

There Is An Unpardonable Sin

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There Is An Unpardonable Sin (Mk. 3:29).

There Is Not An Unpardonable Sin (Ac. 13:39).

In Mark 3:29, Jesus Christ was responding to those who gave credit to Satan, instead of Almighty God, for the miracles that Christ performed,

As they went out, behold, they brought to him (Christ) a man, mute and demon-possessed.³³ And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, 'It was never seen like this in Israel!'³⁴ But the Pharisees said, 'He (Christ) cast out demons by the ruler of the demons' (Mt. 9:32-34; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Assuredly, I (Christ) say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter;²⁹ but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation -³⁰ because they said, 'He (Christ) has an unclean spirit' (Mk. 3:28-29).

In addition to discrediting the miracles that Christ performed, the Jewish religious leaders refused to acknowledge that Jesus Christ correctly and honestly represented the will and word of God. Instead of ridiculing Christ, who was Almighty God's representative, these same religious rulers should have been examining what he taught to confirm whether it was correct according to Holy Scripture,

Jesus answered (the Jewish religious leaders), 'I do not have a demon; but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me (as His representative) (Jn. 8:49; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Jesus answered, 'If I honor myself, my honor is nothing. It is my Father who honors me, of whom you say that He is your (our) God.'⁵⁵ Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but **I do know Him and keep His word** (Jn. 8:54-55; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Christ pointed out that the Jewish leaders should have understood what Moses wrote about him,

For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote about me.⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words (Jn. 5:46-47; cf. Dt. 18:15, 18; emphasis added).

There were some exceptions among the Jewish religious leaders and these individuals were willing to accept that Almighty God must be speaking through Jesus Christ,

Others said, 'These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?' (Jn. 10:21).

In everything that Christ said and did, he gave credit to his heavenly Father and not to himself. The Jewish leaders failed to acknowledge this truth,

I (Christ) have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He (Almighty God) who sent me is true; **and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him** (Jn. 8:26; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

As long as individuals resist the direction of God's Holy Spirit in their lives, they are prevented from inheriting everlasting life, whether they do this during their present lifetimes or in the second resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6),

You stiff-necked (stubborn) and uncircumcised in heart (inward attitude) and ears! **You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.**⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One (Christ), of whom **you** now have become the betrayers and murderers,⁵³ **who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it** (Ac. 7:51-53; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Therefore I (Christ) say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man (Christ), it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come (Mt. 12:31-32; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The Jewish leaders spoke against God's Holy Spirit as it worked through Jesus Christ in the performance of his duties, which included his teachings, healings, and other miracles. If these religious leaders persist in this same attitude when they are resurrected from the dead, they will not inherit everlasting life. However, if they genuinely repent, they will be forgiven,

Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this man (Christ) is preached to you the forgiveness of sin (Heb. 9:22);³⁹ and by him everyone who believes (in what Christ taught and then repents of sin; cf. Ac. 2:38; 13:24) is justified from all things from which **you could not be justified by the law of Moses** (Ac. 13:38-39; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

It is important to note that the last section of scripture is referring to the blood of animals, which was an integral part of the law of Moses, not being sufficient to cover all the sins that have ever been committed. This truth is reaffirmed by the writer of the book of Hebrews,

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins (Heb. 10:4; cf. 9:11-14).

So there is an "unpardonable sin" involving those who resist the action of God's Holy Spirit and stubbornly continue to live contrary to God's law and commandments, whether in this life or the second resurrection from the dead. Christ warned the Jewish religious leaders of his day that they needed to be careful to do the things written in God's law, but many of them refused to listen (Mt. 23:1-36). The writer of Hebrews also confirmed this fact,

How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord (Christ), and was confirmed to us by those who heard him,⁴ God (Almighty) also bearing

witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? (Heb. 2:3-4; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Those who resist God's Holy Spirit, place themselves above God, His word, and His law. In essence, they exalt themselves as being more righteous than Almighty God. Based on this process, the first blasphemy against God's Holy Spirit occurred prior to the creation of Adam and Eve,

For you (Satan) have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, **I will exalt my throne above the stars** (symbol of angels) **of God**; I will also sit on the mount (top) of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the Most High** (Isa. 14:13-14; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

As the Jewish religious leaders were more in tune with Satan's values and reasoning than Almighty God's truth (Jn. 8:42-44), Christ stated that anyone wishing to inherit everlasting life would have to avoid the self-righteous behavior of the scribes and Pharisees if they wanted to inherit everlasting life (Mt. 23:1-35),

For I (Christ) say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 5:20; 16:11-12; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Although there is an "unpardonable sin", everyone who is guilty of committing it can repent and be forgiven, either in this life or in the future period of judgment during the second resurrection,

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise (re: Christ's judgment associated with future resurrections from the dead), as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us (you), **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance** (2Pet. 3:9; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

During the second resurrection, anyone who continues to resist God's Holy Spirit by stubbornly refusing to obey God's word (Mt. 4:4; Ac. 7:53), will not be forgiven and therefore will remain in their sins. As no sinner can inherit everlasting life (1Cor. 15:50), they alone will be responsible for losing "so great a salvation" (Heb. 2:3). So there is no contradiction in the scriptures regarding the "unpardonable sin".

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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