

What is Temporal Punishment

Temporal Punishment is a spiritual debt owed to God's justice as a result of sins committed against God's love and mercy. Although no one knows specifically what justice is commanded by God for each sin committed either venial or mortal; St. Bede offers us an explanation of what she witnessed while she was given the grace to witness suffering Souls in Purgatory. She indicated that one mortal sin committed by a soul while on earth lends a soul to suffer excruciating pains in Purgatory for seven years, in order to be purified from that sin. Yet, in order to receive the Lord's just judgment for our souls, no soul is willing to enter into heaven until each debt has been satisfied or purged in Purgatory.

In Paragraph 1030, 1031 of the Catholic Catechism, we read the following: *"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned."*

In Paragraph 1472 of the Catechism, it states: *"The forgiveness of sin and restoration of communion with God entail the remission of the eternal punishment of sin, but temporal punishment of sin remains."*

Yet Jesus came to offer us a means to have all Temporal Punishment removed from our souls by obtaining Indulgences. Indulgences can either be Partial or Plenary (the complete remission of all Temporal Punishment). It is therefore, very important that all Catholics work hard towards confessing all sins committed through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, then obtaining a Plenary Indulgence for the removal of all Temporal Punishments, so that at our death; we received into the holy Kingdom of Heaven, and avoiding further purification in Purgatory.