

# THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN

## A COMPARISON OF FORGIVENESS THEN AND NOW

*“All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men:  
but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.”*

~ Matthew 12:31

### 1. Why?

- a. Skeptics raise the question to cast doubt on the Bible
- b. Sinners raise the question fearful of having committed it
- c. It is a good example of an important dispensational difference
- d. Jesus talks about something not forgiven in Matt 12:31-32 (22-40); Mark 3:28-29
- e. The challenge is that Jesus died for all our sins under grace – Col 2:13

### 2. What it is?

- a. What others say:
  - i. A great sin like murder or causing great harm (Hitler?), but David, Christ?
  - ii. Losing salvation by falling away from grace (Gal 5:4, 2Ti 2:12), but 2 Cor 5:17
  - iii. When we question Pentecostal claims of Spirit miracles, but 2 Cor 5:7, Eph 1:13
  - iv. Billy Graham – “refusing God’s forgiveness”, but don’t we all do this?
- b. Clearly, it is blasphemy (which is the third commandment); it concerns speaking against
- c. Matt 12:32 – it is something spoken against, a testimony against the Holy Ghost
- d. The context is the scribes and Pharisees attributing Christ’s work to the devil
- e. It concerns the Holy Ghost, not Jesus (Son of man)
- f. Notice the timing:
  - i. The sign of the prophet Jonah - Matt 12:38-40 = resurrection
  - ii. “in this world, neither in the world to come” – Matt 12:32
  - iii. “world to come” = Heb 2:5, Heb 6:5 = the kingdom come
- g. Hebrews is written concerning Holy Ghost influenced Israel about the world to come
  - i. Hebrews 6:4-8 – Partakers of the Holy Ghost who fall away to impossibility
  - ii. Hebrews 10:26-31 – No more sacrifice for sins, but fiery indignation
  - iii. Heb 10:36-39 - They have need of patience (endure to the end) not draw back
  - iv. Notice their salvation, their forgiveness, is yet future – Heb 10:39
- h. A roadblock/test for enduring to the end – Rev 13:11-18 – the mark of the beast
  - i. What follows in Rev 14:9-12? The cup of indignation for those with the mark
  - ii. The patience of the saints = they that keep the commandments, and the faith

### 3. Forgiveness is Dispensational

- a. Moses: Leviticus 4:26 forgiveness with a sacrifice
- b. John: Mark 1:4 baptism of repentance for the remission of sins
- c. Jesus: Mark 11:24-26, Matthew 6:14-15
- d. Peter: Acts 3:17-19; Acts 5:31-32
- e. Paul: We have forgiveness now! Acts 13:38-29, Col 1:14, Col 2:13, Eph 1:7, Eph 4:32
- f. Under grace, Christ was made sin for us, we are crucified, there is no sin unforgivable under the reign of grace – Rom 5:20-21 – Trust Christ.