

Heaven #2

Does a Believer who dies and goes to be with Christ know those who have gone before?

I do not know of any doctrinal statement concerning this, but it seems to me it is implied in what is revealed of the state of the dead. In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, in Luke 16, they knew each other; also those with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration knew each other, even though they had never met Moses and Elijah, who are identified in each of the accounts not only by the writers of the Gospel records but also by those present on the mount.

There is every reason to believe that in the spirit world people recognize not only those whom they knew on earth but everyone else there. This may be part of the meaning of 1 Corinthians 13:12. "Then I shall know just as I also am known." The word "know" is in a form which means "to know fully." I know no basis for thinking we shall lose our powers of perception; rather, they may be enhanced. The rich man in hell was told to "remember," and perhaps he would have liked to forget. But for the believer remembering will give occasion for praise and thanksgiving to God.

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