

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

**And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?" And He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able."
(Luk 13:23-24)**

www.sermonaudio.com/crc

www.unholycharade.com (blog)

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The Doctrine of Eternal Punishment (Part 14)

The Roman Heresy of Purgatory (A Denial of Eternal Punishment)

June 7, 2026

Sermon Text: Luke 16:22-26

Scripture Reading: Matthew
13:24-43

Concerning the state of man after death and the resurrection of the dead, our confession declares:

Chapter 31: Of the State of Man after Death and Of the Resurrection of the Dead

1. _____ The bodies of men after death return to dust, and see corruption; but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them. The souls of the righteous being then made perfect in holiness, are received into paradise, where they are with Christ, and behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies; and the souls of the wicked are cast into hell; where they remain in torment and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day; **besides these two**

places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.

(Genesis 3:19; Acts 13:36; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6,8; Philippians 1:23; Hebrews 12:23; Jude 6, 7; 1 Peter 3:19; Luke 16:23, 24)

2._____ At the last day, such of the saints as are found alive, shall not sleep, but be changed; and all the dead shall be raised up with the selfsame bodies, and none other; although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls forever.

(1 Corinthians 15:51, 52; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Job 19:26, 27; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 43)

3._____ The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonour; the bodies of the just, by his Spirit, unto honour, and be made conformable to his own glorious body.

(Acts 24:15; John 5:28, 29; Philippians 3:21)

Chapter 32: Of the Last Judgment

1._____ God hath appointed a day wherein he will judge the world in righteousness, by Jesus Christ; to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father; in which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon the earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds, and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

(Acts 17:31; John 5:22, 27; 1 Corinthians 6:3; Jude 6; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:36; Romans 14:10, 12; Matthew 25:32-46)

2._____ The end of God's appointing this day, is for the manifestation of the glory of his mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of his justice, in the eternal damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient; for then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fulness of joy and glory with

everlasting rewards, in the presence of the Lord; but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast aside into everlasting torments, and punished with everlasting destruction, from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.

(Romans 9:22, 23; Matthew 25:21, 34; 2 Timothy 4:8; Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:48; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)

3. _____ As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin, and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity, so will he have the day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come, and may ever be prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus; come quickly. Amen.

(2 Corinthians 5:10, 11; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7; Mark 13:35-

37; Luke 12:35-40; Revelation 22:20)

You will notice that phrase which I have put in boldface –

...besides these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.

Why was this qualification included? Because of the Roman Catholic false doctrine of *purgatory*. It is to this heresy which we turn our attention this morning as we continue in our series on the biblical doctrine of eternal punishment – *hell* if you will.

Rome's creation of this non-existent purgatory is in fact another denial of the biblical truth of hell. While Rome will strenuously object to this accusation from us, as we are going to see, *purgatory* is a temporal hell. Of course Rome will insist that she holds to a doctrine of an eternal hell, but we respond to that claim that her false doctrine of purgatory largely overshadows the scriptural doctrine of eternal

punishment and provides unregenerate people with a false hope and negates in the minds of Rome's followers the truth of the *everlasting, forever, eternal torment of the hell which the Lord Jesus so clearly and often warned us of.*

The Rich Man Immediately in Torment

Let's look once more very carefully at this vitally important story that the Lord Jesus Himself told:

"Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and *saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things,

and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' (Luk 16:22-26)

Pardon us, Mr. Pope, if we choose to believe what the Son of God has taught over the lies of your "church." And what did God the Son say?

1. The rich man died and immediately was in hell (hades)
2. Hell is a real place of torment and flame
3. Hell is eternal. It is forever. No one will ever come out of that place. Commenting on Luke 12:59 - "I say to you, you will not get out of there until you have paid the very last cent," Matthew Henry notes:

"Let us do thus in the affairs of our souls. We have by sin made God

our *adversary*, have provoked his displeasure against us, and he has both *right* and *might* on his side; so that it is to no purpose to think of carrying on the controversy with him either in court or in *battle*. Christ, to whom all judgment is committed, is the magistrate before whom we are hastening to appear: if we stand a trial before him, and insist upon our own justification, the cause will certainly go against us, the *Judge* will *deliver* us to the *officer*, the ministers of his justice, and we shall be *cast into* the *prison* of hell, and the debt will be exacted to the utmost; though we cannot make a full satisfaction for it, it will be continually demanded, *till the last mite be paid, which will not be to all eternity*. Christ's sufferings were short, yet the *value* of them made them fully satisfactory. In the sufferings of damned sinners what is wanting in value **must be made up in an endless duration.**"

This truth of eternity in hell, as we have said, is overshadowed in the false hope that purgatory, as terrible of a place as it is, still extends to the lost.

