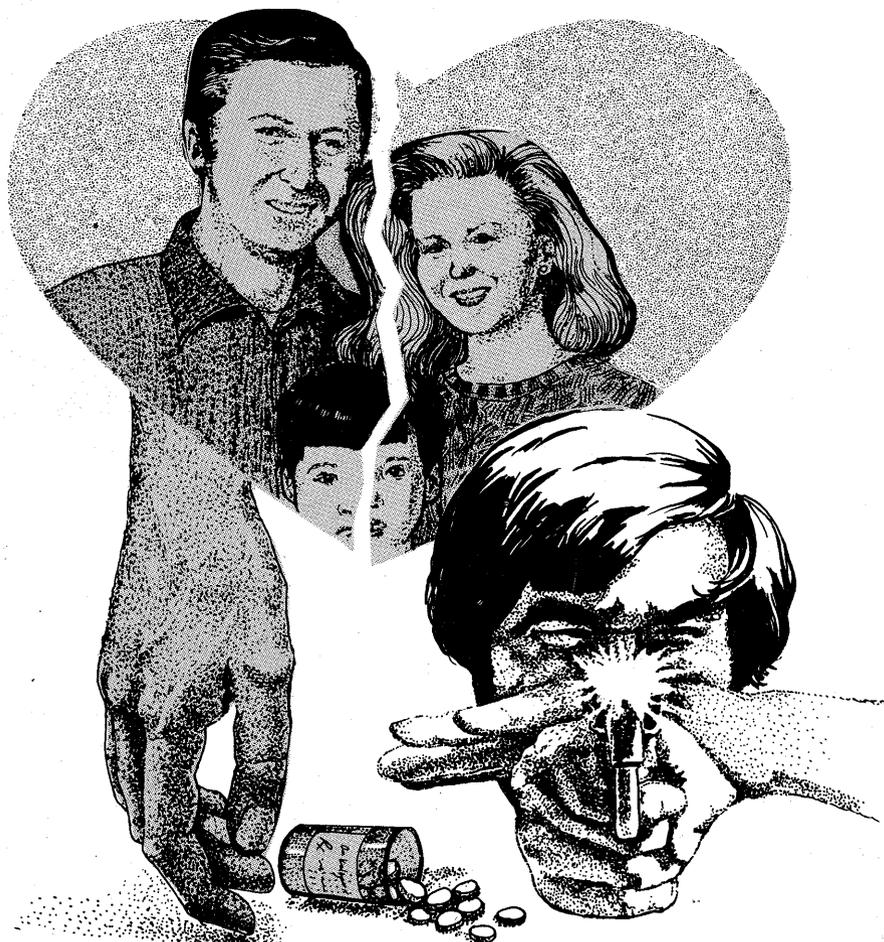

What is the Unpardonable Sin?

Ray Brubaker



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GOD'S NEWS ..BEHIND THE NEWS
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What Sin Is The Unpardonable Sin?

A Gallup Poll taken about a year ago showed 62% of Americans in favor of the death penalty. The public's sense of justice is dismayed over the suffering of the innocent and the release of the guilty.

The nation's crime rate has soared 300% in the past 18 years. No wonder TIME magazine called CRIME in the United States a national disgrace.

Why do we let the criminal go free? Isn't any crime any more worthy of the death penalty? What is the greatest crime - the most awful sin that a person can commit?

What about the UNPARDONABLE SIN?

Some think 'murder' is the unpardonable sin.

Modern psychiatrists disagree over the reason why a man would kill another man. Freud held that man has a death instinct that must be satisfied in either suicide or aggression against others.

Of this we can agree - the Scriptures assert man is a sinner and in need of conversion. Jesus said: "...out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, MURDERS, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."

Dr. Fredric Wertham, another modern psychiatrist who is a crusader against violence, argues that man is a product of his environment. Man is influenced by such cultural influences as violent comic books, or television. The violent man, he notes, is the socially alienated man.

In the Bible, the sin of murder often heads the list of deplorable acts that men commit. Is murder then the unpardonable sin?

One of the greatest converts to Christ was the Apostle Paul. He persecuted the early church and stood by while Christians were stoned to death. But the Apostle Paul could say: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." (I Tim. 1:15)

If the Lord saved Paul he can save a murderer. So murder is not the worst sin.

A sin related to murder is abortion.

We're told that one in four pregnancies around the world end in abortion, and half of the abortions are performed illegally.

A group that calls itself the Population Crisis Committee estimates that at least 40 million and perhaps as many as 55 million legal and illegal abortions were performed or induced last year (1978) and the the number "appears to be growing."

May God help us.

The great R. A. Torrey, an associate of Moody, said: "If there is any hand in the world that is scarlet with the blood of murder, it is that of the woman who murders her own unborn babe."

A young girl wrote Billy Graham, saying, "I became pregnant when I was 15 and I had an abortion. I feel so guilty now; will my past keep me from going to heaven?"

