

Studies on Hell – Part 11 – The Unpardonable Sin – Part 2

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.

This is Part Eleven of my series, “Studies on Hell,” where we will continue our examination of “the unpardonable sin.” If you haven’t viewed the previous video on this subject, I would encourage you to do so BEFORE you view this one because it sets the foundation for our understanding of this topic.

Let’s get started.

In Part Ten of this series, we discovered that Christ is the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world,” confirmed by the first words our Creator spoke on the first day of creation. In Genesis One two we read, “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.” Beloved, this WAS NOT the light of the sun, moon, or stars, for that was done on the fourth day of creation. Rather, this speaks of the “light” of Christ, of the One who was and is the “Word made flesh.” And this was done while the “earth was without form and void,” BEFORE OUR CREATOR FORMED THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD. So, Peter wrote in regard to Christ, “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**.” The apostle John also confirms this for us, stating in John, Chapter One, “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. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...** That was the **true Light** which gives light to every man coming into the world... 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.”

What a wonderful set of passages, my friends! In the beginning, before God laid the foundation of the earth, He said, “Let there be light.” Let there be the light of Christ in all that I do from beginning to end, through each and every age, until every soul is brought into the glorious fulfillment of my New Covenant Promise—“And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall ALL KNOW ME, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.” See Hebrews Eight, verses eight through thirteen.

Beloved, it is here in the New Covenant Promise that we find the reason for sin and the basis for our understanding of the “unpardonable sin.” Our Lord God states in his New Covenant Promise that HE WILL REMEMBER OUR SINS NO MORE. Remember? Yes! Here’s what the Merriam-Webster Dictionary online gives as the definition of “remember.”

“To have or keep an image or idea in your mind of (something or someone from the past): to think of (something or someone from the past) again,” and, “To cause (something) to come back into your mind,” and finally, “To keep (information) in your mind: to not forget (something).”

Here we have it! REMEMBRANCE; *to remember*. Another word we could use is MEMORY, which Google defines as, “Something remembered from the past; a recollection.” So, in light of what we are considering, how does this relate to or have anything to do with what we call the “unpardonable sin”? Allow me to show you, for Jesus hid this understanding IN PLAIN SIGHT. Go with me now to the Lord’s prayer as recorded in Matthew, Chapter Six. Jesus said, “In this manner, therefore pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. **AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.**”

Let's stop right there and pick up with what Jesus said in verse fourteen and fifteen of this same chapter, where Jesus elaborates on our last statement about "DEBTS."

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, NEITHER WILL YOUR FATHER FORGIVE YOUR TRESPASSES.

Here it is brothers and sisters, the "unpardonable sin"! IF WE DO NOT FORGIVE MEN THEIR "DEBTS" OR TRESPASSES, NEITHER WILL OUR FATHER FORGIVE OURS! Why? DUE TO REMEMBRANCE! To put it simply, our heavenly Father will not forget sin BECAUSE WE WILL NOT FORGET SIN. Understand that FORGIVENESS is not only PARDON from "debts" or "sins," but the complete eradication thereof, for Jesus is the Lamb of God who not only paid the price for our sin, but also TOOK IT AWAY, utterly and completely, ONCE AND FOR ALL. See Second Corinthians Five, verses fourteen and fifteen. This, my friends, is the GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST! Remember, God, in His infinite wisdom, did this before the FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, but the problem today is—WE DON'T FORGIVE BECAUSE WE WON'T FORGET, and one glaring proof of this is easily seen in our belief in Hell as eternal torment! If God Himself declared that He would be merciful to our lawlessness and no longer remember our sins, then who are we to HOLD THEM OVER ANYONE BY PREACHING ETERNAL DAMNATION AFTER THE FACT? Beloved, when Jesus died, He took away the sin of the world, and where were we when He did this? Every single one of us was IN THE WORLD, BEFORE GOD CALLED US OUT OF IT, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." Do you get this? Do you see that our wonderful Creator purposed BEFOREHAND that through Christ His Son, He determined to bring us INTO HIS IMAGE which is reflected by his UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, GRACE, and FORGIVENESS through us? Consider what Paul wrote in Second Corinthians Five.

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. **For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

Our word "reconciliation" is defined as, "*Exchange*" or, "*Restoration* to divine favor," and notice how Paul describes this act of reconciliation. "Now all things are of God, WHO HAS RECONCILED us to Himself through Jesus Christ." "Who has reconciled" is PAST TENSE, indicating that it HAS BEEN DONE, for "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, NOT IMPUTING THEIR TRESPASSES TO THEM, and has committed to us the WORD OF RECONCILIATION." And how can he do this? Because it is God who "gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were." See Romans Four, verse seventeen. So it was that Paul, along with all of the Lord's disciples, became "ambassadors for Christ," going forth on His behalf to spread this message of RECONCILIATION to the world at large.

Let's go now to the passages pertaining to the unpardonable sin so we may get a better idea of what Jesus taught. Here's what we read in Matthew, Chapter Twelve.

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, **but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven**. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, **but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come**.

Before we can rightfully understand these passages, let's first define what Jesus meant by "this age" and "the age to come."

An “age,” as typified by scripture, has a BEGINNING and an END, just as we AGE from birth until we pass away. And, humankind’s existence has been marked by these ages since our creation. Hebrews Nine Twenty-six confirms this, speaking of Christ Jesus and stating, “But now, ONCE AT THE END OF THE AGES,” plural, “He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” In Ephesians Two seven, Paul spoke of the “ages to come” and again in Ephesians Three five about “other ages” before this one, and finally about “all ages” in Ephesians Three twenty-one.

So, which “age” was Jesus referring to when He said, “In this age”? Beloved, it was the AGE OF LAW, for we read in Galatians Four, verses four and five, “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, BORN UNDER THE LAW, to redeem those WHO WERE UNDER THE LAW.” How was this REDEMPTION accomplished? BY THE LORD’S DEATH ON THE CROSS AND HIS SUBSEQUENT RESURRECTION. However, it was not UNTIL THE DAY OF PENTECOST that a NEW AGE began, for that is when the HOLY SPIRIT was poured out on His disciples in the upper room in accordance with the PROMISE OF HIS FATHER. This, my friends, ushered in “THE AGE TO COME” of which Jesus spoke about in our passages from Matthew Twelve, AND THAT IS THE AGE WE ARE IN NOW. For simplicity’s sake, I call it the AGE OF GRACE.

Now, if this is true, then Jesus was telling the Pharisees that the “blasphemy against the Spirit,” that “whoever speaks against the Spirit,” would not be forgiven during the AGE OF LAW in which they were standing and the AGE OF GRACE in which we now stand. This being the case, then the “blasphemy against the Spirit” WILL BE FORGIVEN in the AGE THAT IS COMING, so, in essence, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN “UNPARDONABLE SIN.” It is simply a fabrication of our own minds, structured on the attitude of religious pride and self-righteousness, of thinking that we are better than others. Please consider the following from James, Chapter Two, verses then and eleven.

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

Beloved, the idea of the “unpardonable sin” suggests that there are “degrees” to sin. However, James makes it clear that this IS NOT the case. Sin is sin, there are no degrees, “For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.” When we truly understand this, it destroys the idea of any “sin” being unpardonable.

Now, the “blasphemy” of which Jesus spoke, is “against the Holy Spirit,” so let’s consider what Jesus said to His disciples in John, Chapter Sixteen.

But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. **And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, **because the prince of this world is judged.**

See our word “reprove”? The Merriam-Webster Dictionary online defines “reprove” as, “To scold or correct usually gently or with kindly intent.” “And when he,” that is the Holy Spirit, “is come, he will REPROVE the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” Here we have three things to consider about the work of the Holy Spirit: SIN, RIGHTEOUSNESS, and JUDGMENT. The first two, SIN and RIGHTEOUSNESS, are directly opposite, while JUDGMENT is the component which brings either one or the other to light in our lives. This shows that judgment is twofold, because it always condemns one while at the same time, vindicates another. When we are condemned, then it is Christ who is vindicated. When two people are involved, we must

also acknowledge that one will be condemned while the other vindicated; but again, even in this, it is Christ who is vindicated, for Christ defines the Spirit and truth of our Maker.

So what did Jesus say about the Holy Spirit? “And WHEN HE IS COME, HE WILL REPROVE.” You see, beloved, it’s not us who judge, but Christ through us, so it behooves us to understand that JUDGMENT cannot be rendered unless we have received the “mind of Christ.” So it is that Paul wrote, “But HE WHO IS SPIRITUAL judges ALL THINGS, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For ‘who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?’ BUT WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST.” It should be clear to us that apart from the mind of Christ, we have absolutely NO RIGHT TO JUDGE.

Now, let me ask you. Who is the “prince of this world”? If you said, “The devil or Satan,” then you would be repeating what most believe, however, let me give you some food for thought. Our word “prince” is defined by the Strong’s Concordance as, “A *first* (in rank or power).” Please consider the following from First Corinthians, Chapter Fifteen.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit. Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man *is* of the earth, earthy; the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.

Do you see it? According to Paul, and in regard to Adam in the book of Genesis, he was representative of the “FIRST man,” agreeing with our word “prince” or “A *first* in rank or power.” This is confirmed by Genesis One twenty-six, where we read, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; LET THEM HAVE DOMINION.’” If you search the scriptures, my friends, you will not find anywhere that the devil or Satan was ever declared as FIRST or that HE TOOK CONTROL OF THE WORLD AS SO MANY HAVE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE. Furthermore, who did Jesus die for? Was it not FOR the world, that is, ALL HUMANKIND? Didn’t Jesus, who knew no sin, take upon Himself our sin, dying in our stead? So it is that when Jesus spoke of the “PRINCE of THIS WORLD,” He was speaking of “the FIRST MAN ADAM” for which He died, confirmed by the fact that He was “the LAST ADAM.”

So what does this mean for you and me? It means that when Christ died, then the “first man Adam” died, and beloved, the “first man Adam” is indicative of something that is true of everyone as Paul describes in the following.

For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so **no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God**. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Here we go, brothers and sisters. Think carefully about what Paul wrote. Understand that it is “the spirit of a man” within that KNOWS THE THINGS OF A MAN, and in comparison, THE THINGS OF GOD cannot be known by anyone except THE SPIRIT OF GOD, that precious Spirit of truth which proceeds from the Father. So what did Paul go on to say? “Now we have RECEIVED, not the spirit of the world,” WHICH WOULD BE THE SPIRIT OF A MAN, “but the Spirit who is from God, that WE MIGHT KNOW THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN FREELY GIVEN TO US BY GOD.” THIS WOULD BE THE HOLY SPIRIT. As for, “Freely given”? Would this mean like a GIFT that was purchased for me which I knew nothing about? Absolutely! And there, my friends, is the difference between those who BELIEVE and those who don’t. Those whose hearts are toward His kingdom UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS BEEN FREELY GIVEN, BUT THOSE WHO REMAIN IN DARKNESS, DO NOT! Those who receive His Holy Spirit are those who are REPROVED BY IT, their SIN and thus, lack of RIGHTEOUSNESS exposed by His fair and impartial judgment in their lives. As for those in darkness? Jesus said, “For God did not send His Son into the world to **condemn the world**, but that the

world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; **but he who does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” See John Three, verses seventeen and eighteen. Remember what we discussed in our previous video, that the “sin of the world” can be summed up in the ONE SIN of “UNBELIEF.” See John One twenty-nine.

Beloved, the “natural man” is NOT an individual. Though Adam is portrayed as an individual in our parable in Genesis, he REPRESENTS EVERYONE when we FIRST come into this world as a “NATURAL” being, incapable of receiving the things of the Spirit of God, so much so that we consider them FOOLISHNESS. The “first man Adam” typifies the NATURAL MAN of which Paul wrote, which illustrates the present spiritual position of our own HEART and MIND when we enter this physical realm. And it is critical that we understand that this was fully intended by our Creator. Adam did not “fall” by mistake, but by DIVINE INTENTION, for Paul wrote in First Corinthians Fifteen, “So also is the RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: IT IS SOWN A NATURAL BODY; it is raised a spiritual body. THERE IS A NATURAL BODY, AND THERE IS A SPIRITUAL BODY. AND SO IT IS WRITTEN, THE FIRST MAN ADAM WAS MADE A LIVING SOUL; THE LAST ADAM WAS MADE A QUICKENING SPIRIT. HOWBEIT THAT WAS NOT FIRST WHICH IS SPIRITUAL, BUT THAT WHICH IS NATURAL; AND AFTERWARD THAT WHICH IS SPIRITUAL.” It should be clear by these statements that “corruption,” “dishonor,” and “weakness” speaks to the NATURAL BODY, not just our HUMAN FORM, but to the mindset that makes this human form our priority in life. See Romans Eight, verse six. And I must say this. Do you see what Paul used to describe the resurrection of the dead? He used the universal principle of SOWING AND REAPING, and rightly so, for it illustrates perfectly how this divine principle works within our being. No wonder Jesus said in regard to the Parable of the Sower, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?”

No doubt about it, my friends, this is our real dilemma, which is to recognize what issues from the NATURAL as opposed to the SPIRITUAL, for there are MANY TODAY who seek to mislead us by proclaiming THEY ARE SPIRITUAL when they are not! Furthermore, when we teach such doctrines like hell as a PLACE OF ETERNAL TORTURE, we are SPEAKING AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT, blaspheming the PRECIOUS NAME AND DEATH OF CHRIST, for His loving and forgiving Spirit DOES NOT USE FEAR AND INTIMIDATION to turn us to Him. The teaching of hell as eternal torment does not proceed from the Spirit of truth, but from the spirit of man. IT WAS NEVER INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, but arose out of NATURAL and CARNAL MEN as a means to CONTROL AND MANIPULATE GOD’S OWN PEOPLE! The proof of this stands before us, seen in the fact that so many of our religious structures today HOLD COMPLETE SWAY OVER THEIR CONVERTS, so much so that you cannot even reason with them when you do not agree with their denomination or organization’s teachings.

Now, let me finish this presentation with the following information which is critical to our understanding. Using DEFINITION BY CONTEXT, the subject of the unpardonable sin begins with verse twenty-two of Matthew Twelve and doesn’t end until verse thirty-seven. Furthermore, the Lord’ dissertation on this subject is directed against the PHARISEES or religious leaders of His day. Coincidence? Or is there something here that we should pay attention to?

What did Jesus say? “He who is not WITH ME is AGAINST ME, and he who DOES NOT GATHER WITH ME scatters abroad. THEREFORE I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE SPIRIT will not be forgiven men.” Our word “therefore” is a SENTENCE CONNECTOR, connecting what Jesus said with what He had just said. You see, my friends, the CONTEXT of the unpardonable sin IS NOT ABOUT A SIN THAT WILL NEVER BE FORGIVEN, BUT ABOUT THE DIVISION THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST SINCE THE DAYS OF CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES, brought about by the spirit of man which propagates teachings which DIVIDE US FROM ONE ANOTHER. When what we speak or teach IS NOT BY THE DIVINE INSPIRATION OF THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, it brings BONDAGE instead of LIBERTY and DIVISION instead of UNITY. Paul confirms this in First Corinthians, Chapter One, verses ten through thirteen.

I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.** My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul?

Here it is in PLAIN SIGHT. All of us should agree with one another and there should be no divisions among us and we should be united in mind and thought. However, this is certainly not the case. And why is this? Because over the past two thousand years, CARNAL MAN in the guise OF righteousness, has managed to enter into the body of Christ and bring his divisive teachings with him. Do we need proof? How many today say, "I follow the Catholic Church," "I follow the Baptist Church," "I follow the Pentecostal Church"? Is this any different from what Paul stated in our previous passages? It is not! BELOVED, WE CANNOT "LABEL" NOR CONTAIN THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF OUR OWN DENOMINATIONS AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS ANYMORE THAN THE PHARISEES COULD IN THEIR TIME. And have you ever thought about the fact that in doing so, THE PHARISEES NOT ONLY EXCLUDED THEMSELVES FROM THE KINGDOM OF GOD, BUT WERE THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING JESUS TO HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS! "He who is not with me is AGAINST me, and he who does not gather with me SCATTERS ABROAD." Clearly, that is exactly what the Pharisees did! They stood against the Christ and refused to gather with Him, due to their intense SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS. My friends, SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS is the HIGHEST FORM OF HYPOCRISY, and this hypocrisy has led to the BLASPHEMY that is so evident in our Christian doctrines today.

Beloved, the "unpardonable sin" is simply this; UNFORGIVENESS, and yes I know this is not a word, but it works quite well here. Returning to Matthew Six, what do we read? "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," AND, "For IF YOU forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father WILL ALSO FORGIVE YOU. But IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE MEN THEIR TRESPASSES, NEITHER WILL YOUR FATHER FORGIVE YOUR TRESPASSES." Is this not a perfect description of "unpardonable"? And isn't unforgiveness a matter of remembrance, of refusing to let go of someone's past? And doesn't hell, as a place of ETERNAL TORMENT, also declare "unpardonable"? But remember, Jesus clarified "this age," which was the Age of Law, and "the age to come," which is the Age we are in now.

Since it was the Pharisees which Jesus denounced in all of this, let me close with the following from Matthew, Chapter Twenty-three, verses thirty-seven through thirty-nine, for there is no doubt in my mind that they, due to their religious pride and hypocrisy, had committed the unpardonable sin. Due to this fact, Jesus stayed in keeping with what He had told them, that they would not be forgiven "in this age," which was the AGE OF LAW.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! **See, your house is left to you desolate.** For I tell you, **you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'**"

What did Jesus say to the religious leaders? "See, YOUR HOUSE IS LEFT TO YOU DESOLATE," and, "You will not see me again, UNTIL YOU SAY, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" Beloved, like it was in the days of Christ and the Pharisees, those who come in the name of the Lord ARE NOT and WILL NOT be accepted by mainstream Christianity. Remember the strength of tradition and how one simple lie can be embraced by millions as the truth. Like Christmas and the "escapist" teaching of the rapture, the idea of hell as ETERNAL TORMENT is a lie. What did Jesus tell His disciples? "See that NO ONE leads you astray. For MANY will come in MY NAME, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead MANY astray," and again, "For false christs and false prophets WILL RISE and SHOW GREAT SIGNS AND WONDERS TO DECEIVE, if possible, even the elect."

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. 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. Thank you so much for joining me today and may God bless you in your walk with Christ.