

THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

This study is based on Matthew 12:22-37.

INTRODUCTION: “God makes abundant provision for sins of ignorance, but He makes no provision for willful sins. The unpardonable sin is the sin that refuses to be pardoned; it is the refusal to hear Him concerning a sin, and to turn from that sin; it is the sin of refusing His instruction; it is the sin of unbelief concerning His warnings; it is the stubbornness of the heart that will not turn from sin, which seals the fate of any people or any individual.”(RH May 19, 1903, par. 2)

Solemn words indeed! May the Lord help us to understand His Word.

“Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? But when the Pharisees

heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.”(Matthew 12:22-24)

“It was just before this that Jesus had a second time performed the miracle of healing a man possessed, blind and dumb, and the Pharisees had reiterated the charge, ‘He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.’ Matthew 9:34.”(DA 321.3)

The Pharisees, you see, attributed the Work of the Holy Spirit to the work of the prince of the devils. Let’s see what happened next.

“And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out

devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. **He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.**"(Matthew 12:25-30)

"...Divisions, and even bitter dissensions which would disgrace any worldly community, are common in the churches, because there is so little effort to control wrong feelings, and to repress every word that Satan can take advantage of. As soon as an alienation of feeling arises, the matter is spread before Satan for his inspection, and the opportunity given for him to use his serpent-like wisdom and skill in dividing and destroying the church. There is great loss in every dissension. Personal friends of both parties take sides with their respective favorites, and thus the breach is widened. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Criminations and recriminations are engendered

and multiplied. Satan and his angels are actively at work to secure a harvest from seed thus sown. Worldlings look on, and jeeringly exclaim, ‘**Behold how these Christians hate one another! If this is religion, we do not want it.**’ And they look upon themselves and their irreligious characters with great satisfaction. Thus they are confirmed in their impenitence, and Satan exults at his success.”(RH March 22, 1887, par. 5)

Here we can clearly see that the house, nation or kingdom **cannot stand when members are divided.** If there’s no **oneness** in terms of plans and ideas, how can it stand? If members are against each other, what can prevent it from dividing? If Satan wants to build his kingdom, **how can he do so by casting out devils from people?** Surely he must make people possessed instead of freeing them from demons. The same is true with the Saviour and His kingdom. If Christ decides to use the spirit of Satan in his work instead of using His own Spirit, isn’t His kingdom divided against itself? How can he

triumph over satan's kingdom by doing so?.
Evidently, then, the Pharisees made a great mistake by saying that He was using the spirit and power of Satan.

“Wherefore I say unto you, **All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.** And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: **but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him,** neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”(Matthew 12:31,32)

“...in attributing **the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan,** they[the Pharisees] were **cutting themselves off from the fountain of blessing.** Those who had spoken against Jesus Himself, **not discerning His divine character, might receive forgiveness;** for **through the Holy Spirit they might be brought to see their error and repent.** **Whatever the sin,** if the soul repents and believes, **the guilt is washed away**

in the blood of Christ; but he who rejects the work of the Holy Spirit is placing himself where repentance and faith cannot come to him. It is by the Spirit that God works upon the heart; when men willfully reject the Spirit, and declare It to be from Satan, they cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them. When the Spirit is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul.”(DA 321.3)

“In rejecting Christ the Jewish people committed the unpardonable sin; and by refusing the invitation of mercy, we may commit the same error. We offer insult to the Prince of life, and put Him to shame before the synagogue of Satan and before the heavenly universe when we refuse to listen to His delegated messengers, and instead listen to the agents of Satan, who would draw the soul away from Christ. So long as one does this, he can find no hope or pardon, and he will finally lose all desire to be reconciled to God.”(DA 324.3)

What is the Holy Spirit? What exactly is the unpardonable?

While it's true that the Holy Spirit is depicted as a personal being, it is also true that it is depicted as the TRUTH...

“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.”(John 16:13, 14:17,15:26)

“...And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.”(1 John 5:6).

Thus, by rejecting “all evidence”(RH, Jan 18, 1898) of Truth through Christ, the Jewish nation blasphemed against the Holy Spirit. Similarly,

“In this our day men have placed themselves where they are wholly unable to fulfill the conditions of repentance and confession: therefore they cannot find mercy and pardon. The sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit does not lie in any sudden word or deed; it is the firm, determined resistance of truth and evidence. No one need look upon the sin against the Holy Ghost as something mysterious and indefinable. The sin against the Holy Ghost is the sin of persistent refusal to respond to the invitation to repent.”(5BC 1093.1.2)

