

APOLOGETICS MADE EASY

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Many Protestants believe there is a “wall” between the living and the dead, across which there is no interaction, no communication. Related to this is the belief that there is no point in seeking the intercession of the deceased.

As Catholics, we believe that the living and the dead both make up the “Body of Christ.” We believe that the prayers of those in heaven benefit us and that our prayers benefit the souls in purgatory.

In 2 Kings 13, a group of Jewish people was threatened by a band of raiders while burying a man, so they hurriedly cast the man into the nearby grave of the prophet Elisha. When the dead man came into contact with the bones of Elisha, he came back to life. This story not only confirms the connection between the living and the dead but also reinforces the Catholic practice of venerating the relics of the saints.

Hebrews 12:1 refers to the “great cloud of witnesses,” a clear reference to Abel, Abraham, Jacob, Moses and so on, who are portrayed as cheering us on as we race towards our salvation. In the Book of Revelation 5:13, John includes the following in his portrayal of heaven: “Then I heard **every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe**, cry out: ‘To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever.’”

The question for every one who professes to be Christian is this: Do we hear this music? Do we hear the song of every creature in heaven and on earth constantly praising Jesus Christ? And if we hear this music, do we choose to be part of the choir?