

Proverb of the Week

The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all his innermost parts. - Proverbs 20:27 (ESV)

The spirit of man, as spoken of here, may be understood as that aspect of living creatures which separates humans from animals; a self-awareness which transcends the physical body. When this spirit of man searches his own heart to recognize good and evil we might refer to it as his conscience, which is a gift from God given to every man, but not to be confused with the Spirit of God which dwells only within believers. When an unbeliever's will overrules his conscience to surrender to his wicked desires repeatedly and consistently, that lamp can become little more than a flickering ember that is swallowed up by the darkness. In contrast, God has promised that his Spirit, once dwelling within us, will never leave us, and it is this Holy Spirit who provides the light which can never be extinguished (*John 14:16-17*).