

PURGATORY: GOOD NEWS  
ABOUT THE AFTERLIFE  
FOR THOSE  
WHO AREN'T PERFECT YET  
BASED ON A BOOK AND A SERIES  
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PURGATORY IN THE BIBLE: REVEALED PRINCIPLES

- ❖ **First Revealed Principle:** The soul's destiny is secure at the Particular Judgement
  - Particular Judgement occurs upon death; the soul's destiny is sealed: Heaven, Hell, or Purgatory (**CCC 1022**)
  - Souls go to Purgatory who are confirmed in charity and friendship with God but whose holiness is insufficient to enter Heaven
  - The Particular Judgement differs from the General or Final Judgement at the end of time, the Second Coming of Jesus.
  - Biblical citations for the Particular Judgement:
    - ✠ **Luke 16:19-31:** parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man – the rich man is in Hell because Abraham speaks of the great chasm over which no soul can pass. Souls in Purgatory will pass from Purgatory to Heaven. (**CCC 1023 and 661**)
    - ✠ **Hebrews 12:23; Apocalypse (Revelation) 6:9:** souls in Heaven before the Final Judgement have received their eternal destiny at the Particular Judgement
    - ✠ **Hebrews 9:27:** “It is appointed for men to die once and after that come judgement.”



- ❖ **Second Revealed Principle:** A soul can have moral defilement and still be in friendship with Jesus
  - Every sin defiles the soul and affects our relationship with God. We are accountable for the sins we do and must make reparation in this life or after death. The defilement of sin changes the soul; absolution also changes the soul.
  - Biblical citations for the Defilement of Souls and Remission of Sin
    - ✠ **Isaiah 1:18; Psalm 51:7** – though your sins be as scarlet, they will be white as wool
    - ✠ **Psalm 51:2; 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 10:22** – Moral defilement is washed away, cleansed from the soul
    - ✠ **2 Corinthians 7:1** – Sin incurs defilement, involving religious and moral aspects
    - ✠ **1 John 5:16-17** – there are some sins which do not lead to death (spiritual death, not physical death) – indicating venial sins
    - ✠ **James 1:14-15** – stages of sin – some lead to death, others do not lead to death (again, spiritual death), indicating venial sins
    - ✠ **Matthew 5:19** – Jesus teaches that one can be in a state of venial sin yet still be a member of His Kingdom.
  
- ❖ **Third Revealed Principle:** Sin causes unhealthy attachments to creatures.
  - We want to do good and avoid evil; however, we have a tendency towards sin, called *concupiscence*.
  - Biblical citations for Unhealthy attachments to sin and/or created things
    - ✠ **Romans 7:15-23** – the attraction to created things is a perversion of the “order of justice” – give to man what is owed to man and to God what is owed to God. He alone is worthy of our praise, worship, and gratitude in an attitude of humility as we recognize ourselves as creatures and God as the Creator.
    - ✠ **Romans 6:16** – attraction to sin makes us slaves to sin



- ❖ **Fourth Revealed Principle:** Sin incurs a debt of temporal punishment, even for those saved in Christ.
  - We must undergo temporary pain or suffering for perverting the order of justice through our sins. This punishment is due for venial and mortal sins (*CCC 1472*)
  - Biblical citations for the punishment due to sins:
    - ✠ *Genesis 3:16-19, Wisdom 10:1* – Adam and Eve endured temporal punishment for the Original Sin even after God forgave them.
    - ✠ *Numbers 20:8, 11-12* – Moses was barred from entering the Promised Land as a penalty for his failure to obey God’s explicit command.
    - ✠ *Numbers 14:20-23* – the Israelites were punished for the Golden Calf Apostasy with their forty years of wandering in the desert. God forgave them, but they paid a price for their idolatry.
    - ✠ *2 Samuel 12:10-14* – God forgave David for his sins of adultery and murder, but the temporal punishment was the death of the son conceived in adultery and the curse of “the sword shall not depart from your house.”
    - ✠ *CCC 411 and 970* – While Christ’s death was sufficient to atone for all punishment due to sin, He willed that we participate in His suffering, uniting our hardships to His Passion. Through Baptism, Original Sin and all actual sins are washed away; but we continue to sin after that original justification. We are to pay for the sins we commit after Baptism.
    - ✠ *Hebrews 12:6* – God chastises His sons (and daughters). We become adopted children of God through Baptism. A chastisement is a punishment, a type of suffering. The Greek word for chastise, *mastigoō*, implies whipping.
    - ✠ *Hebrews 12:5* – the phrase “when you are punished” is tied up with the idea of fault or wrongdoing
    - ✠ *Hebrews 12:5-6* – God chastises His children with a retributive justice – retribution meaning to repay a debt. We owe this debt to God in the order of justice when we choose a created good over our love for God.



- ❖ **Fifth Revealed Principle:** No departed soul with sin or the remnants of sin can enter the glory of Heaven.
  - **CCC 1045** – No stain of sin or self-love will mar the happiness in Heaven
  - **Apocalypse (Revelation) 21:27 and Matthew 15:18** – Those in Purgatory are unclean morally, not “ritually” as the Jews understood ritual impurity. Moral impurity arises from lies, abominations, murder, sexual impurity, sorcery, and idolatry.
  - **Hebrews 12:14, Matthew 5:48** – Undue attachments include attachments to sin, to temptations, to created things, and to people.
  - **Apocalypse (Revelation) 21:4** – Morally defiled creatures cannot enter Heaven. Souls must love God completely - with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength – to attain the holiness needed to enter Heaven. Purgatory purifies souls of undue attachments so that they can love God wholeheartedly. Souls with unremitted debts of temporal punishment may not enter Heaven. The pain, sorrow, and suffering in Purgatory pays the debt of temporal punishment. In Heaven, there is no pain, sorrow, or suffering; thus, all punishment must be paid in this life or in Purgatory.
  
- ❖ **Sixth Revealed Principle:** Some Christians die with sin or the effects of sin remaining in the soul.
  - **James 3:2, 1 John 1:8 and Ecclesiastes 9:12** – Plan on Purgatory while aiming for Heaven. In our Fallen World and due to our Fallen Nature, we tend to sin. If souls do not receive the grace of God worthily or cooperate with that grace to grow in their likeness to God, they will die in a state of at least venial sin. Some Christians die suddenly without having an opportunity to make their last Confession and receive absolution; thus they die in a state of sin or with the effects of sin.

Summary of Revealed Principles as they refer to the doctrine of Purgatory:

- ❖ **All of the Revealed Principles** – People can and often do die in friendship with Jesus but with unremitted penance due to sin; die in a state of venial sin; or have undue attachments to sins, temptations, creatures, or people. A person cannot enter the holiness of Heaven without these being removed or cleansed in Purgatory.
- ❖ **Impediments to holiness, undue attachments, or dying in a state of sin** – keep us from entering Heaven. In God’s mercy, those who die in friendship with Him but with impediments, sins or the effects of sin, or attachments go through a period of purgation to be ready to enter Heaven.
- ❖ **Purgatory is a postmortem state in the afterlife** – which removes impediments, impurities, and undue attachments. The pain, sorrow, and suffering in Purgatory remit the debt we owe to God due to sin.