to my attention that was written by a man who believes in annihilationism. This is the teaching that stresses a person dies like a dog and ceases to exist after death. The letter was designed to persuade people that man is only a physical being but not a spiritual being. I will refer to the man as Mr. Annihilationist, while responding to his letter, and interact with some of his false conclusions. May this brief response and refutation provide us with sound Biblical conclusions and a firm foundation of the afterlife.

Dear Mr. Annihilationist,

Allow me to respond to some of your teachings and conclusions in the letter that was recently sent to one of my parishioners. You seem to have studied the Bible to some extent so what I have to say should be of some interest to you. My main thought that I would like to convey to you is the importance of studying “all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27) or God’s complete mind and teaching on the subjects of Heaven, hell, death, and the afterlife. We must be careful to not misinterpret and then misrepresent what the Bible says as a whole (2 Cor. 4:2 – “handling the word of God deceitfully”) nor use some isolated passages that would contradict the clear revelation of the entire Bible (2 Pet. 1:20 – “no scripture is of any private interpretation”). Furthermore, any Scripture out of context becomes a pretext (something created to conceal or disguise the truth).

I was surprised that you never heard about a minister talking about hell at a funeral. I frequently mention hell at the funerals I perform because this is primarily what salvation (Rom. 1:16) is all about – deliverance, safety, and preservation from hell (Matt. 23:14, 33; 2 Pet. 2:3). Those who are left behind need to know of the hope they can have through the Gospel (2 Tim. 1:10). Are you aware that Jesus spoke more about hell than He did about Heaven during His earthly ministry? If you read the Gospel accounts this can be verified.

It's very clear that "hell" and the eternal judgment of God is a Biblical teaching - not a pagan teaching or false teaching of Christendom. You would tend to believe that hell means annihilation but the Scriptures themselves prove this theory to be false.

Revelation 20:10

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, **and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**"

How can someone be tormented day and night forever and forever when they cease to exist? It is an oxymoron (contradiction) to suggest that some can be eternally annihilated. It makes no sense. If someone ceases to exist or passes out of existence after death then why not say so? Jesus never said anything like this.

Matthew 18:8

"Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast *them* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into **everlasting fire.**"

Matthew 25:41

"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into **everlasting fire**, prepared for the devil and his angels."

Once again we must note the emphasis on the "everlasting fire" which connotes an everlasting judgment upon the lost. There will be a constant judgment flowing from the hands of God against all Christ-rejecting people even as there will be against the devil (Rev. 20:10). This is the clear and unmistakable teaching of Scripture.

Matthew 25:46 says:

"And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment**: but the righteous into **life eternal.**"

Annihilationists and the cults in general have always tried to use this verse to denounce eternal retribution of the wicked by fire. They assume Jesus changes the terminology from "everlasting

punishment” to “eternal life” for a reason. Some cults assume that the difference between annihilation and eternal bliss in God’s presence can be maintained by the difference in the words “everlasting” and “eternal” But this cannot be maintained by any able exegete of the Word since these are simply two English words translated from the same Greek word (“aionios”). Furthermore, if eternal life for the saved means a conscious eternal existence, by contrast, it can only mean the same thing for the lost and wicked. They too will exist forever in a conscious judgment in hell. Jesus said that both the life and the punishment will be eternal. Jesus also said certain people can receive “greater damnation” (Matt. 23:14) or punishment due to the severity of their sins. It would be meaningless to say that people will receive greater annihilationism! It would also be meaningless to say that people will be judged “according to their works” (Rev. 20:12-13) if they were all going to be annihilated. How can people be annihilated according to their works? We either believe what the Bible and Jesus say or we choose to reject clear revelation. When people reject the light of truth then darkness sets in and “how great is that darkness” (Matt. 6:23).