Let's take a closer look at this terrible lie so that we might never be deceived by it. **NOTE:** Rome is using every means she can and increasingly at the present time, to deceive the naïve. No one who believes Rome's teachings will ever be saved if they remain in that wolf's fold.

I am going to heavily rely upon Loraine Beottner's classic book, *Roman Catholicism* which every one of us should own and read. You can also find an 8-part audio series on Youtube by John MacArthur that is top-notch.

Rome's Teaching on Purgatory

Rome in her own Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

"Temporal punishment is purification of the unhealthy attachment to creatures, which is a consequence of sin that perdues even after death. We must be purified either during our earthly life through prayer and a conversion which comes from

fervent charity (ie, works) or after death in purgatory. Purgatory is a state of final purification after death and before entrance into heaven for those who died in God's friendship, but were only imperfectly purified; a final cleansing of human imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven. [p 896]

be duped into the common idea that Rome is simply another Christian denomination. It is not. And while we should faithfully present the real gospel to Roman Catholics as the opportunity is given to us, we must never, ever join them:

They for their part may turn to you,
But as for you, you must not turn to them. [Jeremiah 15:19b]

Most of you I believe have Loraine Boettner's classic book, *Roman Catholicism*, which is a work that all of us need to be certain to read. I want to strongly emphasize this subject because Rome is very much on the march today to deceive the naïve. The Roman Catholic counterfeit "church" is Satan's masterpiece of lying deceptions and today MANY are being drawn off the Narrow Way of Christ into Rome's road to hell. Billions of people are in hell right now because they embraced Rome's lies.

Roman Catholics are not our brothers and sisters in the Lord. They are unsaved, lost people who need to be saved. We must never

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will

welcome you. "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty. (2Co 6:14-18)

Rome is an idol temple, its priests are a false priesthood, it is a false church with false sacraments and a false gospel. There is no salvation to be found in Rome. There is no true Lord Jesus Christ who has once for all time paid for our sins. The Christ of Rome is a fiction.

Listen now as Boettner gives us some more explanation to this evil heresy called purgatory:

“The Roman Catholic church has developed a doctrine in which it is held that all who die at peace with the church [ie, in ‘friendship with God’] but who are not perfect, must undergo penal and purifying suffering in an intermediate realm known as purgatory. Only those believers who have attained a state of Christian perfection go immediately to heaven. All unbaptized adults and those who after baptism have committed mortal sin go immediately to hell.

The great mass of partially sanctified Christians dying in fellowship with the church, but who nevertheless are encumbered with some degree of sin, go to purgatory where, for a longer or shorter time, they suffer until all sin is purged away, after which they are translated to heaven.”

The Roman church holds that baptism removes all previous guilty, both original and actual, so that if a person were to die immediately after baptism he would go directly to heaven. All other believers, except the Christian martyrs but including even the highest clergy, must go to purgatory to pay the penalty for sins committed after baptism.

The doctrine of purgatory rests on the assumption that while God forgives sin, His justice nevertheless demands that the sinner must suffer the full punishment due to him for his sin before he will be allowed to enter heaven.

The Roman Catholic people are taught that the souls of their

relatives and friends in purgatory suffer great torment in the flames, that they are unable to help themselves, that not even God can help them until His justice has been satisfied, and that only their friends on earth can shorten or alleviate that suffering. Purgatory is supposed to be under the special jurisdiction of the pope, and it is his prerogative as the representative of Christ on earth to grant indulgences (ie, relief from suffering) as he sees fit.

