

Amazing Grace

Bible Study Fellowship

Immortality



J. Michael Schroeder

Amazing Grace Bible Study Fellowship is a non-denominational church fellowship dedicated to the publishing of the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16), and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery of Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 3:3. Our goal is to study the Bible in accordance with 2 Timothy 2:15, in order to become established in the truth of it according to Romans 1:11; to the end that we might come into conformity with the will of God for our lives according to Romans 12:3.

Amazing Grace Bible Study Fellowship
Mike Schroeder, Pastor/Teacher
P.O. Box 270805 Corpus Christi, Texas 78413
Ph./Fax: 361-986-1261

www.agbsf.com

Immortality

Several years ago I was given a book entitled *Immortality*, by a lady whom, I suppose, wished for me to see what she believed immortality to be. As it turned out, the book, which was actually a fictional novel with non-fictional historic characters, spoke of immortality as something men seek to gain through their own accomplishments; to have their own names, or their own stories, live on long after they are departed from this life. The book was laced with the philosophies of Goethe, Von Schiller, et. al., and their takes on man's unending quest for this thing called "immortality".

The main theme of this book seemed to be: Whatever we do in this life, the most important thing is to leave a legacy of ourselves behind us, e.g., our name on a street sign, or on a building, or better still, in a history book. It doesn't--in our present world--seem to matter whether our names be famous or infamous.

1

Amazing Grace

Bible Study Fellowship

Immortality



J. Michael Schroeder

Amazing Grace Bible Study Fellowship is a non-denominational church fellowship dedicated to the publishing of the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16), and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery of Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 3:3. Our goal is to study the Bible in accordance with 2 Timothy 2:15, in order to become established in the truth of it according to Romans 1:11; to the end that we might come into conformity with the will of God for our lives according to Romans 12:3.

Amazing Grace Bible Study Fellowship
Mike Schroeder, Pastor/Teacher
P.O. Box 270805 Corpus Christi, Texas 78413
Ph./Fax: 361-986-1261

www.agbsf.com

Immortality

Several years ago I was given a book entitled *Immortality*, by a lady whom, I suppose, wished for me to see what she believed immortality to be. As it turned out, the book, which was actually a fictional novel with non-fictional historic characters, spoke of immortality as something men seek to gain through their own accomplishments; to have their own names, or their own stories, live on long after they are departed from this life. The book was laced with the philosophies of Goethe, Von Schiller, et. al., and their takes on man's unending quest for this thing called "immortality".

The main theme of this book seemed to be: Whatever we do in this life, the most important thing is to leave a legacy of ourselves behind us, e.g., our name on a street sign, or on a building, or better still, in a history book. It doesn't--in our present world--seem to matter whether our names be famous or infamous.

1

A notorious criminal might gain just as much immortality as a great statesman; a scoundrel as much as a "saint". Noah Webster defined immortality as "The quality of never ceasing to live or exist; exemption from death and annihilation; life destined to endure without end." For those who seek the kind of immortality described in the former paragraph, this "quality of never ceasing to live or exist" would only be in the minds of other living people, not for the ones who are immortalized in those minds. Since their immortalization is merely symbolic, what, in actuality, would happen to them? Would the legacies gained through their achievements in this life secure them any existence beyond it? All religious beliefs accept/teach the idea of good works as the means to achieving immortality/eternal life--with ONE exception: the message of grace in the Bible, which presents an altogether different perspective.

2

A notorious criminal might gain just as much immortality as a great statesman; a scoundrel as much as a "saint". Noah Webster defined immortality as "The quality of never ceasing to live or exist; exemption from death and annihilation; life destined to endure without end." For those who seek the kind of immortality described in the former paragraph, this "quality of never ceasing to live or exist" would only be in the minds of other living people, not for the ones who are immortalized in those minds. Since their immortalization is merely symbolic, what, in actuality, would happen to them? Would the legacies gained through their achievements in this life secure them any existence beyond it? All religious beliefs accept/teach the idea of good works as the means to achieving immortality/eternal life--with ONE exception: the message of grace in the Bible, which presents an altogether different perspective.

2

