

Sunday, May 8, 2011—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 3:28-30: The Unpardonable Sin

Introduction

- This morning we are going to be looking at a passage that has caused much confusion within the body of Christ.
- Is there any sin today that you can commit that God cannot or will not forgive you of?
- Ephesians 1:7—those of us who have trusted in the finished work of Christ as the only total and complete payment for our sin possess redemption and the forgiveness of all our sins.
- Throughout our entire study in Mark we have seen over and over again that Jesus Christ was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Mark 3:28-29

- ***“Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: 29) But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:”***
- Mark 3:28—is very straightforward. Please notice that this verse is in the future tense, “shall be forgiven.”
- Blasphemies—1) To speak of the Supreme Being in terms of impious irreverence; to revile or speak reproachfully of God, or the Holy Spirit. 1 Kings 21. Mark 3. 2) To speak evil of; to utter abuse or calumny against; to speak reproachfully of. (*Webster’s 1828*)
 - Mark 14:61-64
- In the context of Mark 3, what blasphemous act had the scribes and Pharisees committed? They had suggested that Jesus was casting out devils by the power of Beelzebub the prince of devils.
- So verse 28 tells us that the sons of men will be forgiven of all manner sin and blaspheme.
- Mark 3:29—is quick to add a condition to the statement in verse 28. He that blasphemers or speaks against the Holy Ghost will never be forgiven and is danger of eternal damnation.
- Jesus is plainly saying that those who speak against the Holy Ghost will not be forgiven. This verse has scared and confused many Christians. It has been commonly said that if a person fears he or she has committed the unpardonable sin, it is evident he has not committed it, for a blasphemer would not be concerned about his sin.

- Others say that those who deny that the gifts of tongues is working today the way it was on the day of Pentecost blaspheme the Holy Ghost. In short there is much confusion swirling around these verses.
- Matthew 12:31—does an excellent job of summarizing the two verses from Mark 3.
 - Future tense
 - Mankind will be forgiven of all manner of sin and blasphemy
 - “But” blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men
- Matthew 12:32—add more detail to help us understand exactly what the unpardonable sin is.
- The unpardonable sin cannot be a sin against Christ, since Christ plainly states that sins against his person are forgivable.
 - Luke 23:34
- It is speaking reproachfully of the Holy Spirit that constitutes the unpardonable sin. The person that does such will not be forgiven in this world or the world to come. You can see why so many people are worried about whether or not they have done this.

Can We Commit This Sin?

- First, given the specific nature of this sin, it cannot be committed until the Holy Ghost was given, and that was not until after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ.
 - John 14:16-17, 26—they cannot blaspheme the Holy Ghost before they have received the Holy Ghost.
 - John 16:13
- Acts 2:1-4, 16—the Holy Spirit comes upon them in Acts 2 in fulfillment of a prophecy made in Joel 2.
 - Joel 2:28-32
- At Pentecost the Holy Spirit was given, to empower the 12 Apostles to offer the Kingdom to Israel. One of the functions of the Spirit was to enlighten and convict of sin, because they did not believe on Christ during his earthly ministry. The continued rejection of Christ would constitute sinning against the Holy Spirit.
 - Acts 2:23, 32-36
 - Acts 2:13-21—if Israel would repent for killing the Messiah God would have sent Jesus Christ back to them in fulfillment of all the prophets had spoken since the world began.

- Acts 7:51-60—under whose authority is Stephen bearing witness before the leadership of Israel? The Holy Ghost's.
- Acts 7:52—how had the leadership of Israel responded to the prophets and Christ himself? They killed them.
- Acts 7:59—how does the leadership of Israel respond to the Holy Spirit's message delivered to them from the mouth of Stephen? They kill him
- Whose witness had they just blasphemies? The Holy Spirit's. Can these men ever be forgiven for this action? No, not in this world or the world to come (Matthew 12:32)
- Matthew 21:33-43—it is on the basis of the unpardonable sin that the justice of God can take away the kingdom authority originally given to Israel's leadership and give it to the Little Flock in the kingdom.
- Do you and I need to worry about committing the unpardonable sin today? No, it was a national sin committed by Israel in Acts 7 which resulted in her being rendered in unbelief with the Gentiles.
- See PowerPoint Slide
- Romans 11:30-32—there is now no difference between Jew and Gentile.
- Acts 13:44-46
- Acts 18:5-6
- Acts 28:25-28

Conclusion

- Too many believers live in fear of committing the unpardonable sin because they have not rightly divided the word of Truth.
- There is no sin you can commit today that has not been forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ or that will cause you to lose your salvation.
 - Ephesians 1:7
 - Colossians 2:13
 - Ephesians 4:30