

## False Ideas About What Happens To The Dead

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by Bill Crews

The Bible is very clear in its teaching that Christ will come again, raise all of those who have ever died (Enoch — Genesis 5 :24; Hebrews 11:5, Elijah — 2 Kings 2:11, and Christ Himself excepted), and judge for all eternity the living and the dead (see Revelation 20:11-15; John 5:28-29; Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 10:42; 2 Timothy 4:1; 1 Peter 4:5 — please read all of these and put them together). The Bible shows that at death the spirits or souls of men go into Hades (“the unseen” place of the spirits of the dead). Even Christ went there until His resurrection (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:22-32). There they are either comforted or are in torment (Luke 16:19-31). The Bible speaks of the righteous departing (dying) and being with Christ (Philippians 1:23)

### But The Bible Does Not Teach:

1. **That the spirits or souls of the righteous go directly into heaven** (“the better country,” “the city prepared by God,” “the new Jerusalem”) **upon their death.** Men teach this. Unfortunately, many of our songs declare this.
2. **That the righteous dead and our loved ones who died in the Lord (Revelation 14:13) are all in heaven awaiting our coming.** Men teach this, and, again, many of our songs also.
3. **That in heaven the redeemed of the earth will become angels.** The Bible does teach that we will be “as angels in heaven” (Matthew 22:30) in neither marrying nor being given in marriage, but it does not teach that we become angels. Men teach this.
4. **That we will be given wings and golden slippers and harps of gold in heaven.** Men teach this. Of course nothing there will be material or physical.
5. **That when man suffers physical death, the death of the body, everything about him has ceased to have any conscious existence.** “Jehovah’s Witnesses,” “Seventh-Day Adventist,” and the Armstrongs (Charles and Garner Ted in their “Worldwide Church of God,” and “Church of God International”) teach this.
6. **That at death many infants** (the “unbaptized,” really the “unsprinkled”) **go to a place called "Limbo" and many adults** (because, though released from their “mortal sins,” they did receive release from all their “venial sins” — no such sin distinctions is found in the Bible) **go to a place called "Purgatory"** (something not found in the Scriptures). The Roman Catholic Church teaches this. The Bible mentions neither nor does it support the principles behind them.

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