Your primary misunderstanding of Scripture has to do with the word “soul.” The Bible clearly interprets the word “soul” in two ways. It can contextually refer to the human body and physical life as you have correctly pointed out (Gen. 1:24; Job 7:15; 1 Pet. 3:20; Acts 27:37) but it can also point to the immaterial part of a man’s existence that lives on for eternity (2 Cor. 5:8; Matt. 10:28; Rev. 6:9; 15:1-2). **The word “soul” in Genesis 2:7, when referring to the creation of man, is also referring to the immaterial (unseen) part of a man’s existence that lives on for eternity.** This was not only physical breath that God was giving to Adam, but spiritual breath or life which communicated God’s own spiritual existence and internal likeness to Adam. Adam, at the moment of creation, also became a spiritual being in which God’s likeness could be found and he became a spiritual being that would live on forever.

The term “soul” (*nephesh*) as it pertains to man refers to life, both physical and spiritual, since man “became a living soul” (Gen. 2:7) as a result of the infusion of God’s breath (literally - “breath of lives”). When God made the animals (Gen. 1:20), he created them, “*nephesh chayah*” (singular). By contrast, when God created man (Gen. 2:7),

He breathed into man, “*nephesh chayim*” (lives). Man was created as a soul, in a two-fold sense (1 Thess. 5:23), as a result of God’s inbreathing, or the time when God infused both physical and spiritual life into Adam’s lifeless body. **The plural indicates that man was created as a physical being (a breathing soul on the outside) and a spiritual being (a living soul on the inside) that reflected God’s life, likeness, nature, and personality from within, as a result of a newly formed spirit that directed Adam’s soul toward God (Zech. 12:1; John 3:6; 1 Cor. 2:15).** This indicates that man, as a soul (a physical and spiritual living being – a total person), was created on a much higher level and grander scale than the animal kingdom. Man was the pinnacle of God’s creation (Psalm 8:5). He is a soul in a way that the animal kingdom is not (see Gen. 1:24 where “creature” or *nephesh* = living being).

You mentioned how man became a living soul or physical being (Gen. 2:7) and make the point that he was not given a soul. This is a straw man argument. This is because the soul of man is an explanation of what man is in his entire being, even his real inner existence and life. **Simply stated, man became what God wanted him to be – a living, breathing, and spiritual being (total man).** He did not have to say, “I’m giving man a soul.” God simply created man as a living soul, or as a person who could reflect God’s personality through the outward and inner life. This is what man was designed to be in his *total existence* as a human being. Man was created as a physical and spiritual creation (soul), which possessed personality and eternal existence, which was a reflection of His Creator.

Man was a created soul (living being) that possessed God’s “image and likeness” (Gen. 1:26; 5:1) which means inwardly man possessed God’s higher intelligence, volition, sense of morals, spiritual life, and the capacity to know God as a personal being (Gen. 3:8). Man could possess companionship with God since God created this ability within man’s spirit (the place of spiritual life) and soul (the place of personality) at the time of creation. The animal kingdom was not created in God’s image; God’s breath was not directly infused within the animals; therefore, they were created as a lower class of living beings, without God’s personality, morals, intelligence, and the capacity to fellowship with God. Did you ever see a chimp singing, “Just as I Am” or “Amazing Grace” in the church choir?

Mr. Annihilationist, the soul, as part of man's constitutional make-up (Heb. 4:12; 1 Thess. 5:23) can also refer to the real person that inhabits the body. It's what a person really is on the inside. There are various verses in Scripture that separate the body (physical life) from the soul (immaterial side of man's existence). They inform us that man was also created with a *spiritual dimension* that could reflect His Creator in reason, emotions, will, and a capacity for understanding spiritual things. Mr. Annihilationist, the soul is the real you (your true self and personality) that animates your physical body. Your physical body is just the shell of your human existence.

Do you actually think that your body is wired to function without any kind of animated life within? There is something inside of you that makes you who you are and it's not physical but spiritual (unseen) in existence. This is why you have emotions, a capacity to think, an understanding about God, etc. None of these things originate from the physical senses of the body. They come from the life principle that is within you ("For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him" - 1 Cor. 2:11). There is a spiritual or unseen side to your human existence ("the spirit of man") that forms the real person and provides you with understanding, intelligence, and human awareness. The life and personality principle operates within your body during your stay on earth but does not need the human body to function after death (Luke 16:22-31; Phil. 1:23).

