

Purgatory

Burdened down with a guilty conscience, we feel the need for cleansing from sin. We know that we cannot enter the glorious presence of God as long as we are polluted with sin. The Bible warns us that nothing that defiles shall enter Paradise.

Catholics expect that "after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." "The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification" (Catechism 1030,1031).

There is no mention of such a place in the Bible. Yet the Bible clearly teaches what can wash our filth and make us white as snow. The Word of God assures the believers that "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). His blood really and actually cleanses "from all sin." God's people praise Him "who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Revelation 1:5). And again, Christ "had by Himself purged our sins" (Hebrews 1:3). Jesus Christ and nothing else is my purification, my purgatory.

Perhaps up till now you have hoped to go to a place of suffering to undergo cleansing from sin. The opportunity to experience purification and complete forgiveness is now, while you are still living. God is compassionate and He really forgives and cancels the debt of all those who turn to Him by faith. Look to Jesus the Deliverer, whose death on Calvary is a full and adequate payment for the sins of His people. His blood was not shed in vain; it actually purifies the soul from all defilement.

Do you believe in purgatory? I hope you will affirm, "Yes, I believe in God's purgatory. My purgatory is the Lord Jesus Christ!"