

## **IF THERE IS A SIN GOD WILL NOT OR CANNOT FORGIVE, THEN WHAT WOULD IT BE? (Part 1)**

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Sincere students of the Bible have cut into the meat of scripture and emerged asking about what people sometimes refer to as the unpardonable sin and what the Bible refers to as the “sin unto death” and consideration of a person’s long and languishing involvement in sin and the possibility of such a one reaching a point of no returning to repentance. Where the Bible teaches or alludes to the unpardonable sin, “the sin unto death,” and the point of no returning to repentance will be singled out for studying “If there is a sin God will not or cannot forgive, then what would it be?”

The unpardonable sin is also spoken of as the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Three passages of scripture present the basis for this discussion. Matthew 12:31-32 contains the first reference, “Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.” Mark 3:22-30 contains the second reference:

“And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils. And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan? And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end. No man can enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house. Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.”

Luke 12:10 has the third reference, “And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.”

In *Questions Answered* by David Lipscomb and E.G. Sewell what it means to blaspheme was discussed. E.G. Sewell wrote, “To blaspheme is to speak impiously or reproachfully of God or of the Holy Spirit. To speak irreverently of the Spirit or his work would be blasphemy against him. To attribute the revelations of the Spirit to demoniacal power, or to place these revelations of the Spirit upon a level with the mutterings of departed spirits in spiritualism, or demons, would be to treat the Spirit of God with impiety—would be blasphemy.”<sup>1</sup> In view of its meaning and eternal consequences, Sewell was asked whether or not he thought the sin could be committed today to which he replied,

I have no doubt but that it may be committed now. Men may as easily blaspheme the Spirit in his revelations today through the word of truth as they did his developments in the days of the Savior. The Spirit of God in the New Testament brings the last message from God to sinful men, and the only message whereby sinners can be saved; and the man that attributes any other origin to the New Testament than to the Spirit of God is guilty of the blasphemy against the Spirit of God.

But there is something else more widely dangerous to Christians than this, and that is the fact that any sin willfully persisted in to the end of life becomes unpardonable. I do not suppose that any who believe the Bible and are humbly trying to serve God will ever commit the sin of blasphemy against the Spirit of God; but I fear that very many so-called “Christians” will be lost in eternity for not obeying the words of the Spirit in the New Testament. I think the danger here much greater than blasphemy. “If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”<sup>2</sup>

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>David Lipscomb and E.G. Sewell, *Questions Answered*, M.C. Kurfees ed. (Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate Co. 1921, reprint ed. 1974),, p. 638.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid*, pp. 638-639.

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