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Section: Doctrine of the Last Things and Eternity (Eschatology)

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Date Taught: April 21, 2021

**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q115. Beyond this life, are there other opportunities to be** redeemed from guilt and reconciled to God?

No. Beyond this one life, there are no additional chances to repent and trust in Jesus alone.

* **Foundation**

**Romans 3:10-12** As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

**Psalm 5:4** For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.

* **Repentance**

What must we do to enjoy these saving benefits? We must repent and believe.

* **Can we repent after this life?**

**Luke 13:1-5** There were some present at that very time who told him aboutthe Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he [Jesus] answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

Unless you repent, you will perish. You–Pharisee. You–Galilean. You–American. Jesus’ meaning is clear. You are all condemned already, destined for physical and eternal spiritual death. You must turn from your sin!

**Luke 16:19-31** “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side (Abraham’s Bosom / KJV). The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

**Hebrews 9:27** And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment

* **Purgatory**

**Council of Trent:** “Holy Communion preserves the supernatural life of the soul by giving the communicant supernatural strength to resist temptation, and by weakening the power of concupiscence (lust). It reinforces the ability of our free will to withstand the assaults of the devil. In a formal definition, the Church calls Holy Communion ‘an antidote by which we are preserved from grievous sins.’”

The Roman Catholic is not fully justified; rather, they must continue to receive the Eucharist, confess their sins, and perform meritorious works in order to ultimately be saved.

Roman Catholicism is a damning doctrine of salvation by works.

There is no scriptural support for the false doctrine of purgatory.

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

There is no such thing as Purgatory; there is no such thing as salvation after death. There is no second chance.

* **Conclusion**

**2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

**Q116. What happens to people when they physically die?**

The bodies of those who have died return to dust and decay; however, their souls neither die nor sleep, because they have an immortal character. At death, the souls of the righteous are made perfect in holiness and are received into paradise, where they are with Christ and enjoy God’s glory while they wait for the full redemption of their bodies. The souls of the wicked are sent by God to Hades, where they remain in torment and utter darkness awaiting the final judgment.

* **The Bodies of Those Who Have Died Return to Dust and Decay; However, Their Souls neither Die nor Sleep, Because They Have an Immortal Character**

**Genesis 3:19** “By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

**Acts 13:36** “For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption.”

**Ecclesiastes 12:7** and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

* **At Death, the Souls of the Righteous Are Then Made Perfect in Holiness and Received into Paradise**

**Hebrews 12:23** and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven [the elect], and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect

* **Where They Are with Christ and Enjoy God’s Glory**

**Luke 23:42** ... “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

**Luke 23:43** ... “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

**Philippians 1:23** I am hard pressed between the two [life and death]. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

**2 Corinthians 5:8** Yes, we are of good courage, and **w**e would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

* **While They Wait for the Full Redemption of Their Bodies**

**1 Corinthians 15:51-53** Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

**John 5:28-29** Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

**1 Corinthians 15:42-44** So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

* **The Souls of the Wicked Are Sent by God to Hades, Where They Remain in Torment and Utter Darkness Awaiting the Final Judgment.**

**Luke 16:22-23** ... The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment ...

**Jude 6** And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day

**Revelation 20:11-15**