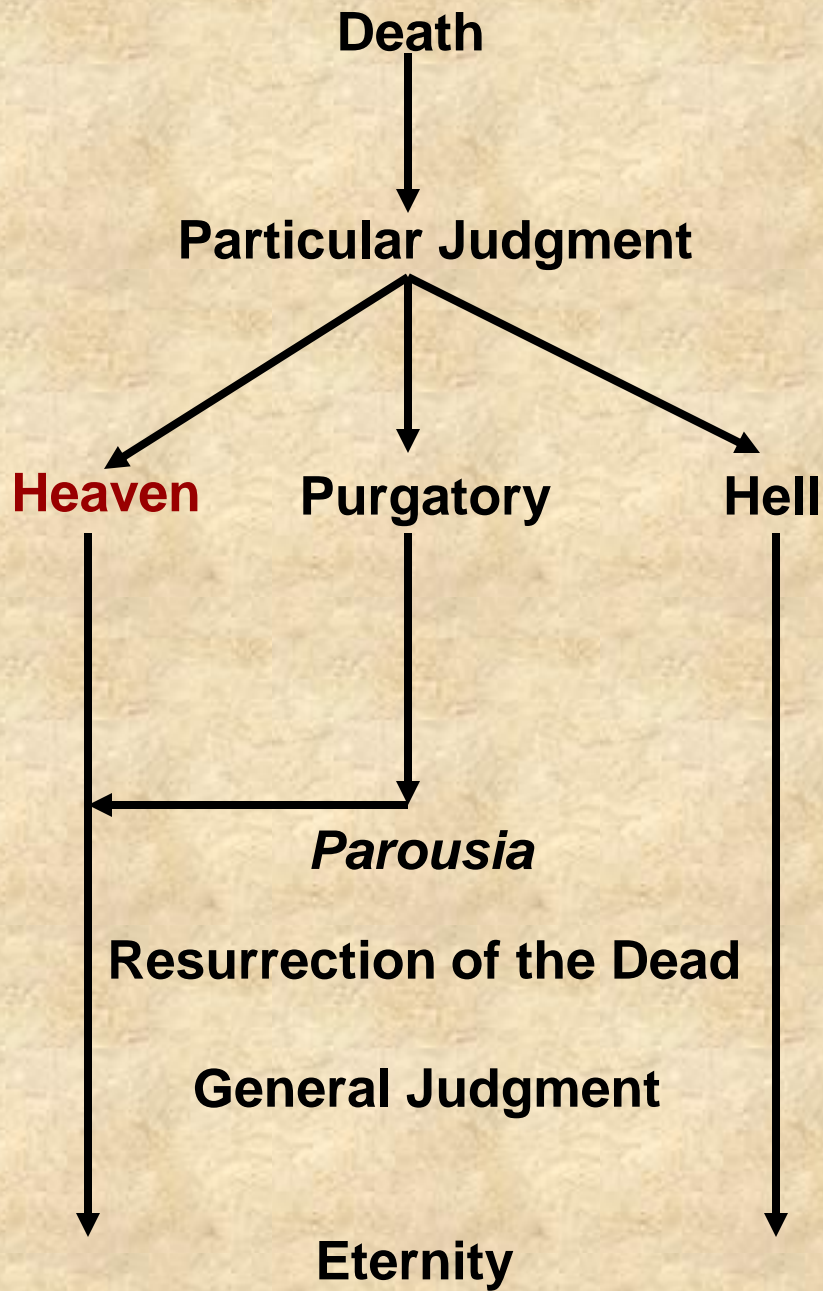


# **ESCHATOLOGY:** ***The Last Things***

**Part VIIIb:**  
**Heaven, Hell**





# Heaven

Catholic Christians and all other Christians believe in the blessedness of heaven realized in the possession of God.

Scripture speaks of heaven in many ways:

as life (Matthew 18:8);

as eternal life (Matthew 25:46);

as the crown of life (James 1:12);

as the tree of life (Revelation 2:7);

as glory (Romans 8:18);

as eternal glory (2 Timothy 2:10);

as the eternal glory of God (1 Peter 5:10);

as rest (Hebrews 4:3, 11);

as the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8);

as the Kingdom (Matthew 25: 34);

as a dwelling in the heavens (2 Corinthians 5:1);

as paradise (Luke 23:43).

