

Questions for Life

From Sunday, October 18, 2009

Is That in the Bible? Purgatory

What Is It?

"Purgatory (Lat., *purgare*; to make clean, to purify) in accordance with Catholic teaching . . ." (<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12575a.htm>)

". . . a purging that prepares [the souls of those who have died] to enter heaven . . ." (*The Catholic Encyclopedia*).

"The purification is necessary because, as Scripture teaches, nothing unclean will enter the presence of God in heaven . . ." (<http://www.catholic.com/library/Purgatory.asp>).

Is It in the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Does It Exist?

1. All sins have already been removed.

John 1:29 "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 19:30 "It is finished!"

Hebrews 10:12 [Jesus] offered one sacrifice for sins forever . . .

1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God . . . 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

2. Believers have a sinless nature.

1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.

Romans 3:22 . . . the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are sanctified.

3. Believers who die go into the presence of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Luke 23:43 "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Now what?

John 6:47 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life."

1. Before hearing the sermon, what did you understand about Purgatory? From where had you heard about Purgatory?

2. Which of the following offers the best proof for you that Purgatory does not exist, and why?

- A) It is not found in the Bible.
- B) Jesus has already removed all sins.
- C) Believers in Christ have a sinless nature.
- D) Believers who die go into the presence of the Lord.

