

XVI. What about Limbo?

Limbo is a teaching in some churches that describes the abode of just souls kept from heaven through circumstance, such as a lack of baptism. It is especially considered the place where unbaptized babies go. Limbo is actually from a medieval Latin word which means "the region on the border of hell."

Again, as with purgatory and the baptism of the dead, there is not a shred of evidence of its existence in the scriptures. This is a man-made doctrine. It was never mentioned by Jesus Christ or any of his apostles.

To review what happens to babies that die, please see point number VI of this study.

XVII. What About Organ Donation?

Organ donation is often considered a means of showing charity toward another person's life. There are no known Scriptures for or against the donation of organs at death. Some have donated organs while living.

I know of two preacher's wives, Pam LaCappuccia and Jeannie Davis, who are alive today because they received heart transplants. One verse of Scripture that is special to them is Isaiah 43:4, "Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life."

I have a report in my file cabinet on the positions of various religions on the subject of organ donations. Of the thirty religions in the report, only gypsies and Shintoists are in objection. Even Jehovah Witnesses, who oppose blood transfusions, allow organ donations.

This is one area where personal liberty might compel two different Christian to hold opposing views. There are a few issues like that: "For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." (Romans 14:2-7).

Those that differ in opinions must have love and respect for each other in these cases.

XVIII. Who Has The Keys Of Death And Of Hell?

Many religions and denominations have proudly made the claim that they are the only true church and know the only way to heaven. All others will end up in hell or somewhere else.

One friend of mine who accepted Jesus Christ as His Saviour received a letter from the Mormons saying that his name was removed from the Book of Life. They claimed that they had that power.

What does the Bible say? "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." (Revelation 1:18).

Jesus alone has the keys to hell and death. Only God can destroy a soul and body in hell: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28).

Do not fear man. Do not fear religions that try to keep you in their system with their soul-slavery methods. Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven. He is the only one that has the keys to hell and death. No man or religion has the keys.

If a person has a car's only set of keys, nobody else can drive that car. Likewise, someone cannot force others through the door to death and hell, if he does not have the keys. Only Christ holds those keys. Will Jesus be your Saviour or your Judge someday? Will He set you free or lock you up? Do you know Him as your Saviour?

XIX. The Destruction Of Death And Its Final Abode

There is a promise to us in I Corinthians 15:26, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." Death is our last enemy. Even Satan will be destroyed before death:

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:10-15).

After Satan, the beast, and the false prophet are cast into a lake of fire, hell delivers up its dead. These unsaved people have been in the lock-up of hell until their judgment day. Their works condemn them and their names are not found in the Lamb's Book of Life. They are cast into a lake of fire.

After all condemned beings are cast into the lake of fire, death and hell will be cast in. This presumably means the power of death will never be free again. Hell will be absorbed into a lake of fire. The last enemy of the human race, death, has been destroyed.

Those who are saved will enjoy a new heaven and a new earth. One of the promises of that blessed eternity includes this one: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and **there shall be no more death**, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:4).

The Bible's last mention of death is a few verses later in "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8).