Those who are in heaven will have:

great rewards (Luke 6:23);

treasures (Matthew 6:20);

an imperishable inheritance incapable of fading or defilement (1 Peter 1:4).

In heaven the blessed:

will be with God (Revelation 21:3);

will be with Christ (Mark 16:19);

will be with the angels (Matthew 22:30);

will be in the house of the Father where there are many dwelling places (John 14:2);

are heirs of God, heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17);

will see God face to face (1 Corinthians 13:9-12);

will see God as he is (1 John 3:2).

They will reign forever and ever:

illuminated by God (Revelation 22:3-5);

immortal and physically incorruptible (Revelation 21:4);

with an irreproachable conscience (1 Peter 3:21).

The Magisterium of the Church speaks of heaven in many ways:

as eternal life (D 640);

D = Denzinger

([catecheticsonline.com/SourcesofDogma.php](http://catecheticsonline.com/SourcesofDogma.php))

as the eternal fatherland (D 457);

as heaven (D 464);

as the kingdom of heaven and celestial paradise  
(D 530);

as the vision and fruition of God (D 530);

as true beatitude (D 530);

as eternal rest (D 530);

as eternal beatitude (D 570);

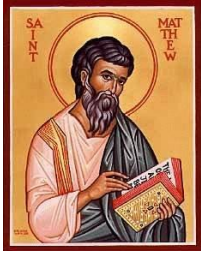
as the vision of God one and three (D 693);

as glory (D 842);

as eternal retribution (D 836);

as the supernatural end (D 1669, 1786).

## Matthew 13:43



Then the righteous will **shine like the sun** in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear.

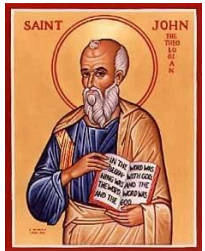
## Romans 2:6-7, 10



... who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, ...

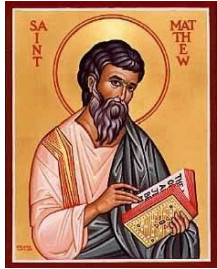
But there will be **glory, honor, and peace** for everyone who does good.

## John 17:3



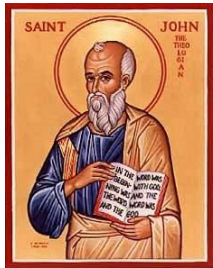
Now this is eternal life, that they should **know you**, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.

## Matthew 25:21



His master said to him, “Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, **share your master’s joy.**”

## John 14:2-3



In my Father’s house there are **many dwelling places.** If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that **where I am you also may be.**



## Psalms 73:23-25



Yet I am always with you; you take hold of my right hand. With your counsel you guide me, and at the end **receive me with honor**. Whom else have I in the heavens? None beside you delights me on earth.

## Psalms 16:11

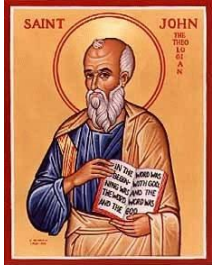
You will show me the path to life, **abounding joy** in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.

## Psalms 17:15

I am just--let me **see your face**; when I awake, let me be filled with your presence.

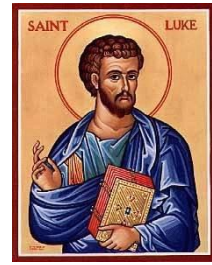


## 1 John 3:2



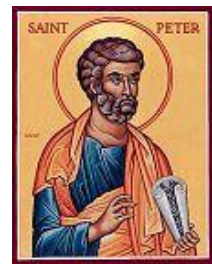
Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we **shall see him as he is.**

## Luke 22:29-30



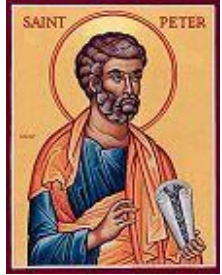
I **confer a kingdom on you**, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom; and you will **sit on thrones** judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

## 1 Peter 1:3-5



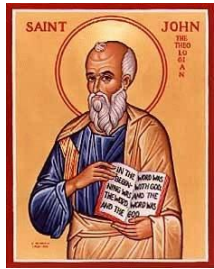
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to **an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading**, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.

