

What about the Dead in Christ Now? (part 1)

1. The current body consists of **three parts**: Body, soul and spirit.
 - 1.1. **1 Thessalonians 5: 23**: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1.2. **Hebrews 4:12**: For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
 - 1.3. I cannot, however distinguish between the spirit and soul, as the Bible will use them interchangeably.
 - 1.3.1. **Matthew 10:28**: And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
 - 1.3.2. **1 Corinthians 7:34**: The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit.
 - 1.4. The material body will return to its original state.
 - 1.4.1. **Genesis 3:19**: In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return.”
 - 1.4.2. **Job 34:15**: All flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.
 - 1.4.3. **Ecclesiastes 3:20**: All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust.
 - 1.4.4. **Ecclesiastes 12:7**: Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.
 - 1.5. The spirit/soul will go to its eternal state.
 - 1.5.1. **Acts 7:59**: “And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’”
 - 1.5.2. **Luke 12:20**: But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’
 - 1.5.3. **1 Peter 1:8-9**: Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

2. The biblical picture of **current existence** for those dying in Christ.

2.1. Immediately upon death, those in Christ realize the fullness of His presence.

2.1.1. **Luke 23:43**: “And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’”

2.1.2. **Romans 8:38-39**: 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2.1.3. **Romans 14:8**: For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

2.1.4. **2 Corinthians 5:8**: “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

2.1.5. **Philippians 1:23**: “For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”

2.1.6. **Philippians 3:20**: “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

2.2. Paradise appears a temporary destination rather than a permanent one.

2.2.1. Paradise is not the final destination for Christians as Luke 24 makes clear. In Luke 23 Jesus promises the criminal on the cross that this very day he will be with Him in paradise. However, subsequent to the resurrection, Jesus returns to earth in a new physical form and does not remain in paradise. Jesus' new body is the final expectation for all Christians, which will occur at His return.

2.3. The intermediate time between death and the second coming of Jesus is one where the dead in Christ await their final body.

2.4. **John 14:1-3**

2.4.1. **Μοῦνῆ** (mansions) 14:2

2.4.1.1. “Abiding place,” “place of halt” on a journey, “inn,” “watch-house” in a police district¹

¹*Theological dictionary of the New Testament*. 1964-c1976. Vols. 5-9 edited by Gerhard Friedrich. Vol. 10 compiled by Ronald Pitkin. (G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley & G. Friedrich, Ed.) (electronic ed.) (4:579-580). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.