Since none but actual saints escape the pains of purgatory, this doctrine gives to the death and funeral of the Roman Catholic a dreadful and repellent aspect. Death, according to Rome is not the coming of Christ for His loved one, but the ushering of the shrinking soul into a place of unspeakable torture. It is no wonder that millions of people born into the Roman Catholic church, knowing practically nothing about the Bible but rather believing implicitly in the doctrines of their church, should live and die in fear of death, in fear of spending an unknown number of years in the pain and anguish of

that place called purgatory. This in spite of God's Word –

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. (Heb 2:14-15)

According to the Holy Fathers of the church, the fire of purgatory does not differ from the fire of hell except in point of duration. It is the same fire that torments the reprobate in hell and the just in purgatory...There is absolutely no doubt that the pains of purgatory in some cases endure for entire centuries.

Why? What is the Motive of this Lying Heresy?

Evil is always about *power and control*. Power and control are largely obtained by ill-gotten *wealth*. The Roman system is motivated by this:

Luk 20:46-47 "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love respectful greetings in the market places, and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets, (47) **who devour widows' houses**, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation."

The Roman priesthood and hierarchy right on up to the pope has many similarities to the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day. These false shepherds, as Jesus states here, *devoured widows' houses*. And this is precisely what lies behind the doctrine of purgatory – *the oppression of the people, including the poor and the widows, in order to rob them and add to the vile coffers of Rome*. Here is Boettner on this:

“Every year millions of dollars are paid by Roman Catholic people to obtain relief from this unimaginable suffering. No exact figures are available because Roman Catholic finances are kept secret. The doctrine of purgatory

has sometimes been referred to as ‘the gold mine of the priesthood’ since it is the source of such lucrative income. In general it is held that the period of suffering in purgatory can be shortened by gifts of money, prayers by the priest, and masses. These gifts and prayers and masses can be provided by the person before death or by relatives and friends after death. The more such satisfaction one makes while living, the less remains to be atoned for in purgatory.

At the time of death the priest is summoned to the bed of the dying person. He administers extreme unction and solemnly pronounces absolution. Yet after death occurs money is extracted from the mourning relatives and friends to pay for masses to be said in order to shorten purgatory. The result is that Rome sells salvation for money. All understand that the services of the church in securing the salvation of a soul in purgatory is to be rewarded with appropriate gifts or services. Everything in Rome has a price tag on it.

Thus, even in the poorest of countries, Rome amasses large sums of money and builds magnificent cathedrals, monasteries, and convents. Purgatory is a gigantic fraud and a colossal racket.”

There are still more evil motives for this lie which you can read about in Boettner’s book. One is that by gaining ownership of lands and wealth and by forbidding priests to marry and have children to pass on their estates, Rome gains tremendous power and control – even over kings and governments. History is filled with such examples. The Vatican is its own nation state.

But We Have an Anchor – What does the Word of God Say?

Over and over again, we see people who have been raised up in an evangelical church, who have their Bible...still falling for the3 seduction and deceptions of Rome. More than a few even end up joining that antichrist system.

We must hold firmly to the Word of God which is our only source of truth. It is our sword to stand against the lies of the enemy. When we fail to heed this:

Pro 3:5-7 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. (6) In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. (7) Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

....we become easy prey for the devil who is always prowling looking for some foolish person to devour.

Jer 23:28-29 "The prophet who has a dream may relate his dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth. What does straw have in common with grain?" declares the LORD. (29) "Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"

The Bible has not one word which teaches this evil doctrine. The few

verse that Rome claims for support are obviously stretched and twisted by false teachers and in fact say nothing at all about this fiction of purgatory.

...besides these two places [heaven and hell], for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.

What *does* God's Word say? –

Joh 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Luk 23:43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

Rom 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Luk 16:26 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you

will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.'

2Co 5:8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Heb 10:16-18 "THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM," He then says, (17) "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE." (18) Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.

1Th 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Let me conclude with this. *It is typically said by Protestants that the Roman Catholic church teaches that salvation is by faith PLUS works.*

But I want to propose to you that this statement does not go far enough. So let me restate it:

The Roman Catholic church teaches that salvation is by works alone, through the church alone, and by a 'grace' that is therefore not alone.

This monstrous beast that presents itself to us as the true church of God, which pronounces everyone who refuses to bow to it *anathema* (ie, cursed by God), is in fact *anathema* itself. How do we know this? Because God's Word says so-

Gal 1:8-9 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! (9) As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel

contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

1Co 16:13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.