

PURGATORY:

What are the rewards or punishments appointed for men after the particular judgment?

The rewards or punishments appointed for men after the particular judgment are heaven, purgatory, or hell.

Who are punished in purgatory?

Those are punished for a time in purgatory who die in the state of grace but are guilty of venial sin, or have not fully satisfied for the temporal punishment due to their sins.

PURGATORY IS GOD'S HOSPITAL

Purgatory is God's hospital for souls, where those who do not love God enough to enter heaven are cured by fire.

Only those who love God perfectly can enter heaven. But even many good people die with only a weak love of God. They had more interest in the people and the things of this earth than they did in God. They did not love Him with their whole heart and soul. They wasted many opportunities to please.

Love is purified, increased and perfected by suffering. This means not only bodily pain, but crosses of all kinds. God sends everyone all the sufferings they need on earth to cleanse, strengthen, and perfect their love. But most people waste their sufferings. They do not want them, complain about them, and try to escape them in every manner possible, even by committing sin. Because of this attitude, the fires of their sufferings are unable to burn away the selfishness from their love, so that it will be perfect.

Then they must go to purgatory where they will have to suffer much more intensely than they would have if they had accepted the sufferings of earth. Their love is purified in purgatory, but it does not grow, whereas the sufferings of earth which we accept from God not only purify our love, but make it grow.

In purgatory, God's cleansing fires burn away the soul's selfishness till its love becomes perfect and it is ready to fly to heaven. Its sufferings only purify love, they do not increase it.

Temporal punishment is God's loving, corrective punishment like medicine a mother gives a child. This punishment is given either on earth or in purgatory - - it is ONLY FOR A TIME AND HAS AN EVENTUAL END.. Eternal punishment is God's angry punishment, which balances the scales of justice, upset by sin. This punishment is reserved for those in hell, since they refused to let God correct them on earth. This punishment has no end, a punishment in itself. The knowledge that there is no hope of ever getting out of the torment of hell is one of its worst punishments.

Who are punished in hell?

Those are punished in hell who die in mortal sin; they are deprived of the vision of God and suffer dreadful torments, especially that of fire, for all eternity - never ending.

Discussion questions:

When will the resurrection of the body take place? Explain.

If a boy or girl omits many easy opportunities to go to Communion, is he or she ready to go straight to heaven after death? Explain.

What makes heaven so different from this earth?

Is it possible for the souls in purgatory to go to hell. Explain.