

THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

Matthew 12:31-32

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. Verse 31 has some good news and bad news.
 - i. The good news is that God will forgive and save any person from the penalty of their sin...if they are willing to admit their sin to God...and receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.
 - ii. The bad news is there is a sin that God will not forgive...there is an unpardonable sin...it is important that we understand what the unpardonable sin is and is not.
- b. Many sins have been suggested as the unpardonable sin.
 - i. Murder...causing an unbiblical divorce...adultery.
 - ii. But none of these sins are mentioned in these verses...and there are many examples in the Bible and in life...where God has forgiven these sins.
- c. Jesus identified the unpardonable sin...as blasphemy against the Holy Spirit ... what does this mean?

II. THE SUPREME WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-

- a. The Holy Spirit has many functions...but the supreme work of the Holy Spirit is to convict people of their sin...and draw them to Christ.
 - i. In John 16:14, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would come into the world to “glorify” Him.
 - ii. 1 John 5:6 says that the Holy Spirit came into the world to “bear witness” of Christ.
- b. The foremost work of the Holy Spirit is to exalt Jesus...declare and define what He has done...and to draw people to Him.

- c. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts us of our sin...and makes us aware of our need of Christ.
 - i. It is the Holy Spirit who opens a person's mind to the truth of the gospel... and draws them to Christ.
 - ii. The Bible says that no person can come to Christ and be saved...unless the Father draws them...and He draws them by the witness of the Holy Spirit.
- d. To blaspheme the Holy Spirit is not something that happens in a moment or in an instant...it is something that happens over a period of time.
- e. A person blasphemes the Holy Spirit when they resist His drawing and reject His witness concerning Christ for so long...that like hardening concrete their heart becomes hardened and set in rejection...that spiritually they reach the point of no return...and they can never be saved.
- f. God is patient and longsuffering toward sinners...God will reach out to and deal with lost people for a long time...but the Bible also says that God will not always strive with man.
- g. A person can reject the Holy Spirit's witness concerning Christ for so long that as Eph. 4:19 says they become "*past feeling*"...their heart becomes so hardened and set in rejection...that they can never be saved.
- h. Not because God closes the door of salvation to them...but they close the door themselves by their continual rejection of Christ...this is the unpardonable sin.

III. THE DANGER OF REJECTION-

- a. What Jesus teaches concerning the unpardonable sin...emphasizes the danger of a person continuing to reject Christ.
- b. The longer a person refuses to repent of their sin and surrender their life to Christ ... the closer they come to committing the unpardonable sin.
- c. The human heart tends toward fixation...what we are today we tend to be more like tomorrow...that is why we tend to "get set in our ways."

- d. The person who rejects Christ today...will be more likely to reject Him tomorrow ...every time a person rejects Christ...their heart becomes a little harder...a little more calloused toward Christ and the gospel...and a little more fixed in rejection.
- e. This is why the greatest percentage of those who come to Christ...do so when they are young...when their heart is still tender and sensitive to the witness of the Holy Spirit concerning Christ.
- f. Thank God that every day across the globe adults and senior adults are being saved...but the longer a person resists the Holy Spirit and refuses to receive Christ...the less likely it is that they will ever be saved.

IV. JESUS' WARNING TO THE PHARISEES AND TO US-

- a. The Pharisees in these verses had followed Jesus all over the country...they had watched His every move...they had seen His miracles and heard His preaching.
- b. They had watched as Jesus multiplied the fish and loaves and feed a multitude ... and they had seen Jesus raise the dead.
- c. These were things that only God could do...and even though the Holy Spirit was continually witnessing to them of the truth of who Jesus was...they still rejected Him.
- d. Now they had seen Jesus set a man free from demon possession...but instead of giving God the credit and believing in Christ...they gave Satan the credit...and accused Jesus of being in league with the devil!
- e. When Jesus heard this He gave them a solemn warning...He warned them that their hearts were becoming so hardened that they were in danger of crossing the point of no return ...and committing the unpardonable sin.
- f. Every time a person hears the gospel and refuses to give their life to Christ ... every time the Holy Spirit tugs at a person's heart and they reject His witness concerning Christ...their heart get a little harder...and they get a little close to the point of no return.

CONCLUSION-

There is a time, we know not when,
A point we know not where,

That marks the destiny of every man,
To glory or despair.

There is a line by us unseen,
That crosses every path;
The hidden boundary line between
God's patience and His wrath.

Where is this mysterious bourn
By which our path is crossed?;
Beyond which God himself has sworn,
That he who goes is lost?

How far may we go in sin?
How long will God forbear?
Where does hope end, and where begins despair?

This word from the skies is sent,
"Ye that from God depart,
While it is called today, repent,
And harden not your heart."

-Joseph Addison Alexander

- a. Paul Powell: The question is sometimes asked, "Do people commit the unpardonable sin today?" I most assuredly believe they do. In fact, I believe that the unpardonable sin is more apt to be committed today than ever before in history. The reason is that we have more knowledge of the truth than any other generation in history. Furthermore, I believe that it is committed in America more than any other country. I believe it is committed in the Bible Belt more than any other place in the United States. And I believe that it is committed by adult men more than by any other group of people.
- b. A person does not have to hate God to commit the unpardonable sin...there are people who sit in church almost every Sunday who have committed this sin...they have heard and rejected the gospel for so long that they no longer hear it...it no longer touches their heart...they are oblivious to it...they are lost forever and they don't even know it.
- c. It will not be easier to be saved tomorrow...it will be harder...come to Christ today.