

An Examination of Conscience According to the Expected Trials After *Death*

(Blessed Theodora, Lives of Saints March 26, gives us a vision of the process of death in which the conscience is examined and cleansed after the separation of body and soul. It is a sobering reminder of how we should now examine ourselves for confession)

☩ THE FIRST TRIAL

- * idle speech
- * speaking without thinking
- * speaking what is vile and shameless
- * speaking without need or order
- * words uttered needlessly or unreasonably
- * words expressing anything blasphemous
- angry words
- * foul language
- * wild cries or ridiculing laughter

☩ THE SECOND TRIAL

- * every lying word
- * failure to keep promises
- * vain use of God's name
- * insincerity in confession or toward others
- * bearing false witness
- * flattery

☩ THE THIRD TRIAL

- speaking evil of others
- spreading rumors or gossip
- judging the deeds of others
- damaging someone's reputation -slander
- condemning one's neighbor
- agreeing in thought when someone else condemns others

☩ THE FOURTH TRIAL

- gluttony
- drunkenness
- drug abuse

- eating secretly from others
- eating without need
- eating in the morning before praying
- eating before the Liturgy (even if not communing)
- breaking the holy fasts

☩ THE FIFTH TRIAL

- sloth
- idleness
- not working but living by the labor of others
- taking wages but not fulfilling duties
- not caring to praise God
- neglecting regular attendance at church
- carelessness about the soul's salvation
- despondency

☩ THE SIXTH TRIAL

- stealing in all its forms
- plagiarism of another's ideas or work

☩ THE SEVENTH TRIAL

- greed /avarice
- love of or over concern about money or riches
- discontent with what God has given you

☩ THE EIGHTH TRIAL

- lending money for interest - usury
- gaining payment from exploitation of others
- taking bribes
- gambling

☩ THE NINTH TRIAL

- injustice
- not giving fair wages to workers
- cheating others in any way

☩ THE TENTH TRIAL

- envy