

Let The Bible Speak Series

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The Sin With No Forgiveness

Mt. 12:24-32; Mk. 3:22-30

Sin is the blight of the human family. Rom. 3:23 "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Sin is the cause of all evil and sorrow. Rom. 5:12 "for by one man sin entered the world and death by sin..."

God will punish the sinner. Rom. 6:23 "The wages of sin is death..."

But, there is hope.

Rev. 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say come, and let him that heareth say come, and let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will let him take of the water of life freely."

Mt. 11:28-30 "Come unto me all he that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest..."

Mk. 16:15-16 "Go preach the gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, he that believeth not shall be damned."

Yet Jesus plainly teaches that there is a sin, with no forgiveness.

What is that sin?

I. Passages Often Confused With the Unpardonable Sin.

A. Hebrews 6:1-6

The design of the Hebrew epistle was to warn the saints of the threat of the Judaizing teachers. The people to whom it is addressed had embraced Christianity, but were being seduced by the false teachers to repudiate Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ, and return to the Law of Moses as the only basis of salvation.

These people were (1) once enlightened; (2) they tasted of the heavenly gift; (3) they were partakers of the Holy Spirit; (4) they tasted the good word of God and the powers of the world to come; and then (5) deliberately forsook the Savior to return to the shadows of the old order.

These people had obeyed the gospel, yet they "fell away." In their current state, they were going to be lost.

How strange that some large religious groups teach that it is impossible for those once saved to so sin as to be lost eternally, when this is a clear cut case of that very thing.

"It is impossible to renew them again to repentance." Why? The answer is to be seen in the nature of the apostasy characteristic of these people.

They were not ordinary apostates, i.e. people who had: Succumbed to temptation and sin through weakness, People who were indifferent or, people who had fallen because of a lack of knowledge.

These people had repudiated and turned their back on Christ as their savior. Repentance is the first step to take in order to return to God, there had to be a sacrificial offering for sin, but these people having rejected the only available sacrifice, (Jesus Christ) their repentance for sin, had they any, would be misdirected to the abrogated law of Moses and the ineffectual alters of that law. The law could not justify them. No Messiah was yet to come; hence the rejection of Christ eliminated the possibility of salvation through him, hence no hope of salvation. These people had deliberately gone past the point of no return. They had "crucified to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." So hardened were they toward Christ, they would not hesitate to repeat the shame of Calvary.

This passage is not, therefore, a direct reference to the unpardonable sin or the sin against the Holy Spirit.

B. Hebrews 10:23-26

These Hebrew Christians are admonished to "hold fast" their confession. The confession refers to the baptismal confession i.e. "that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Because some of them were in danger of renouncing Christ, they are admonished to "consider," in order to stir up one another to good works. The idea was to do so in order to prevent someone from falling away. In forsaking or neglecting to meet together, they might lose all motivation to maintain their discipleship. Some were already in the habit of neglecting or turning away from the assembly.

Why? Some persecution, others Hellenistic Judaism.

Sin willfully, no more sacrifice for sin, that is, those who willfully turned their back on Christ and the Christian system and returned to Judaism returned to a sacrificial system that was obsolete. The alters of that system no longer provided atonement. They would become apostates, by so doing. The sacrifice of Christ on the cross represented the final sacrifice for sin. There would be no other.

Heb. 9:24-26 "For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. Not that he should offer himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with the blood of another, He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."

v.28 "so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many." Hence, those who reject Christ, have no hope.

This is not the sin against the Holy Spirit, the sin with no forgiveness.

C. 1John 5:16-17

The Sin unto death.

The teaching here may be reduced to the following logical form:

1. The Lord will forgive every sin, of what ever nature, from which a brother turns in penitence and confesses. 1John 1:8 (if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us.)

2. There is a sin, however, which the Lord will not forgive. V. 16.

3. Therefore, the sin which the Lord will not forgive is a sin, any sin, every sin, all sin, that a brother will not confess.

The context supports and corroborates the foregoing conclusion. If my brother in Christ sins, and manifests penitence, I not only may, it is my duty to pray in his behalf: "Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another..." James 5:16

However if my brother exhibits stubborn impenitence and persistent rebellion, following the commission of sin, it is useless and vain to pray for him.

The Lord will not forgive such man.

The "sin unto death" is therefore, a disposition of heart, a perverseness of attitude, and an unwillingness of mind to acknowledge one's sin, and from it turn away.

Such an attitude effectively closes heaven's door in one's face.

II. The Sin Against The Holy Spirit, What Is It?

a. Not murder—Acts 2:36-37 These people with wicked hands crucified Christ, yet they were forgiven vs. 38-39.

b. Not profanity—Mt. 27:74 Peter used an oath and invited a curse upon himself "if he knew the Lord." Yet he was forgiven.

c. Not adultery—1 Cor. 6:11

d. Not drunkenness—1 Cor. 6:11

What then is the Sin against the Holy Spirit, and why will it not be forgiven?

The scribes from Jerusalem declared that Christ cast out demons by the power of Beelzebub, the prince or ruler of demons. Jesus reasoned, if that is so, then Satan would be fighting against Satan. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

Jesus then proceeds to point out that all kinds of sin will be forgiven men, except one. "He who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation."

These men had attributed the power by which Jesus cast out demons, the power of the Holy Spirit, to Satan.

They blasphemed the Spirit by calling him "an unclean Spirit."

To blaspheme the work of the Holy Spirit when His testimony was offered to men in the completion of God's redemptive plan would constitute a final rejection of all divine overtures and would have no clemency in this last dispensation of time and no mitigation in eternity.

Note: There is no reason why would one be forgiven who blasphemed or reject Christ, yet would not be forgiven for doing the same thing to the Holy Spirit, except for the element of time.

Rejection of Christ during his personal ministry, was not final, however, rejection of the Holy Spirit would be a final act of rejection, since through the Spirit's appeal God made his final appeal to man.

We should note, however, that deliberate repudiation of the Holy Spirit's testimony is not the only way that men sin against the Holy Spirit.

Apathy toward the Spirit's appeals which if continued will result in the same eternal damnation.

The method is slower, but the result is the same.

We are commanded:

Eph. 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. i.e. "to cause sorrow."

We can grieve the spirit, by refusing to take advantage of His appeals or turning down His offers.

Acts 7:51 "Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears. You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you." i.e. to strive or work against.

We can resist the spirit by refusing his message and turning away from it.

The people who heard Stephen, sought to discredit the message of the Spirit.

1 Thess. 5:19 "Do not quench the Spirit." i.e. by hindering his operations in oral testimony.

The Spirit, through the word of God, challenges us to obedience and right living. We quench the Spirit by putting out the fire that would otherwise be generated within our hearts and lives.