## 1 Peter 5:4



And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the **unfading crown of glory**.

## Revelation 21:27



... but nothing unclean will enter it (New Jerusalem, heaven), nor any (one) who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose **names are written in the Lamb's book of life**.

## Wisdom 5:16



Therefore shall they receive **the splendid crown**, the beauteous diadem, from the hand of the Lord- For he shall shelter them with his right hand, and protect them with his arm.

## 2 Corinthians 4:17



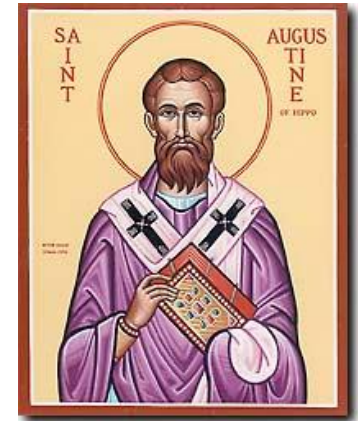
For this momentary light affliction is producing for us **an eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison, . . .



The **teachings of the Fathers of the Church** affirms the constant understanding of heaven in the history of faith.

### **Augustine, *Confessions*, Book 1, Ch. 1**

“And man, being a part of your creation, desires to praise You. You move us to delight in praising You; for You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless till **they find rest in you.**”



### **Augustine, *The City of God*, Book 11, Ch. 13**

“From all this, it will readily occur to any one that the blessedness which an intelligent being desires as its legitimate object results from a combination of two things, namely, that it interruptedly **enjoy the unchangeable good** which is God; and that it be **delivered from all doubt**, and know certainly that it shall **eternally abide in the same enjoyment.**”





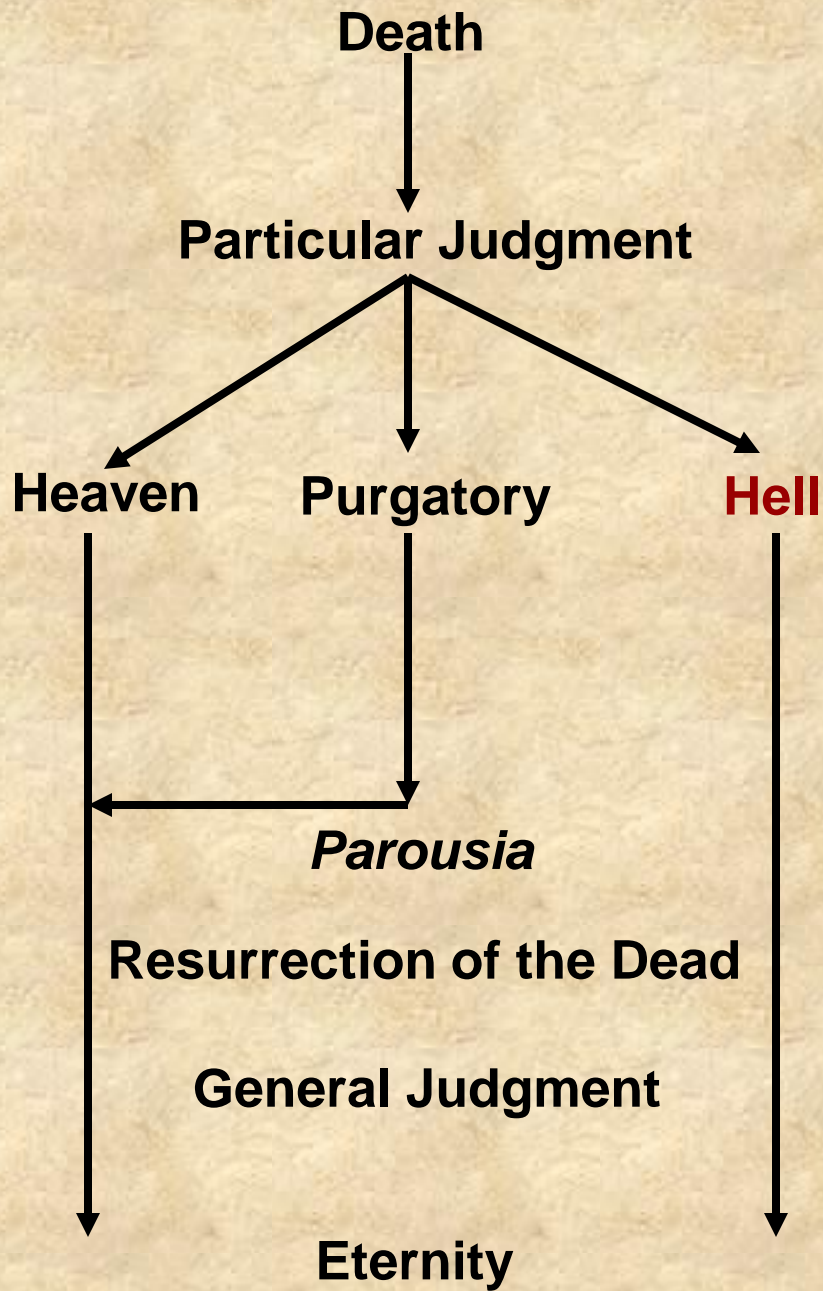
## Clement of Alexandria *Stromata*, Book 7, Ch. 10