In short, you are more than physical breath; you are a spiritual being with a spiritual existence, which inwardly possesses a conscience, a set of moral standards, and a personality that reflects personhood, which is a reflection of God Himself. Furthermore, since God is eternal; therefore, our soul, or inner spiritual makeup that reflects God's likeness, is also eternal. The soul lives on forever from the point of its creation.

You seem to think that whenever the word "soul" appears in the Bible that it only refers to the human body or physical life. This is clearly not the case. No honest Bible student would come to this conclusion. Only the cults and antichristian religions espouse these beliefs. Christianity is not a pagan religion. The Bible (not Christendom or paganism) clearly teaches that a part of man's

existence, which is immaterial and immortal, does exist after a person dies. Scripture repeatedly verifies that both the soul and spirit (immaterial part of a man's existence) is eternal and lives on after death.

Revelation 6:9

“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the **souls** of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.”

If the word soul always refers to physical or mortal life then how could “souls” be found under the altar of Heaven between their death and resurrection? It's clear that “souls” in this context is a reference to the immaterial and immortal part of a man's existence. Millions of people are seen in Heaven after their martyrdom (Rev. 7:9-17). They are seen in the afterlife enjoying God's presence. Even during the Old Testament the spirits of saved people resided in a compartment within the center of the earth awaiting the resurrection of Christ (Gen. 25:8; 25:17; 35:29; 49:29, 33; Numb. 20:6; 27:13; 31:2; Deut. 32:49-50; 2 Kings 22:20). The spiritual part of man's existence lives on forever.

Hebrews 12:22-23

“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in Heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the **spirits** of just men made perfect.”

The Bible teaches that spirits (the spirits of men) reside in Heaven before the time of bodily resurrection. Man does possess an immaterial part of his existence that is eternal.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 states:

“Then shall the **dust** (body) return to the earth as it was: and the **spirit** (immaterial part of man's existence) shall return unto God who gave it.”

I once had a Jehovah's Witness read this verse to me and she was stunned and confessed that she never did read this in the Bible. The

truth speaks for itself. The Bible does not contradict itself in regards to the afterlife. The spiritual and eternal part of man's existence lives on after death. The soul is *deathless* when it pertains to a man's immaterial nature.

Ecclesiastes 9:5

“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.”

The verse you quoted in Ecclesiastes (Ecclesiastes 9:5 – “the dead know not anything”) does not contradict what Solomon said later in his book. This statement must be understood in its context. People who die have no consciousness (they know nothing) concerning reward or enjoyment taking place here on earth. The verses should be understood in the context of enjoying life (Ecc. 9:7-9) and possessing the capacities for enjoyment while a person is still on earth. People who are alive have these capabilities but the dead do not, not because they cease to exist beyond the grave, but because they no longer are functioning on planet earth in their bodies. Thus the living have opportunities and capacities for fruitful labor but the dead do not (v. 10 – “in the grave, whither thou goest”). This is because their *body* goes to the grave and they can no longer function on this earth. The living have opportunities for reward from their labor, but the dead do not (v. 5). The living have capacities for enjoyment (vv. 7-9), but the dead do not (v. 6). *Solomon was not describing what the state of the dead is in relationship to their existence but what their state is in relationship to their enjoyment of life on earth.*

In other words, the dead miss out on the things of this life when they die but they do not cease to exist. This would contradict what Solomon said later (Ecc. 12:7) and also contradict all other Old Testament and New Testament revelation about death. Solomon spoke of a person's lost opportunities in this present life and their opportunities for serving God and enjoying God's gifts. In no way was he describing that the dead cease to exist. He was simply saying they no longer can be involved with the opportunities and joyous things of life they once engaged in while on earth.

**What did Jesus say?**

Luke 23:43

“And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

Luke 23:46

“And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”

When a person dies their spirit is dismissed from their body and subsequently enters the destiny of their choosing.

James 2:26 says:

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

James said the body without the spirit is dead. He did not say the person is dead in relationship to their eternal existence. Please note that the Bible says the body is dead – not the spirit. When the spirit leaves the human body then the body ceases to function in the realm of the earth but the spirit lives on in the place of its choosing – Heaven or hell.

