

## The Holy Spirit Pt. 7 BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Int.

1. **Aim:** To explain what it means to blaspheme the Holy Spirit.
2. Matt. 12:31-32 NKJV "Therefore I 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, 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.."
3. This is commonly referred to as "The Unpardonable Sin"
  - a. That Term is not in the Bible
  - b. Subject of interest to most people
  - c. Some are afraid that they have committed this sin.
4. These three passages refer to this sin
  - a. Mark 3:28-30 NKJV "Assuredly, I 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 has an unclean spirit.."
  - b. Luke 12:10 NKJV "And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven."
5. We need to know what the Bible teaches about the blaspheming of the Holy Spirit.

## Discussion

### I. What It is Not

#### A. Neglecting salvation until death

1. If so then no one could commit this sin until they died
2. Matthew says a man can commit this sin and live in this condition

#### B. Attributing to Christ the Power of Beelzebub

1. Jesus says that this would be forgiven
2. Paul blasphemed the Son of God, but was forgiven - 1 Tim.1:13 "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."

#### C. A sin committed by those who knew Jesus personally

1. The Holy Spirit was not the lawgiving and directing power at the time that Christ was on the earth.
2. In John 14 we learn that the Holy Spirit or the comforter would be sent after Jesus returned to heaven.
3. Those people living at the time Jesus was on earth could not sin against the Holy Spirit.

#### D. Some sin we commit without knowing about it

1. Sin is the transgression of the law - 1 Jn.3:4 "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."
2. It is a sin which we commit knowingly

- E. A specific sin such as cursing, adultery, murder, suicide
1. These things are sins and they are condemned
  2. But they are not the sin against the Holy Spirit
- F. Saying in a fit of rage or anger or ignorance, "I don't want to go to heaven, but I want to go to hell."
1. These would be sins of the tongue
  2. But we can be forgiven of these sins when we repent.

## II. **BLASPHEMY**

### A. Meaning of Word

1. Greek = to speak against, defame, rail, revile. [used about 59 times in N.T.]
2. Blasphemy = [English] Disrespect, irreverence, sacrilege - "Great disrespect shown to God or to sacred persons or things."

### B. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit

1. "The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is therefore to speak evil of, to reject, or to refuse to accept Him or His work as divine and then to hold Him up as an object of ridicule."<sup>1</sup>
2. It is committed with malice aforethought. The Holy spirit and His work are maliciously and spitefully held up as an object of ridicule.<sup>2</sup>
3. The blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is evil speaking against the Holy Spirit that shows the attitude of the heart - words that show the heart has totally and maliciously rejected the Spirit and His work.
4. Heb. 10:29 "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

### III. THREE AGES

#### A. There have been three periods of Bible History

1. Patriarchal - God spoke directly to the fathers
2. Mosaic - God spoke through Moses and the prophets
3. Christian - Christ speaks to us through the Holy Spirit

a. Heb. 1:1-2 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;" How does he speak to us ?

b. Jn. 14:16-18 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17. [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."

(1) Another - Advocate in 1 John 2:1 - same Greek word

(2) Comforter - to call to one's side, encourage, aid, counsel, assist, to plead in behalf of another

c. John 14:26 "But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

d. Jn. 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

B. What is the work of the Holy Spirit????

1. Bear witness of Christ - Jn. 15:26-27 "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify [bear witness = asv ] of me: 27. And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning."
2. Convict the world of Sin, righteousness, & Judgment - John 16:7-13 (ESV)  
 "7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."
3. Invite men to accept the salvation of Jesus - Rev. 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

C. How does the Holy Spirit do this work?

1. Through the word of God -- Eph. 6:17 "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"
2. The Bible - Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

3. The gospel is the power to save - Rom. 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
- D. The function of the Holy Spirit in the scheme of human redemption is to reveal the will of God to the mind of man.
1. The Bible teaches that in order to be saved we must do the will of God
    - a. Mt. 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."
    - b. Heb. 5:8-9 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"
    - c. Rom. 6:16-18
  2. Before one can do the will of God, he must know that will.
  3. The only way God reveals His will in This Christian age is through the Holy Spirit.
    - a. The Holy Spirit takes the mind of God [or the will of God] and puts it into words understandable to man, and thus makes known the contents of the divine mind to the human mind.
    - b. 1 Cor. 2:9-11 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."
    - c. This revelation of the Holy Spirit is given to us in the written word of God, the Bible.