“For it is said, ‘To him that has shall be given’ (Matthew 25:29; Luke 19:26): to faith, knowledge; and to knowledge, love; and to love the inheritance. ... Whence at last ... it is that knowledge is committed to those fit and selected for it. It leads us to the **endless and perfect end**, teaching us beforehand the future life that we shall lead, according to God, and with gods; after we are freed from all punishment and penalty which we undergo, in consequence of our sins, for salutary purposes. ~



After which redemption the reward and the honors are assigned to those who have become perfect; ... they have become pure in heart, and near to the Lord, there awaits them **restoration to everlasting contemplation**; and they are called by **the appellation of gods**, being destined to **sit on thrones** with the other gods that have been first put in their places by the Savior.”







# Hell: Reprobation

Christians believe because the Bible is clear that hell exists.

Scripture speaks of hell in many ways:

as a place of torment (Luke 16:28),

as the netherworld (Luke 16:22),

as the abyss (Luke 8:31; Revelation 9:1-2,11; 11:7;  
17:8; 20:1,3),

as a fiery furnace (Matthew 13:42, 50),

as a pool of fire (Revelation 20:10, 14),

as a fiery pool of burning sulfur (Revelation 19:20),

as a pool of fire and sulfur (Revelation 20:10; 21:8),

as Tartarus (Greek mythological place of punishment)  
(2 Peter 2:4),

as Gehenna or as the fire of Gehenna (Mt 5:22, 29;  
10:28; 18:9; 23:33).

As a **state**, Scripture speaks of hell with many words:

as death (Romans 6:21; 8:6; 8:13; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16),  
as the second death (Revelation 2:11; 20:6; 21:8),  
as eternal ruin (2 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 Tim 6:9),  
as outside darkness (Matthew 8:12; 22:11-13; 25:30),  
as eternal fire (Matthew 18:8, 25:41; Jude 7),  
as eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46),  
as destruction (Matthew 7:13; Philippians 1:28;  
Peter 3:7),  
as damnation (Mark 16:16; John 12:25),  
as perishing (John 3:16; 10:27; Romans 2:12),  
as unquenchable fire (Mark 9:42-47; Luke 3:17),  
as fire and sulfur (Revelation 14:9-14),  
as thick gloom of darkness (2 Peter 2:17; Jude 13),  
as corruption (Galatians 6:8),  
as Babylon (Revelation 18; 19:1-3)