The Sin against the Holy Spirit, the unpardonable sin, doesn't lie in any sudden word or deed, it comes when “truth and evidence” are resisted with firmness and determination, or when one refuses with persistence to repent. The Lord “hardened Pharaoh's heart”(Exodus 7:13) in the sense that he refused to hear the Lord's warnings through Moses, so “it is by the rejection of this light that the eyes are blinded and the heart

hardened. Often the process is gradual, and almost imperceptible. Light comes to the soul through God's word, through His servants, or by the direct agency of His Spirit; but when one ray of light is disregarded, there is a partial benumbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned. So the darkness increases, until it is night in the soul.”(DA 322.2)

“Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: **for the tree is known by his fruit.** O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, **That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.** For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be

condemned.”(Matthew 12:33-37)

“Closely connected with Christ's warning in regard to the sin against the Holy Spirit is a warning against idle and evil words. The words are an indication of that which is in the heart. ‘Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.’ But the words are more than an indication of character; they have power to react on the character...**It is dangerous to utter a word of doubt, dangerous to question and criticize divine light.** The habit of careless and irreverent criticism reacts upon the character, in fostering irreverence and unbelief. Many a man indulging this habit has gone on unconscious of danger, until he was ready to criticize and reject the work of the Holy Spirit. (DA 323.1)

Be careful with your words, brother, sister. The Jewish people by speaking carelessly about the work of God insulted the Holy Spirit. Be careful how you speak about any light or any

messenger/Preacher that may come to you “in the name of the Lord”.

“Every man's work passes in review before God, and is registered for faithfulness or unfaithfulness. Opposite each name in the books of Heaven is entered, with terrible exactness, every wrong word, every selfish act, every unfulfilled duty, and every secret sin, with every artful dissembling. Heaven-sent warnings or reproofs neglected, wasted moments, unimproved opportunities, the influence exerted for good or for evil, with its far-reaching results, all are chronicled by the recording angel.”(GC88 481.3)

Regarding the poison that lies in the tongue, the Word says,

“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our

members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”(James 1:26,3:6-8)

“Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”(Colossians 4:6)

Remember, also, that “..if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”(Hebrews 10:26,27)

When someone willfully resists the principles of the truth (the Holy Spirit), he is in danger of committing the unpardonable sin. In addition to that,

“Those who have an opportunity to hear the truth and yet take no pains to hear or understand it, thinking that if they do not hear they will not be accountable, will be judged guilty before God the same as if they had heard and rejected. There will be no excuse for those who choose to go in error when they might understand what is truth. In His sufferings and death Jesus has made atonement for all sins of ignorance, but there is no provision made for willful blindness.”(LDE 218.1)

Furthermore, as the Pharisees willfully spoke against that which they knew to be the truth and thus committed the unpardonable, so people today may commit the same error. Consequently, the Church today is in danger of committing the unpardonable sin by speaking against or

Rejecting the Present Truth.

“When new light is presented to the church, it is perilous to shut yourselves away from it. Refusing

to hear **because you are prejudiced** against **the message or the messenger** **will not make your case excusable before God.** To condemn that which you have not heard and do not understand will not exalt your wisdom in the eyes of those who are candid in their investigations of truth. And to speak with contempt of those whom God has sent with a message of truth, **is folly and madness.**”(CW 51.1)

“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and **be established in the present truth.**”(2 Peter 1:12)

“There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is “**present truth**” that the flock needs now.”(EW 63.1)

“We must not think, ‘**Well, we have all the truth, we understand the main pillars of our faith, and**

we may rest on this knowledge.’ The truth is an advancing truth, and we must walk in the increasing light.”(CW 33.2)

A true child of the Lord can hardly dodge the fact that “the angel of the church of the Laodiceans”, i.e the leadership of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, is “lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot” also “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.”(Rev 3:14-17). Consequently, the whole “..church is in the Laodicean state. The presence of God is not in her midst.”(LDE 49.1)

The reason is that “a terrible deception is upon our people”(3T 254.1)

“What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right when they are all wrong! The message of the True Witness finds the people of God in a sad deception, yet honest in that deception. They

know not that their condition is deplorable in the sight of God. While those addressed are flattering themselves that they are in an exalted spiritual condition, **the message of the True Witness breaks their security by the startling denunciation of their true condition of spiritual blindness, poverty, and wretchedness.** The testimony, **so cutting and severe, cannot be a mistake,** for it is the True Witness who speaks, and His testimony must be correct.”(3T 252.4)

History, you see, is repeating itself. The Church at this time is in no way better than the Jewish Church.

