

Who Are You?

#2: Your Soul after Death & before the Resurrection

Primary point: It seems that 90% of Christians believe we are immediately conscious after death, but 90% of Scripture suggests we are not.

Scriptures used to support the idea that the Christian's soul is immediately conscious after death

Luke 23:43; Phil 1:23-24; Heb 12:1; Luke 16:22-25

(Rev 6:9-11) The most detailed description of what Christian souls experience immediately after death and before the Resurrection does not clearly describe them as enjoying and experiencing Heaven.

Scriptures used to support the idea that a Christian experiences sleep immediately after death

1 Kings 2:10; Eccl 9:5, 10; John 11:11-14; Matt 27:52; Acts 7: 55-56, 59-60; 1 Cor 15, 6, 18, 20, 51
1 Thess 4:13-15; Dan 12:2; Isa 26:19; John 5:28-29; Heb 9:27

We should not ignore the multiple biblical references to death as **sleep** as so many do. There is not a single verse in Scripture that clearly supports the popular idea that immediately after death, believers are experiencing the joys of Heaven, worshipping God, and watching their loved ones still on Earth.

LG ?'s

- 1) Have you heard Christians dogmatically claim with no doubts that believers are immediately experiencing the joys of Heaven after death? If so, and given this message, what may be wrong with such confidence?
- 2) What are the emotional reasons that people would want to believe Calvin's view instead of Luther's view on what we experience immediately after death?
- 3) If it is true that our soul sleeps after death until our resurrection, what do you think that will be like, knowing what sleep is like now?
- 4) If the multiple biblical references to death as experiencing sleep are intended to describe what we experience after death, how do you feel about that?
- 5) If the multiple biblical references to death as experiencing sleep are intended to describe what we experience after death, what does this say about the importance of our resurrection?
- 6) What was most meaningful to you about the Sunday message?