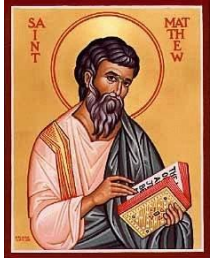


Gehenna  
Outside Jerusalem

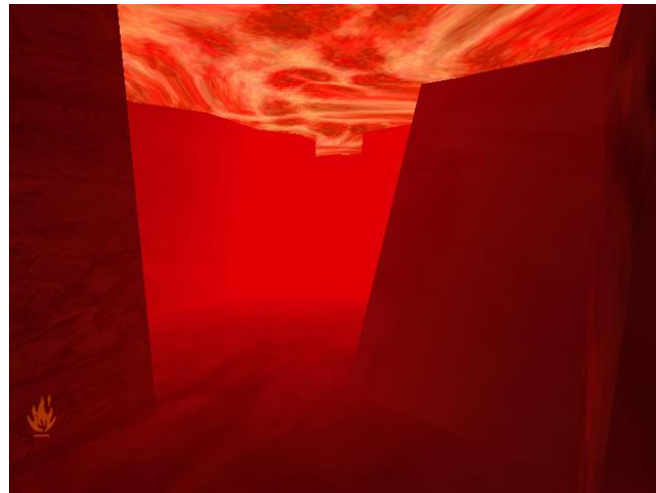


Michelangelo's Last Judgment  
Sistine Chapel  
Vatican City

## Matthew 25: 31-46



(Then Jesus told the crowds and his disciples: ...) “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ... Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, **into the eternal fire** prepared for the devil and his angels.’ ... And these will go **off to eternal punishment**, but the righteous to eternal life.”



## Luke 16: 19-26



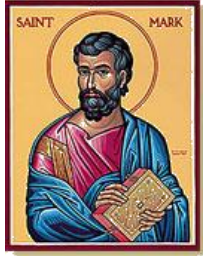
(Jesus said to them [the Pharisees]:...) “There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from **the netherworld**, where he was **in torment**, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am **suffering torment in these flames**.’~



Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.'"



## Mark 9:42-47



(Jesus said in reply ... ) “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe (in me) to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into **Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire**. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna ...”

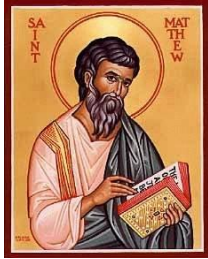
## 2 Thessalonians 1:9



These will pay the penalty of **eternal ruin**, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power, ...

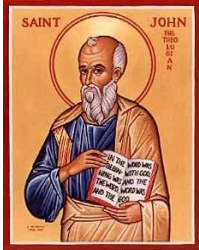


## Matthew 13:40-42



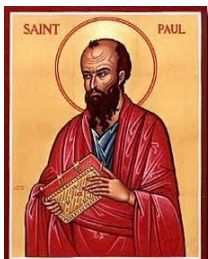
Just as weeds are collected and burned (up) with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into **the fiery furnace**, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

## John 15:6



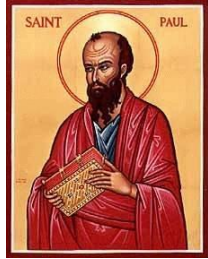
Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and **throw them into a fire and they will be burned.**

## Romans 2:6-9



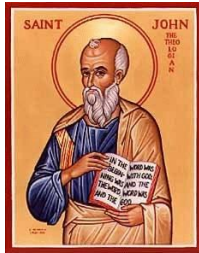
... (he) will repay everyone according to his works: ... **wrath and fury** to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. Yes, **affliction and distress** will come upon every human being who does evil, ...

## 1 Corinthians 6:9-10



Do you not know that the unjust will **not inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor boy prostitutes nor practicing homosexuals nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.

## John 3:36

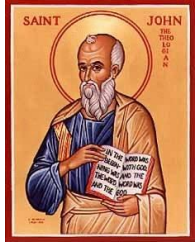


Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but **the wrath of God** remains upon him.

## John 5:29

(This was Jesus' answer ...) those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to **the resurrection of condemnation.**

## Revelation 21:27

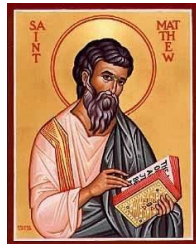


But **nothing unclean will enter it** (the new Jerusalem, heaven), nor any (one) who does abominable things or tells lies.

