

# PURGATORY AND PENANCE

## ISSUES IN LUTHER'S 95 THESES - PART II

*"Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*

~ Matthew 3:12

### 1. Purgatory

- a. The 95 theses may be the spark, but not the fire of the Reformation
- b. The Theses include belief in purgatory, penance, popes, sacraments, etc. (25-29)
- c. Roman Catholic teaching on purgatory: CCC 1030
- d. Purgatory – a place for those who die in grace to be purified before entering heaven
- e. Luther (1524) – "the pope...invented purgatory" "shameful annual market of masses", "There is nothing said about it in the Scriptures."

### 2. Purging in the Bible?

- a. The doctrinal debate continues about purgatory, hell, judgment.
- b. The Catholic argument:
- c. Nothing unclean shall enter – Rev 21:27... enter where? When? How do they get clean?
- d. Without holiness no man shall see the Lord - Heb 12:10-14 – making it personal holiness
- e. The trial of fire - 1 Pet 1:7 – the judgment of fire – 1Cor 3:15 – forgiven after–Mat 12:32

### 3. The Great Purging

- a. Is not talking about members of the body of Christ – but Israel.
- b. Israel as a nation had to be refined - Isaiah 4:4, 48:9-11; Zech 13:1,9; Mal 3:3-4
- c. Jesus came to divide – Luke 12:51 – and to baptize with fire – Matt 3:11-12
- d. The branches purged go through cutting off, burning, fiery trial - John 15:2, 1Pet 4:12
- e. Peter preached repent and be baptized (cleansed) else you will be destroyed – Acts 3:23

### 4. Paul's Teaching on Our Cleansing

- a. Purgatory does not require Christ or faith, but you fulfilling the punishment of sins
- b. Paul says to the Corinthians – "ye are washed" – 1 Cor 6:11
- c. Christ is our sanctification – 1 Cor 1:30
- d. If we go to purgatory – then Christ must go, too! God forbid!
- e. 2 Tim 2:21, 1 Cor 3:15 talk about our works which come after our purification Titus 2:14
- f. The elephant in the room is the failure to rightly divide – making us Israel.
- g. Rightly divide what? The body of Christ (mystery) from the nation Israel (prophecy)