

Pilgrims who Die: Living Forever in God's City

Hebrews 12:18-24 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Pilgrims die but pilgrims in Christ have already died.

How do we hear Hebrews 12:18-24?
Should we hear it as comfort for the dying?
Should we hear it encouragement for the living?

Question: How can we already "have come" to a place where we know we are going when we die?
Answer: We have already died.

Colossians 3:1

Hebrews 2:14

John 5:24

John 11:25-26

Pilgrims die but their dying is not rightly called death.

Philippians 1:21-25 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Application points for pilgrims who die.