

PURGATORY:

According to 'Father' Patrick McCafferty

On 2nd November 2020 the following was posted to the Facebook page of the **Evangelical Protestant Society** by **Ciarán Ó Coigligh** –

I would appreciate any comments members may have on the New Testament references Fr Paddy McCafferty includes in his recent post:

PURGATORY:

November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. We remember with especial affection our loved ones who have gone before us and who are being purified so as to see God, face to face.

So, what is Purgatory? And why do we believe in it?

Catholic Christians, like our Jewish ancestors in Faith, have always prayed for the dead. Scripture says, **“it is a holy and pious thought to pray for the dead that they might be released from their sins” (II Maccabees 12:44-45)**. The Lord, we are told in **Malachi 3:3**, **“will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the LORD”**.

In Purgatory, the Lord refines and purifies our souls of every trace of sin, that remains after this life. Our Lord refers to Purgatory where He says, **“truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny” (Matthew 5:26)** and, in **Matthew 12:32**, where He speaks about the possibility of some sins being forgiven in **“the age to come”**.

When we sin, we not only offend God – we invariably hurt God’s children. There is, therefore, a double consequence of sin – eternal (relating to God) and temporal (relating to our fellow human beings).

Only God can take care of the eternal consequences of sin – the eternal damnation of our souls in Hell - and God has done so. Through the Life, Death and Resurrection of His Son, God has cancelled out the eternal penalty of our sins, when we turn to Him and repent.

However, God requires that we play some part in removing the temporal effects of sin. In other words, if you hurt someone, you have an obligation to make amends. If you steal something, you must give or pay it back.

When we leave this world, what remains undone, of our making things right with others, will be completed in Purgatory. Essentially, in Purgatory, God makes our love perfect.

Purgatory is a state of healing and purification. It is a work of God in our souls. The Fire of Divine Love and the cleansing, healing Blood of Jesus, are the means by which we are finally made ready, to enter the Presence of God forever.

Unless we change and become like little children, we will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. In Purgatory, we are purified of all selfishness, self-centredness and self love, so that, with childlike joy and wonder, we can join the great company of the Saints in joyful adoration, for ever, of the Living God.

What happens to our souls in Purgatory is well described by St Paul in I Corinthians 3:11-15:

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw – 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. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire”.

The refining of our souls by fire is a good image for the purification of Purgatory. The pain of Purgatory is that of longing and yearning to see the Face of God. It is like the pain that is experienced when healing is occurring – like a patient after surgery – or mending a broken bone. The pain is consoled, however, by hope.

It is most important to be aware that the Holy Souls in Purgatory are saved. They are not being given “a second chance” – there is no second chance after death. Neither are the Holy Souls in a “halfway house” between Heaven and Hell – there is no half way house after death and Purgatory has nothing to do with Hell. Purgatory is a state filled with the loving and merciful presence of God. The souls in Purgatory will certainly enter Heaven and be happy with God forever.

On November 2nd – and throughout November – as nature appears to be “dying”, we commemorate the Holy Souls in Purgatory. We are united to them in the Love of Jesus Christ. Death, because of the Resurrection of the Lord, has no power over us anymore and Death cannot separate us from God.

The Holy Souls in Purgatory are members of the Church – they are part of the Body of Christ – they are our loved ones, friends, neighbours and relations. In the Communion of Love that is the Church – the Body of Christ – all the members help and strengthen one another.

Therefore, when we pray for them, go to Mass and receive Holy Communion for them, carry out works of love with them in mind, we help our brothers and sisters in Purgatory, as they journey, through purification, towards the fullness of the vision of God, face to face.

“Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord, and, as our faith in your Son, raised from the dead, is deepened, so may our hope of resurrection for your departed servants also find new strength”.

This was my response to **Ciarán's** request for comments –

Ciaran, the following article on 'PURGATORY' may prove helpful - in particular can I draw your attention to the top of page 7 where I refer to a debate I organised in Enniskillen between Patrick McCafferty and my good friend, former Roman Catholic, Rob Zins - they debated several topics including PURGATORY and I give the link to the video and the relevant timing within the video. This is the link to the article

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/November-2014/Purgatory.pdf>

In relation to Patrick's claim for a basis for purgatory from 2nd Maccabees, the following article is VERY helpful in refuting that false claim –

<https://carm.org/catholic/purgatory-and-2-maccabees-12-39-45>

Sadly, Patrick McCafferty, despite his self-perceived skilled use of apocrypha and biblical quotations, is totally wedded to the Roman Catholic heresy of PURGATORY, thereby denying the total sufficiency of the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary to remedy man's 'sin problem'.

To suggest and believe, as he does, that a believer's entrance into glory when they die is delayed for some **unknowable period of time** because '**God requires that we play some part in removing the temporal effects of sin**' is an abominable insult to the all-sufficient redeeming work of the Lord Jesus Christ and would serve only to rob believers of the PEACE so graciously and preciously promised by the Lord in **John 14:27** "PEACE I leave with you, my PEACE I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid**".

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 2nd November 2020