

THE TRUTH

Instructor: Evangelist Carlton Knott

Lesson 24 - The Truth About the Unpardonable Sin

There is a time, we know not when, a place we know not where, that marks the destiny of men, to glory or despair. There is a line by us unseen that crosses every path; the hidden boundary between, God's patience and His wrath. How far may we go on in sin? How long will God forbear? Where does hope end, an answer from the skies is sent; "Ye that from God depart, while it is called today, repent, and harden not your heart." [J. Addison Alexander]

1. According to Biblical scholars what is one of the saddest verses in the Scriptures? Ans.

NOTE: The saddest verse in the entire Bible, perhaps, is found in one of Jeremiah's lamentations over the plight of Israel's sins. The verse speaks of three things:

- Opportunities _____
- Opportunities _____
- A sad _____

NOTE: Many people are confused about the unpardonable sin. There has been so much speculation about it. How do we commit it and how shall we know if we may have already committed it? First, let me hasten to explain that our God is a God of love. He desires that everyone should be saved, and has made adequate provision for it. Why then, should there be an unpardonable sin? If full arrangement has been made to pardon our sins, what does an "unpardonable" sin mean?

2. With whom is the unpardonable sin associated? [Matthew 12:31-32] Ans. The _____

From the statements of Jesus in Matthew 12:24-32, it is clearly evident that the unpardonable sin is a sin against the Holy Ghost, so in order to understand this subject we must understand _____ is the Holy Spirit and _____ He works.

THE WHO

3. Who is the Holy Spirit?

- The Holy Spirit is a divine person, a member of the _____ [1 John 5:7; Acts 5:1-5]

NOTE: Some things about the Spirit will always be a mystery.

“The nature of the Holy Spirit is a mystery. Men cannot explain it, because the Lord has not revealed it to them. Men having fanciful views may bring together passages of Scripture and put a human construction on them, but the acceptance of these views will not strengthen the church. Regarding such mysteries, which are too deep for human understanding, silence is golden.” **[Acts of the Apostles, 52]**

- He took part in the old and the new _____. **[Genesis 1:1-2, 26; 1 Sam. 10:6]**

This new creation of life is more than a modification or improvement of the old sinful life-it is actually a transformation of nature. With self and sin now dead, a new life in Christ begins. Only the Holy Spirit can bring about such a transformation.

- He _____ Christ on earth. **[John 14:26]**

NOTE: Jesus, as the Son of man, was in only one place at a time. He sends the Spirit to be everywhere. “It is expedient for you that I go away” He said. **[John 16:7]** It was better for Him to go away and send the Spirit in special power to be with His children in all parts of the world at all times.

THE HOW

4. How does the Holy Spirit work and what some of His functions?

- He _____ us into the truth, as it is in Jesus. **[John 16:13]**

We do not receive all truth at one time. **[John 16:12]** God does not hold us responsible for light we do not have, but He does hold us responsible for that which we do have or might have if we improved the opportunities we have. **[John 9:41; Matthew 13:15]**

- He convinces men of _____. **[John 16:8]**

The Holy Spirit, reproves, or convinces, men of sin and, “sin is the transgression of the law.” An unconfessed sin is an unpardoned sin, and only those who confess and forsake their sins shall have mercy. **[Proverbs 28:13]** While no sin is too great for God to forgive; no sin, no matter how small, cannot be forgiven if it is not sincerely confessed.

- He convinces men of _____. **[John 16:8]**

Since the Holy Spirit convinces us of sin, and since, “sin is the transgression of the law,” the Spirit must of necessity uphold the righteous and unchangeable character of the law.

- He convinces men of _____. **[John 16:8]**

The Spirit of God impresses every responsible being on earth, that he must give account to God. The law of God is the standard of the judgment and God will judge us by Jesus Christ. As long as we live, anytime, anywhere, we can never escape the issue of God’s law and God’s Son. In the

judgment we shall meet them. It is the work of God's Spirit to impress upon men this unavoidable truth and to lead them to salvation.

