

## The Cleansing FIRE of Purgatory!

**Intro Song:** "Invitation" by Jenny Pixler!

### Prayer:

- Repose of the Soul of:
  - John Mederios
  - Kelly Virena
  - Marisa Sanchez
  - Mary Lou Brown
  - For all babies lost to abortion & contraception
  - for those who suffered violence & whose lives were taken before they had the opportunity to repent, & convert!
- for the sick & infirmed
- for the conversion of sinners
- For all those in purgatory!

### Purgatory!

- So... does the Bible only allow for 2 states of existence after death? Heaven or Hell? Is there NOT a 3rd state... called purgatory?
  - Is the word purgatory found in Scripture?
    - What about Trinity? Yet... we believe in that!
    - If NOT... is the concept?
- **2 Thessalonians 2:13**
  - *[13] But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.*
- **Hebrews 12:14**
  - *[14] Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*
- **Revelation 21:27**
  - *[27] But nothing unclean shall enter it, nor any one who practices abomination or*

*falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

- **So what does the Catholic Church Teach on this doctrine?**
  - **CCC1030 - CCC1031**
  
- **Prayers for the dead was not NEW to the Apostles... it was an established, believed, and PRACTICED custom of the Jewish people pre-dating Christ's tabernacling with Man!**
  - **2 Maccabees 12: 39-45**
    - - *[39] On the next day, as by that time it had become necessary, Judas and his men went to take up the bodies of the fallen and to bring them back to lie with their kinsmen in the sepulchres of their fathers. [40] Then under the tunic of every one of the dead they found sacred tokens of the idols of Jamnia, which the law forbids the Jews to wear. And it became clear to all that this was why these men had fallen. [41] So they all blessed the ways of the Lord, the righteous Judge, who reveals the things that are hidden; [42] and they turned to prayer, beseeching that the sin which had been committed might be wholly blotted out. And the noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. [43] He also took up a collection, man by man, to the amount*

*of two thousand drachmas of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering. In doing this he acted very well and honorably, taking account of the resurrection. [44] For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. [45] But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin.*

- **During the Protestant revolt Martin Luther rejected this doctrine & therefore rejected this book; which clearly teaches the practice of prayers for the dead!**
  - If your in heaven... you don't need prayer
  - If your in hell... prayer will do you no good!
  - **There MUST be a 3rd state!**
- Orthodox Jews today recite the Mourner's Kaddish for 11 months after a loved one passes... praying they maybe purified!
- My favorite NEW Testament passage describing purgatory!
  - **1 Corinthians 3:9-17**
    - - [9] *For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. [10] According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. [11] For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is*

*laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw -- [13] each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. [14] If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. [15] If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. [16] Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? [17] If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.*

- This is TEMPLE imagery!
  - Start at the alter with the FIRE burring the Straw & wood!
  - Then MOVE into the building with Silver & precious stones
  - Finally arrive in the Holy of Hollies laden in PURE gold!
- So we are PURIFIED THROUGH FIRE!
  - 1 Peter 1:7
    - [7] so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may

*redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

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- But this means suffering! YES!
  - **Romans 5:1-5**
    - *[1] Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [2] Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. [3] More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*
  - **Colossians 1:24**
    - *[24] Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,*
- Jesus' death on the cross is NOT somehow less important because of the Church's teaching on purgatory... its BECAUSE of His death on the cross that we teach it!
  - If we want to make it to heaven... we must DIE on the cross along with our Lord!
  - **St. Matthew 16:24-25**
    - *[24] Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. [25] For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*
- ***Make amends NOW with one another! or suffer the consequences***
  - *"I tell you, you will never get out till you have*

*paid the very last copper" (Luke 12:59).*

- . "Forgive us our SINS we we FORGIVE those who SIN against us!
- It's ALL SOULS!
  - Pray for those whom have gone before us
  - May they be purified by the LOVE of God...
    - God is an all consuming FIRE
    - God is LOVE!
  - That we may see them again in heaven for ALL eternity!