Paul said to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8) and he desired to depart and be with Christ “which is far better” (Phil. 1:23). In other words, Paul knew he would immediately be in the Lord’s presence following death. This can only mean one thing. **The real person lives on after death.** The life principle within prepares to depart after death (Gen. 35:18) and does exist after death. Jesus spoke of the afterlife of people in Luke 16:19-25. Was Jesus telling us about fairy tales or fact? The immaterial part of a person’s existence moves to another realm of existence in the afterlife outside their human body. The body dies but the soul lives on. If you don’t believe this then listen to Jesus.

Jesus said in Matthew 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.”

Man can kill the body but not the soul. *If the body (physical life) were the same thing as the soul, then this would be a meaningless and redundant statement.* The truth is this. Jesus makes a distinction between the physical and spiritual. A man also has a soul which is immaterial and which lives on after death. The soul is the real part of a man's existence that can never be killed by another man ("not able to kill the soul"). *There is no such thing as soul sleep.* The soul lives on after death as Jesus inferred. Jesus also said that both the body and soul can suffer the eternal judgment of God ("destroy both soul and body in hell"). What Jesus was referring to was the second death (Rev. 20:14-15) when both man's body (physical part of man's existence) and soul (immaterial part of man's existence) would experience God's eternal judgment in the Lake of Fire. The word "destroy" never means to annihilate but to experience both physical and spiritual ruin (loss) from God's original and intended purpose or design which was to enjoy eternal life in God's presence. This is why the soul (the entire physical and inner life of a person) can be saved ("even the salvation of your souls" – 1 Pet. 1:9).

Mr. Annihilationist, you seem to also misunderstand what really took place in Genesis 1:26-27:

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

Man was created in God's image. This was never said of the animal kingdom. You simply can't find it in the Bible. Man's creation and life was unique to the animal kingdom.

Genesis 2:7 then says:

"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."

When God breathed into Adam the breath of life Adam received the image and mark of his Creator. *The Bible does not teach that God directly breathed into the animals the breath of life.* This is because God did something for man He did not do for the animals. He created man in His image and also gave man the capability for eternal existence like his Creator.

Adam's animated life came from God's breath. Therefore, His uniqueness consisted in his having been made in God's image. Man was a created soul (living and spiritual being) that possessed God's "image and likeness" (Gen. 1:26; 5:1). Once again, this means inwardly man possessed God's higher intelligence, volition (choice), sense of morals, spiritual life, and the capacity to know God as a personal being (Gen. 3:8). The Bible never says that the animal kingdom was created in God's image. God's breath was not directly infused within the animals; therefore, they were created as a lower class of living beings, without God's personality, morals, intelligence, an eternal existence, and the capacity to fellowship with God.

With the breath of God man would be given an immaterial spirit and possess a spiritual and moral likeness to the Creator unlike the animal kingdom. Man would possess a God-consciousness and many other qualities of life such as intellect, wisdom, and a spiritual capacity to worship that was unlike the animal kingdom. Did you ever see a monkey singing in the church choir? Did you ever see a cow doing mathematics? Did you ever see a dog reading the Bible? Mr. Annihilationist, we are not like the animal kingdom nor do we cease to exist like the animal kingdom after death. With the breath of God man would also be infused with a spirit and possess an existence that would be eternal just like the Creator.

The expression "breath of life" (Gen. 2:7) is literally "breath of lives" (plural in Hebrew) and denotes the fact that the inbreathing of God produced a twofold life – physical and spiritual. Man was more than just a hunk of meat with a nervous system. He was created as a spiritual being that possessed an inner life that could reflect God's likeness and fellowship with God. The Hebrew people never viewed the man as only a living physical being but also a spiritual being – the total person. This was not merely human physical breath given to Adam but the very life of God, which caused man to live physically

and spiritually at creation, so that man might have eternal fellowship with God. Man is unlike the animals. He was created as an eternal being that would live on forever because of the breath of God. Man was created in God's image (Gen. 1:27); therefore, he received God's breath of eternal life and existence, at the time of creation, and also God's moral and intellectual likeness, which was vastly differently than the animal kingdom. Man was given an immaterial life as a result of God's inbreathing. The truth is this; Adam was both *physically* and *spiritually* created by God in the Genesis account. This is missed by the average cultist and annihilationist. Man is much more than just a physical being. Like God, he is a spiritual being that possesses an immaterial side to his existence, which will live on forever.

