

What Happens After Death? VI

By Greg Rangel

No doubt that the majority of us were taught to believe in purgatory during our upbringing. Purgatory is the belief that when a person dies he/she goes to a place where their sins can be purified since all who die are still imperfect (Catechism 1030-3031). As we continued in life we never decided to question this belief because after all, our parents taught it to us, and how could our parents teach us something untrue? And so we continued in life believing in purgatory without ever looking into the Bible to see if it and the rest of the beliefs that we were taught were true or not. It is for that reason that many today dislike articles like this one because how dare we even question their beliefs, much less suggest that their beliefs are untrue. But is this a teaching that can be found in the Bible, and, what does the belief of purgatory mean?

Unfortunately the belief of purgatory is not found in the Bible and at the same time is blasphemous to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ and let me explain to you why. The belief in purgatory in short actually means that the blood of Jesus is not sufficient, powerful or holy enough to cleanse and forgive the sinner from his/hers sins. It is for that reason that it is a blasphemous belief because it contradicts what the Bible says. Notice the following verses that teach the opposite, and notice the highlighted section which prove the point: “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him” (Romans 5:9); “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?...For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself...So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Hebrews 9:12-14, 26, 28); “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins...But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;...And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more” (Hebrews 10:4, 12, 17); “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” (1 Peter 1:18-19); “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN” (1 John 1:7).

According to the above verses, the blood of Jesus is powerful enough and holy enough to justify us, save us, give us eternal redemption, purge our conscience, put away our sins, have God no longer remember our sins, and to top it off, cleans us from ALL sin; not part, not half, not two thirds, but all sin. As the saying goes, „all means all, and that is all that all means.“

As we have been studying, the Bible teaches that a person either goes to heaven or hell. There is no limbo and no purgatory, and no coming back. These beliefs are not based on the Bible but on man's erroneous and traditional teachings.

Jesus came to pay the price that sinful man could not pay. Anyone who desires to be totally forgiven in this lifetime must believe that the blood of Jesus Christ is sufficient. To believe otherwise is to slap and spit in Jesus' face. "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing..." (Hebrews 10:29).

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