

## The Congregation Of The Dead

### I. Introduction:

A. In this lesson we are going to talk about the spiritually dead, but there are other ways in which death can be discussed...

1. Dead as in the spirit departing from the body (**James 2:26**).
2. The second death (**Revelation 2:11; 21:8**).
3. Even a dead womb (**Romans 4:19**).

B. Being dead is not always a bad thing (**Romans 6:3-11** and **Colossians 3:1-4**).

1. Dead with Christ apart from the world (**Colossians 2:20**).
2. Crucified with Him, but so much more alive (**Galatians 2:20**).

### II. Body: The Dead We Don't Want To Be Among (**Proverbs 21:16**).

A. The wanderer is one who went away, staggered, erred, etc. (Strong's # 8582; cf. **Proverbs 10:17, Proverbs 14:22, Isaiah 9:16, and Hosea 4:12**).

1. In at N.T. context about false teachers, think about what is said of those that are gone astray (**II Peter 2:12-22**).
2. It is not God's will that His children then or now err (**Proverbs 19:27** and **James 1:16**).

B. Why would one depart from the way of understanding (cf. **Proverbs 9:6**)?

1. Because they want another way (**Isaiah 65:2**) or have been led astray (**Isaiah 3:12**).
2. The Hebrew word translated understanding in *Proverbs 21:16* is translated "wise" in two verses we should think about (**Psalms 94:8** and **Proverbs 15:24**).
3. It is wise to understand (**Jeremiah 9:12, Hosea 14:9, and Ephesians 5:14-17**).

C. The congregation [assembly] of the dead is in reference to those who are spiritually dead (**Ephesians 2:1-5, I Timothy 5:6, James 2:20, and Revelation 3:1**).

1. Solomon wrote of wisdom to deliver one from paths that lead to death (**Proverbs 2:10-20**).
2. Think about something Jesus said (**Luke 9:59-60**).

D. Here's the good news, those gone astray are not without hope (**Matthew 18:11-14**).

1. Such is possible because of Jesus (**I Peter 2:21-25**).
2. Even if you have come to Christ and have fallen away, there is a way back home (**I John 1:7-2:2**) and brethren that will help you get there (**James 5:19-20**).

### III. Conclusion: Are you in the way of life (**Proverbs 12:28, Proverbs 15:24, and Matthew 7:13-14**)?