



**"I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that *no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end....***

**"I know that *whatever God does, it shall be forever.* Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it.**

**"God does it, that *men should fear before Him. ... and God requires an account of what is past.*"**

Not only has God "put eternity in their hearts", but that embedding of eternity is also an indelible imprint of Himself in our consciousness. That is why — whether in acceptance of Him as Lord, or denial of His very existence — every soul deals continually with the existence of God. And one day, when we stand in judgment before Him, "God [will] require an account of what is past."

If there is acceptance of His existence, that soul must study God's Word carefully, looking to the salvation brought through

the sacrifice of Christ and the birth of His church — His spiritual family — in the New Testament. We cannot presume to change anything in His Word. If we want to be born into the church, we must follow the pattern laid down there (Acts 2, 8, 9; Romans 6:3-6). We must wear the name of Christ, worship as He has directed, and live by the example He has set. A thorough knowledge of the New Testament is critical to the shaping of our lives if we want to be pleasing to God.

For those who have a deeply-buried struggle in their souls, denying God but never able to ultimately get away from Him, I would encourage you to make an honest study of the New Testament, to end that war that is raging in your soul.

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# The Soul and Its God

**Betty Burton Choate**





## The Soul and Its God

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Humans define the dividing line between humanness and other life-forms as the “awareness of self”. A better wording would be the “awareness of soul”. The “self” that is enwrapped in the physical body, invisible to the physical eye, yet is the core existence from which all that is human emanates, can be none other than the soul — the inner man, the spiritual essence of our dual being.

This consciousness of the invisible self is the bedrock of fact — not of “question”, not of “supposition”, not even of “faith” — but the bedrock of *fact* that the unseen spirit world is real; that the soul springs from a parent spirit-Being who gave it existence and life, and toward whom it reaches as though bound by invisible cords.

When the soul has not been paralyzed by deliberate training in rejection of its Creator’s existence, universally and historically man has believed in the reality of the Creator and the unseen spirit world. He has rightly worshiped that

Being as the One deserving of homage, even of sacrifice. He has been overwhelmed within himself with the eternal majesty and greatness of God in comparison to himself.

In moments of extreme joy, when the spirit within man seems to swell in happiness to the point of almost bursting the confines of his physical body, worshipful words of “Oh, God!” wing heavenward.

In moments of deepest anguish, when the spirit within man seems crushed with agony to the point of being sucked back into the darkness of a helpless fetal existence, broken words of “Oh, God...” are wrung from his lips.

When skies are blue and roses bloom and all seems right and beautiful in man’s world, grateful words of “Father...” rise unsuppressed from the heart.

When the world reels with nature’s devastation and there is no remedy that will make everything right again, “Father ... Father ... help me!” is the plea that breaks from the bleeding heart.

No matter what comes into our lives — or even into the lives of those in our modern secular world who have chosen not to build their existence around God — it would be safe to say that few days would pass without some almost

involuntary intrusion of thought of Him, some mention of His name. Why? Because the soul within man knows that God is real. Though, through sin we may forfeit our status as His children, we cannot undo the soul’s awareness of its source of life.

Sometimes, with so much sin and ungodliness in the world, we would be inclined to say, “God has been forgotten.” But if we look again we will see that the evidence of remembrance of God is there every day, everywhere.

Even when people want to deny God, he is on their minds enough that their frequent topic of conversation is *why they do not believe in him!* How often is God’s name used as profanity by those who have no respect for Him — yet they make constant reminders of His existence!

In songs, literature, art, and films, the subject of God, quotations from His Word, and references to Him are interwoven with all of the other topics. And everywhere, in truth or in error, as a spirit or as an idol, God is worshipped.

Yes, God has made his indelible imprint in the soul and, whether men speak to acknowledge Him or to deny Him, still they all speak of God.

God has made a remarkable statement in Ecclesiastes 3:9-15:

