

## Studies on Hell – Part 10 – The Unpardonable Sin – Part 1

Hi everyone and welcome to “Grain of Wheat Publishing” and “Studies in Scripture.” My name is Jack Marshall and thank you for joining me today.

Today, we will begin to take a look at what many call “the unpardonable sin.” When I first considered this subject, I thought I would present it as its own separate presentation. But then I realized that it fits right in with my series, “Studies on Hell.” After all, almost ALL BELIEVE that the “unpardonable sin” is a ONE-WAY TICKET to “eternal torment” or “damnation.” If you have followed through this series, you will find that I don’t believe that the scriptures teach this, so if that’s the case, what DID Jesus mean when He taught on this subject? Hopefully, I can shed light on this over the next couple of presentations.

Let’s get started.

The “unpardonable sin” has been discussed time and time again, no doubt for centuries, and yet, up to this present time there are still many who have no idea what it is. Some say it’s murder, while others suicide, but again almost ALL BELIEVE it’s a one-way ticket to “eternal torment” or “damnation.”

Let’s begin our discussion with John One twenty-nine.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! **The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**

I don’t believe that anyone would argue with me that John the Baptist was clearly chosen by the Lord to be the forerunner of Christ. This being true, I don’t think anyone would argue with me that John the Baptist, like Christ, acted and spoke by revelation of the Spirit of God, especially in our passage above.

What did John say? “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” Notice the word “sin.” The Greek definition from the Strong’s Concordance is simply, “*Sin*,” but it’s derived from the word which means, “To *miss* the mark.” Both of these words account for almost all of the words translated as sin in the New Testament.

Now, look once more at our word “sin” in John One twenty-nine. Though it speaks in singular fashion, it is stated in a “collective” sense. In other words, our word “sin” incorporates ALL SIN, regardless of what it is. Ah, but let me throw this at you as well. If we treat our word sin as “singular,” which grammatically speaking it is, then IT IS speaking of just one sin in particular. Could this be true? Yes it could, my friends! All of us know that scripture declares that Jesus died for ALL the sins of the world, however, ALL the sins of the world can be summed up in ONE SIN. And what is it? The apostle Paul tells us in Romans Forteen, verse twenty-three.

And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: **for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.**

Do you see it? “Whatsoever is not of faith IS SIN,” so in essence, we could say that Jesus died DUE TO OUR UNBELIEF! Now, stay with me here, for as we continue, you will see just how precious this perspective is in light of His kingdom.

Anyone who believes in the Bible should recognize that the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is the focal point of scripture. Paul makes this very clear in First Corinthians, Chapter Fifteen, verses twelve through seventeen.

Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false**

**witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise. For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.** And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!

Beloved, notice how Paul states this. “If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.” He DID NOT SAY, “If Christ is not risen, then the dead do not rise.” Rather, it’s the other way around! And Paul doesn’t say it once, but twice; “For if the DEAD DO NOT RISE, then CHRIST IS NOT RISEN.” So what is this saying? It’s saying that the dead DO RISE, therefore, Christ also rose! No wonder then that the wise king Solomon wrote, “Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward,” and, “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” Do we not see in this that the traditional view of hell as a “destination” is completely false? Do we not see that ALL WHO HAVE DIED HAVE RISEN, and that their spirit HAS RETURNED to the Father of creation? Would Solomon, whom God declared as the wisest of all, OVERLOOK this fact when he wrote our previous statements? Go with me now to John, Chapter Seventeen, where Jesus was praying for His disciples.

Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; **for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.**

What did Jesus say? Did He not say that God loved Him “before the foundation of the world”? He did. Now consider the following from Paul the apostle in Ephesians, Chapter One.

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,** that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...

Here we find Paul writing to the saints in Ephesus and the faithful in Christ Jesus, and in keeping with what Christ said in John Seventeen, Paul declares that He “chose us in Him BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.” Is this saying what I think it’s saying? Was both Christ and Paul saying that God chose them *and* the saints *and* the faithful BEFORE He ever laid the foundation of the world? Let’s go to Hebrews Four three.

For **we who have believed** enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest," **although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.**

“Although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.” Is the writer of Hebrews telling us that God’s works were “finished” or COMPLETE from the very beginning, that God knew before we ever existed, what He fully intended to do from beginning to end? Would this be why Jesus declared Himself as the “Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End”? Now look at what Hebrews Nine declares.

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, **for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**

Do you see it my friends? When John the Baptist declared, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,” he, like the writer of Hebrews, clearly recognized that Christ had appeared “once for all at the END OF THE AGES TO PUT AWAY SIN BY THE SACRIFICE OF HIMSELF”! And what about what the apostle Peter wrote in regard to Christ in his first letter.

He indeed was foreordained **before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you **who through Him believe in God**, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, **so that your faith and hope are in God**.

Our word “foreordained”? It means, “*To know beforehand.*” Doesn’t this agree with what we have considered so far, that God KNEW **before the foundation of the world** that Christ, His Son, would truly be the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end? Here’s my final proof, found in Genesis.

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

What does this have to do with our thought? Well, first of all, these are the passages concerning the fourth day of creation, and, on this “day” if you will, God created the sun and the moon and the stars. So if this is true, then what does the following mean on the FIRST day of creation?

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, **"Let there be light"; and there was light.**

If God created the sun, moon, and stars on the fourth day, then what was the “light” on the first day? Do you recognize that IT MUST BE CHRIST? Didn’t Jesus say that He was the “light of the world”? Yes, He did, and so it is that “in the beginning” God said, “Let there be LIGHT,” and beloved, THAT LIGHT WAS AND IS CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.

So now, let me make a bold statement, and please don’t leave this video when I say this without a chance to explain. Here we go.

**GOD DOES NOT FORGIVE SIN.**

Did I really say that? Yes I did! **GOD DOES NOT FORGIVE SIN.** Wait a minute! Let me explain! Let’s go to Revelation Thirteen eight.

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life **of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

Forget about the first part of this passage and focus on the last part. What did John write? Did he not say that Christ was the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”? Yes he did! So when was this? Beloved, it was when God said, “LET THERE BE LIGHT”; AND THERE WAS LIGHT”! So BEFORE the earth had a foundation, and BEFORE there were living creatures on this earth, and BEFORE man and woman were created, THERE WAS LIGHT, GLORIOUS LIGHT, AND THAT LIGHT IS THE LIGHT OF CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF LIFE! So, consider what John wrote in the very first chapter of the book of John.

In the beginning, AS RECORDED IN GENESIS, was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He, THAT IS CHRIST, **was in the beginning with God.** **All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him, THAT IS IN CHRIST, was life, and the life was the-light-of-men...** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

So, let me say it again. **GOD DOES NOT FORGIVE SIN!** And what exactly do I mean? Brothers and sisters, BEFORE the foundation of the world, there was CHRIST, and BEFORE the foundation of the world, HE WAS

THE SLAIN LAMB! So it is that the SIN of this world was dealt with BEFORE we even existed! And, IF THIS IS TRUE, then GOD'S FORGIVENESS was granted BEFORE WE WERE EVER CONCEIVED!

Could this be true? It most certainly could be! Think about it! How many of us have said that God is OMNISCIENT, meaning that God is "all-knowing"? Do we really believe this? If so, then doesn't all of the passages which we have considered confirm this very thing?

Do you realize that the story of Lucifer as a fallen angel, coupled with the silly notion that he, completely against God's will, caused Adam and Eve to fall, is in truth a FAIRYTALE? If God is truly "all-knowing," would this not be an insult TO HIS OMNISCIENCE? Do we honestly believe that when Adam and Eve "fell," that God said, "I DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING!" Furthermore, do we honestly think that since that time that God has been doing battle with the devil, seeking to regain the upper hand? If so, then shouldn't we stop declaring that God is also OMNIPOTENT or "all-powerful"? Think, my friends, think! Don't be afraid to cast aside these traditions which have kept us bound for so long! GOD IS NOT BATTLING WITH THE DEVIL IN HEAVEN SOMEWHERE, seeking to regain control of the world He created and then lost in the beginning! The battle, my friends, IS IN US, and this battle is against our own UNBELIEF and DECEPTION which has been handed down for almost two thousand years! Beloved, the SERPENT in Genesis does not represent a fallen angel or a being of any sort; rather, IT REPRESENTS A NATURE, A DECEITFUL NATURE, an aspect or characteristic of OUR OWN HEART AND MIND! The prophet Jeremiah confirms this in Jeremiah Seventeen, verse nine, where he states, "The heart is deceitful ABOVE-ALL-THINGS, and DESPERATELY WICKED; who can know it?"

Friends, God does not forgive sin, because He, through Christ, forgave it BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD in order to show that beyond any doubt, HIS LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL and HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT IN ALL THINGS PERTAINING TO HUMANKIND! Beloved, God's GRACE is FORGIVENESS IN ACTION. Could this be why Paul wrote in Romans Nine seventeen in regard to Pharaoh in Moses' day, "For the scripture says to Pharaoh, 'For this purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.'" Didn't God harden Pharaoh's heart time and time again? How could this be? Because GOD'S GRACE was over Pharaoh just as it was over Moses and Israel! Beloved, God KNEW BEFOREHAND so our Creator ACTED ACCORDINGLY, manifesting His great power before Egypt and Israel.

God does not forgive sin. Instead, He *forgave* sin. It was already done, ESTABLISHED THROUGH CHRIST ON THE FIRST DAY OF CREATION, for the "calling" of God is for the purpose of bringing us into His divine process which works in our lives that WE MAY BELIEVE IT, thereby removing the UNBELIEF that prevents us from walking in it. It is this which He is working into our hearts and minds. See Hebrews Eight, verses ten through thirteen. We have been passing through His ages in order for this to be fully and completely "written" or "accomplished" in our hearts. And just as God's love is UNCONDITIONAL, so too will ours be, for God has determined that man will be "in His image."

