

The Communion of Saints - The Church: Triumphant/Suffering/Militant

Review of Salvation

Transformation in Christ

“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father but by me” John 14:6

“Be perfect as you Heavenly Father is perfect” Matt 5:48

The Fall

Gen 3, summarized by Paul in Rom 5:12-14, 18-19

Results: sickness, death, no grace, concupiscence (1 John 2:16)

The Rise

The solution – Jesus Christ (Rom 5:20-6:4)

Incorporate into Christ and his body through confession (Rom 10:9) *and baptism*

What does Baptism Do?

“born again” John 3:3

Sealed with Holy Spirit

Sacramental character

Sanctifying and sacramental graces

Infusion of faith, hope and charity

1 Cor 6:11, 1 Pet 3:18-21, Tit 3:4-7

What now? Persistence!

Justification, sanctification and salvation are *all* processes, not one-time events

Phil 2:12-13 “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling

Paul is not certain of his own salvation – 1 Cor 9:27, 1 Cor 4:4-5

Phil 1:6 Completion

Holiness is not optional Heb 12:14, Rev 21:27, 1 Thess 4:3

Summary of Process of Transformation in Christ

Crucified to Christ Gal 2:20

Children of God Rom 8:14-17

We shall be like Him 1 John 3:12

It looks nothing like Luther’s Dunghill!

Communion of Saints

CCC 946-962

Holy things and Holy People

Church – Triumphant – Saints in heaven

Suffering – souls in purgatory (saved but not transformed completely)

Militant – Church on Earth

The Body of Christ Rom 12:4-5, 1 Cor 12:12-27

Church is the Body Eph 5:23

Aren't we all Saints?

Phil 1:1, Col 1:1

Yes, but only in an imperfect sense. Col 1:12

Why should we ask others for prayers? Isn't Jesus the one mediator? (1 Tim 2:5)

Yes, but Paul asks others who are in Christ to pray for him 2 Thess 3:1, 1 Thess 5:25

Read all of 1 Tim 2 in context. We mediate in Christ, not apart from him

But these folks are dead!

"They can't hear us!" No, they are alive in Christ Rom 8:38, Rev 5:8, Luke 20:27-38

"But Deut 18:11 condemns necromancy!" Necromancy applies to the spiritually dead. Matt 17:1-9, Luke 9:28-36

"How can the saints hear all of the prayers?"

- In eternity time is not a factor
- Finite number
- They are in Christ

How about Purgatory?

Remember, we must be perfectly cleansed/transformed

Heb 12:23 "spirits of just men made perfect"

2 Mac 12:45 Made atonement for the dead that they may be released from their sins

1 Cor 3:11-15

Matt 5:23-26 won't get out until you pay the last penny

2 Tim 1:18, 4:19 Onesiphorus

How about statues?

Ex 20:4-5 seems to exclude statues

But Ex 23:24 you shall not bow down to their gods

Ex 25:19-20 God directs Moses to put cherubim on Ark

Numbers 21:6-9 Bronze serpent brings life

2 Kings 18 Hezekiah commands serpent to be destroyed *because people were worshipping it*

1 Kings 7-9 Solomon builds temple with many images and it is blessed by God

How about Relics?

2 Kings 13:20 Elisha's bones

Luke 8:40-48 touched the fringe of his garment

Acts 5:15 Peter's shadow

Acts 19:11 handkerchiefs and aprons that touched Paul's body were taken and people were healed and exorcized

Indulgences

CCC 1471-1479

Remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins (2 Sam 12:13-15) whose guilt has already been forgiven which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions

Lex Credendi, Lex Orandi

The law of belief is the law of prayer

Put this knowledge into practice in your prayer life!