When Genesis 2:7 says that man "became a living soul" it does mean he possessed only physical life. It means much more than just physical life like the animal kingdom. *God's direct breath also produced an inner non-material life that would reflect God's likeness and function on another level of existence.* The breath of God's life that was placed in man makes humans distinct from all other creatures. Man is not only a living creation ("nephesh") like the animals (Gen. 1:21, 34) but a living creation created in God's image through the very breath of God. This means that the content of a man's existence and life as a "soul" is vastly different than mere animal life. This is because God created man to be a living being that possesses His likeness, nature, characteristics, and eternal existence. God breathed into man the "breath of lives" (plural). The divine breath permeated the material body and transformed it into both a living (material) and spiritual (non-material) being that was alive with material and immaterial components. That strange combination of dust and deity produced a marvelous creation that was made in God's own image (Gen. 1:26). Man became a physical and spiritual soul (a total man) that reflected God on a spiritual plane or level that was hidden beneath the physical part of his human existence.

As a living being man was destined to reveal the qualities of the Giver of life and one of these qualities was to live on forever. With God's breath man would continue to live eternally as a spiritual being. So the breath of God produced more than just a physical being but

also a spiritual being that possessed an inner soul (man's true self and personality that reflects God) and spirit (man's eternal spiritual existence that reflects God). The term "soul" can have an inclusive meaning that points to the entire person in both their physical and inner being or personality (immaterial part of man's existence). Since the breath of God breathed into man "the breath of lives" (plural) it produced man as both a physical and spiritual "living soul." In the Genesis context the term "soul" has a dual meaning that encompassed both the physical and immaterial aspects of a man's existence. Man became a living soul in a way that was unlike the animal kingdom, since he was created in God's image and likeness. **This means that man possessed an inner likeness to God (immaterial soul) and eternal existence like God (immaterial spirit).**

Of course, Adam lost the *original* spiritual life and fellowship which he once had with God when he sinned (Genesis 2:17). Therefore, his inner soul (inner life – reason, will, emotions) went astray from God without the divine life to guide him. And this is the reason why man is born with a soul (inner personal life) that is estranged from God and a spirit that has no spiritual life (Romans 5:12).

1 Corinthians 15:45 gives this promise: "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit." The first Adam was made a living soul (physically and spiritually) but the sad story of the first Adam was one of rebellion and departure from God. The "last Adam" (Jesus Christ) was physically formed in the womb (Christ's humanity) with the life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit. The point seems to be this. Someday at the resurrection God's children will receive a body that is totally and completely governed by the Holy Spirit so that we can allow our lives to be just like Jesus Christ. We will be forever delivered from the sinful effects of the first Adam and only experience the blessings of the last Adam. However, in our present life our experience of the new birth (John 3:3) brings us back to the spiritual part of our existence that was lost in the Genesis Fall (John 3:6) and this new inner spiritual life once again connects us with God. As a result, the person's soul (inner life) can once again be directed by God to think right, do right, and worship right. This is a great blessing while we await the resurrection and our final redemption as Christians.

Mr. Annihilationist, you also seem to also misunderstand the Biblical meaning of death. Death can refer to either *physical* or *spiritual* death based upon the contexts upon which the word and concept is taught. The Bible clearly teaches that man is dead spiritually (his spirit is separated from God - Ephesians 2:1-2). The Bible also says that man can die physically (his spirit is separated from his body - James 2:26; 2 Cor. 5:8; Ecc. 12:7). Physical death means the body stops functioning. However, the eternal side of a man's existence does not cease to function or exist after death. The immaterial side of a man's existence lives on forever in the place of its choosing – Heaven or hell. I have proven this with clear statements from the Bible that cannot be denied. People do live on after physical death.

