

# What About Purgatory?

Purgatory is a word that some in different denominations use. This place was created in the early 1000's by Catholicism and adapted by Eastern Orthodox churches. There are some with the belief that when the physical body separates from the spirit (**death**) happens that the soul will enter a place called Purgatory. This place is for all souls who need to purify themselves further before they enter heaven. This sounds nice, doesn't it? It offers comfort for those mourning the loss of their loved ones, doesn't it? To hear someone say that our loved ones and friends who have passed on will enter heaven is pleasant to our ears! Purgatory is defined as a place where souls go after they die and for those that may have been not as holy or righteous will go here to better themselves before they enter heaven. Is this what the Bible teaches?

I want to draw your attention to **Luke 16:19-31** in answering this question. We have here the lesson from the rich man and Lazarus. Lazarus and the rich man both lived on earth. Both lived two different lives and eventually both men died.

In the account of the rich man and Lazarus we read that after both men died that they entered the Hadean realm. A place kept for all souls. The rich man went to place of torment and Lazarus enter a place of rest in Abraham's bosom. This place Hades, that they went to, and all souls will go to until Jesus returns is **NOT** Purgatory!

## **How do I come to that conclusion?**

The idea of Purgatory sounds pleasant to so many. There is no suffering in this described place, and you will be able to enter heaven after this purification process there for the less holy and righteous. However, what do we read about the rich man? He was in pain (**Luke 16:24**). He wanted relief from where he was! He asked to send Lazarus to him with a drop of water because he wanted relief! Does that sound like he can purify himself after he dies?

Can the rich man cross over into heaven from this place of torment? The answer was no! (**Luke 16:26**). There is a great gulf fixed where the rich man could not pass over to where Lazarus was, and neither could Lazarus go to where the rich man was! ***THIS PLACE IS PERMANENT!*** When we die, we know where we will be eternally. We will be judged each according to our works! (**II Corinthians 5:9-11**) Our soul will be in a place of suffering or rest. When Jesus returns Death and Hades will be no more (**Revelations 20:13-14**). They will be cast into a lake of fire! Because all physical life will end!

The time to make our life right with God is now. The rich man understood he had no more chances after he died! (**Luke 16:27-31**) Some would call Purgatory a second chance. How many chances have we been given here on earth? Each day is another opportunity to seek God. The time is now while we are living on earth! We all will die once and then comes the judgement! **Hebrews 9:27-28**) God has blessed you and I an opportunity to have the hope and promise of eternal life. What must I do? I must repent (**II Peter 3:9**) and obey God (**Matthew 7:21-23**) now while I am living. This is your chance and opportunity!

There is no place called Purgatory! It is a false notion that man has produced in offering false hope! We must be faithful to God here while we have time! Because it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God! (**Hebrews 10:26-31**)

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