#### IV. WHAT IS THE BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT ???

- A. It is rejecting or refusing to acknowledge the revelation given by the Holy Spirit.
1. Blaspheme - speak against, reject "The blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is therefore to speak evil of, to reject, or to refuse to accept Him or His work as divine and then to hold Him up as an object of ridicule." <sup>3</sup>
    - a. It is a refusal to accept God's offer and means of salvation.
    - b. It is a rejection of the whole system with an arrogant ridicule -- boastfully and contemptuously mocking God's plan to save lost man. <sup>4</sup>
  2. Holy Spirit - the only way that God has provided for us to know His will.
    - a. The Gospel is the power of God to save - Rom. 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
    - b. The Holy Spirit is the means through which God revealed the Gospel.
    - c. To reject the gospel, or any condition of salvation contained in the gospel, in a high-handed way [in the manner of blasphemy] is to reject or sin against the Holy Spirit.
  3. When this is done in the manner of blasphemy, it is a sin for which there is no forgiveness - no forgiveness because the means of forgiveness has been rejected.
    - a. God is willing to forgive
    - b. But the person would not accept the means of forgiveness. <sup>5</sup>
- B. No Forgiveness
1. We cannot know the will of God without the revelation of the Holy Spirit.
  2. We cannot be saved without knowing and obeying the will of God !!!

3. Therefore when we reject the only means by which we can learn God's will then we cannot be forgiven of our sins.
  - a. The punishment is eternal because the sin is eternal or perpetual.
  - b. There will not be another chance for forgiveness.

C. Can we commit this sin today? YES!

1. Certainly!!!
2. Men today still reject the revelation given to us by the Holy Spirit which reveals God's plan of Salvation.
3. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is more than just not accepting - it means to reject and to do it with an attitude of not believing that this is the way of salvation offered by God.

**Conclusion**

1. We have no new Testament example recorded of Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.
2. But it is possible for men today to commit this sin or Jesus would not have warned against it.
3. This sin is different from the "sin unto death".
  - a. 1 Jn. 5:16,17 "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. 17. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death."
  - b. This is a sin that a Christian commits and refuses to repent. He continues in that sin until death.
  - c. The sin is unforgivable, not because God is unwilling to forgive it, but because the person involved will not repent and meet the conditions of forgiveness.



4. This sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit can be committed by anyone, whether saint or sinner.
5. We have the gospel. There will be no other way of salvation. If we reject the gospel and trample it under our feet then we will be lost, because we have rejected the only way of salvation.
  - a. There is no other plan of salvation.
  - b. There is no other scheme of redemption, no other terms of pardon, no other source of forgiveness revealed.
  - c. One must either accept the gospel of Christ which was revealed by the Holy Spirit, or else he has no hope of salvation.
6. God will forgive anyone who will repent and do His will.
7. How this sin is committed: -- It is the destruction of the capacity of the soul to obey the Gospel plan of Salvation. Here are the steps involved in committing this sin:
  - a. Resisting the Holy Spirit
    - i. It begins when after faith we put off our obedience to Him
    - ii. We procrastinate
    - iii. We Grieve the Holy Spirit of God - Eph. 4:30
  - b. Heart is hardened
    - i. It becomes harder to obey the longer you wait
    - ii. You become more indifferent to the pleas of salvation
    - iii. "Quench not the spirit" 1 Thes. 5:19

c. Spiritual eyes and ears are destroyed

- i. The ability to hear and see the gospel plea is destroyed by resisting
- ii. "Having ears they hear not and eyes they see not" Mk.8:18
- iii. Mt. 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

8. Heb. 10:26-29

9. Ill. - Niagara Falls

- a. There are two signs warning of the danger. Then there is a place called redemption point. Beyond this there is no hope. A man can reject the first two warnings and then still be saved at Redemption Point. But once he passes this he cannot be saved.
- b. The world has the message of the Spirit which can save them. There will never be another plan of salvation offered to the world. The man who blasphemes and tramples under his feet the teachings of the Holy Spirit is rejecting the only plan for his salvation.

10. Don't resist the urge to obey the Gospel !!!

11. What Must I Do to Obey The Gospel ?

12. Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

## End Notes

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### Sources Consulted

1. The Work of the Holy Spirit - Howard Winters P.201
2. Ibid p. 202
3. P. 201 Work of the Holy Spirit - Howard Winters
4. P. 208 Winters
5. P.208 Winters

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Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning - June 24, 2012  
Evans Church of Christ  
515 Gibbs Road  
Evans, Ga. 30809  
706-855-1249  
evanscoc@bellsouth.net  
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org