My friends, the image of God is GRACE and again, GRACE is FORGIVENESS IN ACTION. All that proceeds from the throne of God proceeds from grace, EVEN JUDGMENT. After all, if we are not judged, if we are left to our own devices, we will never discover His unconditional love. So it is that John wrote, "So we have come to KNOW and to BELIEVE the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love PERFECTED WITH US, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because AS HE IS SO ALSO ARE WE IN THIS WORLD." "Confidence for the day of judgment"? What does this mean? It means what it meant two thousand years ago, where God's judgment was brought upon all of us through the SACRIFICE OF HIS SON, CHRIST JESUS! The picture of Christ on the cross is the perfect picture of God's unconditional love and of His boundless grace and forgiveness. "God so loved THE WORLD that HE GAVE His only begotten Son, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM should not perish but have everlasting life."

Can we not see that God's divine LOVE is the most powerful force in the universe and that God's FORGIVENESS is the most powerful aspect of His love? Eternal torment? I DON'T THINK SO, for that is the very antithesis of UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. God did not place conditions on the death of His Son, WE DID, because of our UNBELIEF, because we have sought to bring His UNCONDITIONAL LOVE down to this earthly realm where we have placed CONDITIONS on everything we do! Jesus even said, "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, EXPECTING NOTHING in return." Beloved, ETERNAL TORMENT, any way you slice it, screams "CONDITIONS"!

If there is anything in this presentation that I wish to impress upon you, it is this—GOD ALWAYS KNOWS BEFOREHAND. And just as God knows, Jesus knew, for He told His disciples BEFORE He was crucified, THAT HE WOULD BE CRUCIFIED. No wonder it was so difficult for His disciples to get this, for who among us would still be willing to lay down our lives ONCE WE KNEW THAT WE MUST?

Now, if you will indulge me, let's do some etymology, which is the study of the origin of words. Our word is "forgive." When I did online research about the origin of this word, several websites agreed that the root of this word comes from the Latin PERDONARE, which means, "To give completely, without reservation." So, wouldn't this be another way of saying "unconditional"? And isn't true forgiveness unconditional? Ah, but I didn't stop there, because I had a thought running through my mind about this word which I hoped to confirm, and here it is. Our word PERDONARE is actually a compound word, PER and DONARE. Our word "PER" translates to "for" in the English language. Now, let me share the following from etymonline.com about the word "PARDON."

PARDON is a noun from the late Thirteenth Century, from Old French pardon, from pardoner, "To grant; forgive" which goes back to our Vulgar Latin word PERDONARE, which means, "To give wholeheartedly, to remit," from the Latin per which means, "Through, during, by means of, on account of, as in," AND, HERE IT IS MY FRIENDS, which is from the root which means, "Through, IN FRONT OF, BEFORE, FIRST, and CHIEF," and donare "give as a gift." So what is it I'm trying to say? It's this. FORGIVENESS, as it relates to God and us, really means, "To GIVE BEFOREHAND," to give AHEAD OF TIME or IN ADVANCE, and this, my friends, is exactly what our heavenly Father did BEFORE HE CREATED US. When God said, "Let there be light," He, IN ADVANCE, gave us FORGIVENESS through Christ, His Son, BEFORE THE FIRST SIN WAS EVER RECORDED. In doing so, He set the precedent for His UNCONDITIONAL LOVE and FORGIVENESS at the onset of humankind's existence on this planet!

Think about this. When you plan to give someone a birthday present for their birthday, do you not select it BEFOREHAND without their knowledge? And do you not fully intend to give this gift to them at some time in the future? So it is with our Creator. God knew BEFOREHAND that He would give us the "gift of eternal life" long before we existed in order to show His abounding love and grace. Ah, but it was just a mere two thousand years ago that He gave us this indescribable gift for all the world to see in the person of Jesus Christ. What is the death of Christ if not a perfect picture of UNCONDITIONAL LOVE and FORGIVENESS? In keeping with this, what did Jesus say on the cross? "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM; FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO." Beloved, just as we cannot condemn a blind man for stumbling in our way, neither can we condemn anyone who cannot "see" the kingdom of God and the precious gift of His Son. But what we CAN DO is, through Christ, STAND READY TO FORGIVE IN ADVANCE. We can determine RIGHT NOW to WALK IN THE DIVINE STATE OF FORGIVENESS for each and every soul we encounter today, tomorrow, and for the rest of our lives.

That's it for today's study, my friends. I sincerely hope you've been enlightened by this presentation and encourage you to leave your comments and questions below. In my next presentation, we will look further into the unpardonable sin. If you like what you hear, be sure to subscribe to my channel and also, feel free to visit my Facebook page at Grain of Wheat Publishing or my website at [www.grainofwheatpublishing.org](http://www.grainofwheatpublishing.org). Thank you so much for joining me today and may God bless you in your walk with Christ.