- He _____ for men. [**Romans 8:26**]

Since the Spirit dwells in us, He knows all our needs and being one of the Godhead, He knows just how to present our problems in heaven.

- He gives men power to _____. [**Acts 1:8**]

"I have been on the mountaintop for five years," testified one man to Mr. Moody. "How many souls have you won to Christ?" asked the great man of God. The man confessed that he had not won any. "That," replied Moody, "is not the kind of mountaintop experience we need." Christians should be willing to do more than believe on Christ; they are called upon to be His witnesses to an unbelieving world.

- He _____ men unto the day of redemption. [**Ephesians 4:30**]

The Spirit is not the seal; He is the agent who seals us with the seal of God. (See Lessons 17 & 18.)

5. What sin did David as God to keep him for committing? [Psalm 19:13] Ans.

NOTE: Presumptuous sin is deliberate sin against light. The _____ is choosing our own way instead of God's and presuming that God will always forgive. It leads to the _____. It is a dangerous business to presume that a good God will forgive all sins under all conditions and, therefore, to sin deliberately. The following experiences in the Bible illustrate this:

- Nadab and Abihu [**Leviticus 10:1**]
- Esau [**Genesis 25:29-34; Hebrews 12:16-17**]
- Ananias and Sapphira [**Acts 5:1-11**]
- People in Noah's day and our own day. [**Genesis 6:3-7; Luke 17:26-27**]

6. So in essence, what is the unpardonable sin? [Matthew 12:24-32] Ans. It is the _____ of the Spirit's call

NOTE: From the statements of Jesus in Matthew 12:24-32, it is clearly evident that the sin against the Holy Ghost is the final rejection of Christ and His teachings and attributing His work to an evil power. It is persistently rejecting the Spirit's call to repentance. It is the sin we do not forsake. If we do not shield our conscience, it will become hard and callous and we will tread the paths of sin with utter abandon, giving no heed to the promptings of the Spirit of God. Remember, no sin is too great for God to forgive if it is confessed and put away. The sin against the Holy Ghost is the failure to confess or put away sin and unbelief in Christ, our Saviour.

7. Can a person know when he has committed the unpardonable sin? [Matt. 7:21-23] Ans.

When human probation closes, many will seek for the Word of God, but it will be too late. Probationary time will be over. But, thank God He will accept all who come in sincerity to Jesus. If a man will come to Christ and accept Him as Lord and Saviour, in faith confess his sins and fully surrender to do God's will, He may know that he has not committed this sin. If he does not come, He may know that he is in danger of committing it. If he professes Christ, yet rejects truth and continues in his own way, he may commit it and still think he is acceptable with God.

8. Will the Holy Spirit always strive with humanity? [Genesis 6:3; Psalms 51:11; Ephesians 4:30] Ans. _____

"The Spirit of God is departing from many among His people. Many have entered into dark, secret paths, and some will never return. They will continue to stumble to their ruin. They have tempted God, they have rejected light. All the evidence that will ever be given them they have received, and have not heeded. They have chosen darkness rather than light, and have defiled their souls"
[Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers pg. 90]

It is possible to so accustom ourselves to the voice of the Spirit that we become hardened. Suppose you ignore the alarm clock when it rings? How long before you would not hear it at all? Our hearts are very sensitive to God's Spirit when He first speaks to us, but if we refuse to heed, His voice gradually becomes so dim we no longer hear it at all. You see, the unpardonable sin is not a specific sin, which attaches itself to our life. Rather, it is a condition we reach by resisting God's Spirit. When a man first commits a wrong, he feels guilty and conscience-smitten about it, but the longer he continues to commit that wrong, the less troubled he is until at last he comes to look at it as no sin at all.

9. What then?

NOTE: Let us pray with David, "Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me." **[Psalm 51:11]** Let us "grieve not the holy Spirit of God" **[Ephesians 4:30]**, who alone can seal us for the day of redemption. Be of good courage, dear student, and put away every sin. God will help you to be victorious. But beware of delay. Do not think that you have sinned against the Holy Ghost if you have a desire to follow Jesus. This very desire is the work of God's Spirit on your heart.