

into Abraham's bosom" (vs. 22 Douay ed.) Abraham tells the rich man in hell that Lazarus "is comforted". He further explains that the two places are separated by a "great gulf" and to go from one to the other is impossible. The picture agrees exactly with the Protestant doctrine that at death the souls of the wicked go directly into torment and the souls of the righteous go directly into a state of bliss. Jesus says nothing about purgatory. Lazarus though a poor beggar was escorted by angels directly into a place of bliss. It does not say that he went into Abraham's bosom because he was specially sanctified above other believers nor does it say that he had opportunity to make any last minute confession. No, it just says that he died and the angels carried him directly into that place of happiness. The Douay version has a footnote to verse 22 defining Abraham's bosom as "The place of rest where the souls of <sup>the</sup> ~~its~~ saints resided till Christ had opened heaven by his death". It would seem strange to think that the Old Testament believers went directly into rest and New Testament believers have to go through the suffering of purgatory! Surely if Jesus taught that Lazarus was borne by angels at once to a place of consolation He meant to teach that we who believe in Him in the New Testament times may expect the same or a more wonderful reception into heavenly happiness.

The Douay footnote to Luke 16:22 is especially strange because the chief support which Roman Catholics allege for the doctrine of Purgatory comes from their Old Testament! As is well known, the Roman Catholic Church argues that a passage in one of the apocryphal books teaches that there is a purgatory. Protestants declare that these apocryphal books were not in the Old Testament used by the Jews in Palestine in Jesus' day. They are not even yet accepted as sacred by the Jews. Jesus and the Apostles never quoted from them nor referred to them. They have no authority whatever and the Roman Catholic Church has greatly erred in thus adding them to Holy Scripture. This subject is more fully discussed in pamphlet No. 1 of this series "Our Bible and How We Got it".

But even these disputed verses do not teach the Roman Catholic doctrine of purgatory. We quote them in full: (11 Mac. 12:39-45 R.V.). Note, it does not say that Judas Maccabaens prayed or sacrificed for these idolaters. He may only have asked God to forgive these living for their fellowship with the dead