“Even Seventh-day Adventists are in danger of **closing their eyes to truth** as it is in Jesus, **because it contradicts something which they have taken for granted as truth but which the Holy Spirit teaches is not truth..**”(TM 70.2)

This means that it is perilous to say “we have all the truth, we know everything”. And Even though God is patient with His people, the truth is that **“The church has failed, sadly failed, to meet the expectations of her Redeemer..”** because **“Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God,** is leavening our churches **everywhere.** Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. **The testimonies are unread and unappreciated.** God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and **both have been slighted and disregarded.** The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us.”(LDE 58, 5T 217.2)

The condition of the Church, you see, is terrible. The servant of the Lord wrote: “Many, I saw, **were flattering themselves that they were good Christians, who have not a single ray of light from Jesus.** They know not what it is to be renewed by the grace of God. They have no living experience for themselves

in the things of God. **And I saw that the Lord was whetting His sword in heaven to cut them down.** Oh, that every lukewarm professor could realize the clean work that God is about to make among His professed people! Dear friends, **do not deceive yourselves concerning your condition.** You cannot deceive God. Says the True Witness: ‘I know thy works.’ The third angel is leading up a people, step by step, higher and higher. At every step they will be tested.”(1 T 189.2)

From this you can see that The Church has not only disregarded **the light of the True Witness**, telling her to arise from her **spiritual slumber** and **self deception**, but also disregarded the **“clean work”** which the Lord will make by cutting down all who flatter themselves that they are good Christians, **Lukewarm professors**. This **clean work** is but the Judgement among the living members of the Church (1 Peter 4:17, Ps 1:5, Malachi 3:1-3), and is well explained in the 9th Chapter of Ezekiel. Commenting on this scary prophecy, the Holy Spirit

says,

“Study the 9th chapter of Ezekiel. These words will be literally fulfilled; yet the time is passing, and the people are asleep. They refuse to humble their souls and to be converted. Not a great while longer will the Lord bear with the people who have such great and important truths revealed to them, but who refuse to bring these truths into their individual experience. The time is short. God is calling; will you hear? Will you receive His message? Will you be converted before it is too late? Soon, very soon, every case will be decided for eternity..”(1 MR 260.2)

Manifestly, therefore, the message of the True Witness to the Church (Revival and Reformation) discloses that all who will not heed the counsel **“buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that**

thou mayest see.”(Revelation 3:18), will be disappointed when the Judgement among the living members of the Church commences , because “Angels keep a faithful record of every man's work, and as judgment passes upon the house of God, the sentence of each is recorded by his name, and the angel is commissioned to spare not the unfaithful servants, but to cut them down at the time of slaughter.”(1T 197.1)

The unfaithful servants, you see, will be slaughtered at the fulfillment of Ezekiel 9. “These dumb dogs that would not bark are the ones who feel the just vengeance of an offended God. Men, maidens, and little children all perish together.”(5T 211.2) This being the Present Truth, which is but the Third Angel’s message in its “advanced” phase, in its “increasing light”, as clearly revealed in the 4th angel’s message of Rev 18 (see EW 277), then to reject it is indeed to sin against the Holy Spirit. And since no other Church has been given an opportunity to have these

precious truths, Christ sends the

Message of Waning To the Church.

“Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”(Matthew 11:20-24)

“Of those who boast of their light and yet fail to walk in it Christ says, ‘But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you. And thou, Capernaum [Seventh-day Adventists, who have had great light], which art exalted unto heaven [in point of privilege], shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works which have been done in thee had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day..”(LDE 48.2)

“In the balances of the sanctuary the Seventh-day Adventist church is to be weighed. She will be judged by the privileges and advantages that she has had. If her spiritual experience does not correspond to the advantages that Christ, at infinite cost, has bestowed on her, if the blessings conferred have not qualified her to do the work entrusted to her, on her will be pronounced the sentence: ‘Found wanting.’ By the light bestowed, the opportunities given, will she be judged...”(LDE

59.3)

“For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”(2 Peter 2:21)

Difficult times we’ve come to, brother, sister. Now is the time for you to have a personal experience with the truth of God. **“Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?”(Isaiah 2:22).** Study the Bible by yourself, trust not anyone. Remember that **“The mind that depends upon the judgment of others is certain, sooner or later, to be misled.”(Ed 230.4).** Let no one decide for you what is truth and what is error. And if the Sanhedrin Council(The General Conference of Christ’s day) couldn’t be trusted, then how can the Sanhedrin Council (the General Conference)of today be trusted? **“But beware of rejecting that which is truth. The great danger with our people has been that of depending upon**

men and making flesh their arm. Those who have not been in the habit of searching the Bible **for themselves, or weighing evidence,** have confidence **in the leading men and accept the decisions they make;** and thus **many will reject the very messages God sends to His people, if these leading brethren do not accept them.**”(TM 106.4)

“Cease ye from man”

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