The Biblical concept of *physical* death as sleep arises from the appearance of the body in death and the temporary state that it (the body) is awaiting resurrection (John 11:11-14; Acts 7:60; 1 Thess. 4:14). Your reference to Lazarus is very misleading since Lazarus was only dead physically. His eternal soul and spirit (Heb. 4:12) did not cease to exist and function. You will remember that there was another Lazarus that did die and was in Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22). Clearly Lazarus (the real person) did not cease to exist after his physical death. His body only ceased to function and this is exactly what Jesus meant.

The person who sinned in the Old Testament did die physically (Ezek. 18:4) and people do die physically today because of the Genesis curse (Gen. 3:19). Physical death means a person's body stops functioning. However, it does not mean that they cease to exist as a personal being that has an inner life consisting of a soul (where the personality and inner person resides) and a spirit (where the life resides).

1 Thessalonians 5:23 reads: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly (the entire physical and immaterial side of a person's existence); and I pray God your whole **spirit** (spiritual part of a man's existence where spiritual life or death exists) and **soul** (personality – where the will, emotions, and decision functions – the real inner person) and **body** (outward physical part of man's existence) be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Romans 6:23 passage that you mentioned is referring to spiritual death (separation from God in judgment) since it is set in a context dealing with eternal life. The two kinds of death that are contrasted are *spiritual* in nature and not physical. A person who is saved has spiritual "eternal life" and eternal access into God's presence whereas a person who dies unsaved and without the salvation of Christ has to live separated from God's presence in eternal judgment (spiritual death) – Revelation 20:14-15.

Mr. Annihilationist, you also seemed to suggest that the devil countered God's plan for dying when he said "thou shalt not surely die." Your argument goes something like this. God said man would die (Gen. 2:17) and the devil, who is a liar (John 8:44), said man wouldn't die (Gen. 3:4). The conclusion is this. Satan lied and man must die and cease to exist after death (annihilation). **Actually, you are using Satan's lie (man does not die) to teach your own lie of annihilationism (man ceases to exist after death).** Man does die as a result of sin but he dies in the way God and the Bible teaches – not in the way that annihilationism teaches (Heb. 9:27). That Satan opposed what God said about death is true. But he did not oppose God's truth about dying to counter or misrepresent your alleged theory of annihilationism. Satan was opposing God's Word on death to teach that sin does not have any consequences. This was the real intent behind his lie.

You mention about pagans or false Christendom teaching the lie that man would never die but live on eternally. It's true that Eastern religions teach reincarnation and that man lives on in another life form (Satan is behind this) but the main emphasis of Satan and reincarnation is that man can bypass judgment for his sin or that sin does not have any consequences attached to it. In other words, man does not face any judgment when he disobeys God. This is the real lie of Satan.

Actually God said that Adam and Eve would experience a double death when they ate the forbidden fruit – physical and spiritual death. God literally said, "Dying thou shalt die" (Gen. 2:17 - the meaning of the Hebrew construction). This means that when man would eat of the fruit he would first die spiritually (become separated from God in the realm of his spirit and inner life) and then eventually die physically

(when his body is separated from his spirit). God was referring to this *double death* (spiritual and physical) that would occur to mankind if the fruit was eaten. Since God created man with a physical and spiritual capacity he would suffer a spiritual and physical death when he sinned (Rom. 5:12; 6:23).

Satan simply opposed what God had said about dying to sidetrack Eve from following God. Satan falsely asserted or maintained that there are no consequences when one disobeys God. *In short, Satan was telling Eve that sin has no consequences.* The devil was not promoting some kind of “no death” experience in order to counter the alleged truth of annihilationism. You must remember that today a person is already spiritually dead when they are born into the human race (Eph. 2:1-2). They don’t have to die from a spiritual perspective. Furthermore, as we have seen, man is like God in that he was created to be eternal. Man was created to share this mark or image of God. Unlike the animals, man was created to live forever. Mr. Annihilationist, you too shall live forever. The real person lives on the inside of you and that person will live forever.

**Let us bow before the God, who says what He means, and means what He says!** Outside the Bible our convictions are mere conjecture. Acts 16:31 says, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (from hell and the future judgment of God).

Respectfully,

Pastor Kelly Sensenig