## Revelation 22:15

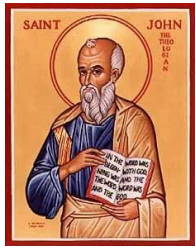
Outside (the new Jerusalem, heaven) are the dogs, the sorcerers, the unchaste, the murderers, the idol-worshippers, and **all who love and practice deceit.**

## Matthew 10:28



And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can **destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.**

## Revelation 21:8



But as for cowards, the unfaithful, the depraved, murderers, the unchaste, sorcerers, idol-worshippers, and deceivers of every sort, their lot is in **the burning pool of fire and sulfur**, which is the second death.



The **Fathers of the Church** reflect the constant faith of the Church on the existence and nature of hell.

**Ignatius of Antioch, (d. c. 110) *Letter to the Ephesians,*  
Ch. 16:1**

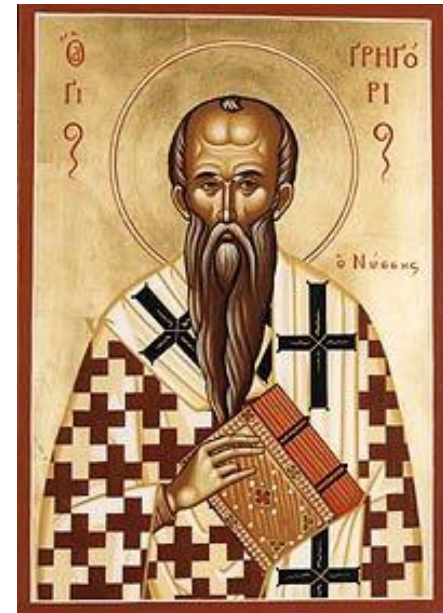
“Make no mistake, brethren; the corrupter of families will not inherit the kingdom of God. If, then, those are dead who do these things according to the flesh, how much worse if, with bad doctrine, one should corrupt the faith of God for which Jesus Christ was crucified.

Such a man, for becoming contaminated, will **depart into unquenchable fire**; and will any one who listens to him.”



## Gregory of Nyssa, (335-395) *The Great Catechism*, Ch. 40

“Indeed, the sinner’s life of torment presents no equivalent to anything that pains the sense here. Even if some one of the punishments in that other world be named in terms that are well known here, the distinction is still not small. When you hear the word fire, you have been taught to think of a fire other than the fire we see, owing to something being added to that fire which in this there is not; for **that fire is never quenched**, whereas experience has discovered many ways of quenching this; and there is a great difference between a fire which can be extinguished, and one that does not admit of extinction.”





The **teaching magisterium of the Church** has also affirmed the existence and nature of hell.

## **The Lateran Council IV, 1215**

“... the wicked (receive), a perpetual punishment with the devil...”

## **Pope Innocent IV (1243-1254)**

“But if anyone dies unrepentant in the state of mortal sin, he will undoubtedly be tormented forever in the fires of an everlasting hell.” (Letter to the Bishop of Tusculum, Section 24)



Pope Innocent IV

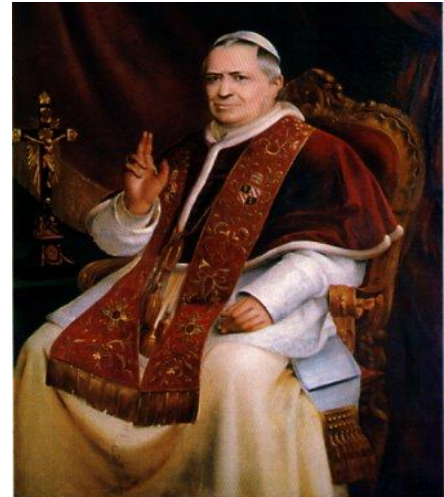


## Vatican Council I, 1869-70

“Therefore, all who die in actual mortal sin are excluded from the kingdom of God and will **suffer forever the torments of hell** from which there is no redemption. If anyone says that a man can be justified even after death; or if he says that the punishments of the damned in hell will not last forever; let him be anathema.



Vatican Council I



Pope Pius IX

End of  
**Eschatology--Heaven, Hell, Part VIIIb**

Go to  
**Eschatology--Purgatory, Limbo, Parousia, Part VIIIc**