

Purgatory, is it real?

The Final Purification is understood to represent Purgatory, which is a temporary place that Christians will be sent for a short duration in accordance with God's mercy. The teaching on Purgatory was not invented by Christians, but has its roots and traditions in the Jewish practices of praying for the dead, mentioned in Sacred Scripture (Old Testament 2 Maccabees 12:46): *"Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin."*

Purgatory is not a place where the damned go, but is a place of final purification for venial sins so they can achieve the holiness necessary to enter into the holiness of heaven. Catholics, from the beginning of its formation, have always offered prayers for the holy souls suffering in Purgatory. It is a good and holy practice for all living persons to pray for all holy souls suffering in Purgatory. Catholics around the world offer their Holy Communion, prayers and sufferings for those detained in Purgatory, knowing that we have the ability to pray them out of their state of sufferings and out of Purgatory! Other holy Scriptures pertaining to Purgatory can be found in the following:

- **1 Corinthians 3:13-15:** *"Every man's work shall be manifest; for the day of the Lord shall declare it because it shall be revealed in fire; and the fire shall try every man's work, of what sort it is."*
- **St. Matthew 12:36:** *"For David himself said by the Holy Ghost: The Lord said to my Lord, Sit on my right hand, until I make thy enemies thy footstool."*
- **St. Matthew 5:25-26:** *"Be at agreement with thy adversary betimes, while thou art in the way with him; lest perhaps the adversary deliver thee to the judge and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Amen I say to thee, thou shalt not go out from thence till thou repay the last farthing."*
- **St. Matthew 12:32:** *"And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but he that shall speak against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, nor in the world to come."*
- **Apocalypse (also called Revelations) 21:27:** *"There shall not enter into it any thing defiled, or that worketh abomination or maketh a lie, but they that are written in the book of life of the Lamb."*
- **St. Luke 12:58-59:** *"And when thou goest with thy adversary to the prince, whilst thou art in the way, endeavour to be delivered from him: lest perhaps he draw thee to the judge and the judge deliver thee to the exactor, and the exactor cast thee into prison. I say to thee, thou shalt not go out thence, until thou pay the very last mite."*
- **1 Peter 3:17-20:** *"For it is better doing well (if such be the will of God) to suffer, than doing ill. Because Christ also died once for our sins, the just for the unjust: that he might offer us to God, begin put to death indeed in the flesh, but enlivened in the spirit. In which also coming be preached to those spirits that were in prison Which had been some time incredulous, when they waited for the patience of God in the days of Noah, when the ark was a building: wherein a few, that is eight souls were saved by water."*