

FINAL QUESTIONS
A Biblical View of Life After Death
Lesson Three • Hebrews 1:1-4
What About Purgatory?

Have You Ever Wondered...

What happens to Christians when they die?
Do they go straight to heaven or do they go to a place called "purgatory"?
And if purgatory, what happens there? How long are you there? How do you get out?

Purgatory: Question, Answer, and Application

1. Question: What About Purgatory?

Catholic Teaching about Purgatory

- **Definition:** Purgatory means "to make clean" or "to PURIFY".
- **Belief:** There exists a place after death where some of the sins of people are PURGED through suffering and the sacrifices of the living.
- **Purpose:** To attain PURIFICATION in order to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

The Implication of Purgatory

Most people are not "READY" for heaven when they die.

2. Answer: CHRIST Purged Our Sins on the Cross!

The Essential Question Regarding Purgatory

Does the death of Jesus Christ purify us from our sins so that when we die we go directly to heaven or must we be further purified in purgatory?

God's Word Gives the Answer

- Christ PURGED our sins by His work of salvation on the Cross.
...when He [Jesus Christ] had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Hebrews 1:3 NKJV
- Christ's purging of our sins on the Cross is SUFFICIENT and complete for all people for all times.
And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10:11-14 ESV
- God declares all who trust in Christ's work on the Cross as RIGHTEOUS and accepts them immediately into His presence in heaven after death.

Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! Romans 5:9 NIV

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. 1Peter 3:18 NIV

The blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. 1John 1:7 NIV

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1 NIV

3. Application: SALVATION Depends on Christ Alone!

Who are you depending on for your salvation?

- My works
- Christ's work *plus* my works
- Christ's work alone

Is Purgatory Necessary to Enter Heaven?

There's NO NEED for purgatory after we die because the purgatory we need happened 2000 years ago when Jesus purged our sins on the Cross once and for all.