



# Purgatory

"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but 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 of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned... [And she] has offered prayers for them... so that, thus purified, [the dead] may attain the beatific vision of God." (CCC 1030-31)

## Quick Scripture

Matthew 12:32  
2 Macc. 12:43-46  
1 Corinthians 3:15  
1 Peter 3:18-20  
1 Peter 4:6  
Revelations 21:27  
2 Samuel 12:13-14

## Purgatory

### ◇ What is Purgatory?

- "A state of final purification after death and before entrance into heaven for those who died in God's friendship, but were only imperfectly purified; a final cleansing of human imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven.\*"

- Judas Maccabeus took up an offering for fallen soldiers, on who had been found a foreign idol, so that a sacrifice for atonement could be made on their behalf. *"If he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin."* (2 Maccabeus 44-46)

### ◇ The Harrowing of Hell

- "...He descended into Hell. On the third day He rose again..." (Apostle's Creed)

- *"Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live."* (John 5:25)

- "In his human soul united to his divine person, the dead Christ went down to the realm of the dead. He opened heaven's gates for the just who had gone before him." (CCC 637)

### ◇ Indulgences

- What is an Indulgence?

- "The remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt has already been forgiven.\*" Does not apply to sins yet to be committed.

- "Through indulgences the faithful can obtain the remission of temporal punishment resulting from sin for themselves and also for the souls in Purgatory." (CCC 1498)

- What is the forgiveness of sins in the context of Confession (absolution)?

- Absolution is "an essential element of the Sacrament of Penance in which the priest, by the power entrusted to the Church by Christ, pardons the sin(s) of the penitent.\*"

- It "takes away sin, but it does not remedy all the disorders sin has caused." (CCC 1459)

- What is the difference between a partial and a plenary indulgence?

- An indulgence is partial if it removes part of the temporal punishment due to sin, or plenary if it removes all punishment.\*"

\*Citation taken from the glossary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church