

Beginning Apologetics – The End Times

Purgatory (cont)
November 8, 2009

Why are we here?

- “Learn to explain our faith *clearly*, to defend it *charitably*, and to share it *confidently*.”
- 1 Peter 3:15: “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.”

Review from Last Class

- What do we believe about Purgatory (CCC1030 – 1032)?
 - The existence of Purgatory is a DOCTRINE of the Church
 - Purgatory is a place of purification for those who die imperfectly purified / who need further purification after death
 - *Guilt of venial sin*
 - *Remaining punishment for venial and mortal sin*

Review from Last Class

- What do we believe about Purgatory (CCC1030 – 1032)?
 - The purification of Purgatory is ENTIRELY DIFFERENT from the punishment of hell.
 - We can help souls in Purgatory by prayer / offering Mass for them.

Review from Last Class

- What does the BIBLE say about this?
 - God is perfect holiness (*Isaiah 6:3*)
 - We are called to the same holiness (*Matt 5:48* , *1 Peter 1:15-16*)
 - Without perfect holiness, we cannot see God in heaven (*Hebrews 12:14*, *Rev 21:27*)
 - So.....what happens to those who die without perfect holiness, or with not-deadly sin? *PURGATORY*

Review from Last Class

- So...What is Purgatory?
 - Purgatory is a temporary state of purification for the imperfect saints
 - Purgatory fully cleanses souls which have died in a state of grace, but with remaining venial sins or reparations due, so that they may enter Heaven
 - All remaining reparations for sin are made in purgatory
 - All remaining self-love or selfishness is purified until only the love of God remains

How do we defend Purgatory?

- **First: Is It Scriptural?**
 - In the strict sense, the WORD “Purgatory” is not found in the Bible.
 - The WORDS “Trinity”, and “Incarnation” aren’t EITHER; that’s not the point. The DOCTRINES are.
 - Scripture CLEARLY teaches an intermediate state of purification.

“Where’s That In The Bible?”

- Well...
- Matt 12:32
- 1 Corinthians 3:15
- “1 Peter 3:18-20
- 1 Peter 4:6
- At *MINIMUM*, these verses show a *THIRD* place existing between heaven and hell.
- At *BEST*, they prove the Catholic doctrine of Purgatory.

The Septuagint

- *Question from first class: What’s the Septuagint?*
 - The version of the Old Testament that would have been in use in the time of Christ.
 - Term comes from the number of Jewish scholars who participated in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible in the third century BC. (70 or 72 scholars = Septuagint)
 - Quoted over 90% of the time in the New Testament (340 vs. 33) over the Hebrew canon.
 - The Councils of Hippo (AD 393) and Carthage (AD 397) officially determined which books would comprise the Bible; they chose the Septuagint!

2 Maccabees 12:42-46

- **Background of Maccabees:**
 - *Recounts Jewish history from c. 180 BC to 161 BC.*
 - *Abridges a much longer work which has been lost to antiquity (by Jason of Cyrene)*
 - *Supplements 1 Macc*
 - *Teaches on the resurrection of the just on the Last Day; intercession of saints in heaven for people on earth; and the power of the living to offer prayers and sacrifices for the dead.*

2 Maccabees 12:42-46

- **First, it proves a distinction between venial and mortal sin.**
- **Second, it proves the existence of a middle state where venial sins can be forgiven.**
- **All of this makes 2 Macc 12:42-46 a proof text for Purgatory.**

Canon of Scripture

- **Do we trust Luther...**
 - Threw 1 and 2 Macc out of the Bible
 - *Wanted to throw out James, Esther, and Revelation, and he added a word to Romans 3:28 ("alone") – Read it! So do we trust him...*
- **OR do we trust the Church!**
 - Jesus promised to protect from error
 - Authoritatively determined around AD 400 which books were divinely inspired?

New Testament references for prayers/practices for the dead?

- **2 Tim 1:16-18:**

¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the family of Onesiphorus because he often gave me new heart and was not ashamed of my chains. ¹⁷ But when he came to Rome, he promptly searched for me and found me. ¹⁸ May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day. And you know very well the services he rendered in Ephesus.”

- Only makes sense of praying for the dead does something!

New Testament references for prayers/practices for the dead?

- **1 Cor 15:29:**

²⁹ Otherwise, what will people accomplish by having themselves baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, then why are they having themselves baptized for them?

- Shows a belief in an intermediate state between heaven and hell in which one can be helped!