His answer: "Certainly not. You have sinned, but God loves you still. What a wonderful truth. Yet the proof of God's love is this: that it was while we were sinners that Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8 New International Version). You see, no matter how good you might be, you could never, never, be good enough to enter heaven. The Bible tells us that this is true for everyone, because "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23)

"Yes," says Graham, "it was wrong for you to behave immorally in the first place, and it was wrong for you to seek to escape the responsibility for your actions by getting an abortion. As you have discovered, however, problems are not easily solved. The Bible says, 'Do not be deceived; God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.' (Gal. 6:7 NIV) Your experience is a warning to others who may think they can disobey God's laws and get by with it."

If murder and abortion are not the unpardonable sin...what about homosexuality? After all, we hear a great deal today about this sin.

One news report gives the most recent estimates as "13 percent of the men in this country and 5 percent of the women are homosexual."

Until 1973, the American Psychiatric Association continued to rank homosexuality as a deviation equal to sadism, masochism and fetishism. That year, the association declared that "Homosexuality, per se, cannot be classified as a mental disorder." A new diagnostic category was created so that homosexuality is called a "sexual disorientation disturbance".

What makes homosexuality such a great and terrible sin is that God destroyed past civilizations because of it, and promises to do it again. Read 2 Peter 2:6, where reference is made to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah which God condemned, turning them into ashes, and making them an example unto those who should live ungodly. Likewise, in Jude 7, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities about them, in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

In Old Testament times this sin was so great that the penalty was death. In Lev. 20:13 we read: "If a man lie with mankind as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death..."

Somehow we have gotten the impression that homosexuality is no longer "lewd and lascivious conduct" as the dictionary states, but an acceptable way of life.

Although the Bible puts homosexuality as head of the list of national sins, it is not the unpardonable sin. Homosexuals can be changed, delivered, set free from this sin.

A practicing homosexual for 37 years testified: "Nobody is born gay. You are born male and female, and the conditioning you receive as you grow up shapes your sexual development. At some point in our lives we make a decision either physically or mentally to participate in a sexual act. The decision is repeated over and over again until it is a habit."

But we repeat. Christ offers salvation to all who will admit their sin and will seek cleansing and forgiveness. I John 1:9 says: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

We can be set free from whatever sin that binds us - "for if the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Adultery is becoming so common today it, too, is no longer regarded as a sin. But in the sight of God an adulterer will not see the kingdom of God (I Cor. 6:9) unless he truly repents and receives the forgiveness offered freely through Jesus Christ.

Could adultery be the unpardonable sin, you ask?

To the woman taken in adultery who gave evidence of repenting, our Lord said: "Neither do I condemn thee...go and sin no more."

The sin of adultery can be forgiven if there is genuine repentance of this sin. Suppose a murderer would ask forgiveness but every few days he again commits murder? He is still a murderer. So to persist in an unwholesome relationship is to continue in sin.

"Every divorce statistic means two people have failed in life's most noble and important relationship; failed themselves, failed each other, failed their children, failed their Creator, and failed society," so says Judge Roger Pfaff of Los Angeles.

Actually, the divorce problem is not new. Moses had to deal with this dilemma in his day. And, it became the subject of controversy in our Lord's day.

Remember how the Pharisees came to Jesus, tempting him, saying: "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" Jesus replied: "Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

The disciples were somewhat shocked with their Master's reply, saying: "If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry."

Why is marriage no longer considered the sacred bond that God intended it to be? The divine plan has been - "What God hath joined together let no man put asunder." And who are we to think we can get away with breaking God's law when it comes to matrimony?

A wife inquired of Dr. Oswald J. Smith: "What am I to do when my husband is unfaithful to me? Should I divorce him?" Replied Dr. Smith: "By no means. If he is penitent, if he comes to you and asks your pardon, then forgive him and take him back. Forgive him and never mention it to him again." Then he added, "If there is no repentance and he will not forsake his wrongdoing, then you have no choice but to separate from him and let him burn in hell with the woman with whom he is committing adultery. But you will pray for him, and you will never cease to pray until God works."

In Romans 7:2-3 we read: "For the woman which hath an

husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then, if, while her husband liveth she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress."

Praise God there can come healing and forgiveness if the Holy Spirit is allowed to work. For the fruit of the Spirit is love which can reunite those who have strayed from God and one another.

Is suicide the unpardonable sin?

Each day at least a thousand persons commit suicide, according to the World Health Organization.

Suicide is the tenth most common cause of death for all Americans.

Think of it!

The Scriptures give illustrations of those who took their life with the most notorious being Judas who betrayed our Lord.

Since death is a weapon wielded by Satan, he will use it even on Christians who during a time of weakness, or under sedation, and at a time of depression, may yield to the voice that says—"end it all."

But the devil is a liar. And when Jesus died and rose again, he defeated him that had power of death, that is the devil. (Heb. 2:14)

For some the act of suicide is to take a gun or a rope and kill themselves. For others the action may be more slowly followed as in the case of those who drink, or smoke, or overindulge in lustful habits, or even overeating, which may be a form of suicide.

Some point to Matt. 10:28 as indicating the difference between destroying one's body and losing one's soul. For Jesus said, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

The important question is - Are you a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ? Remember the prison keeper who was about to take his life when Paul cried out, "Do thyself no harm." The would-be-suicide trembled in fear, crying out, "What must I do to be saved?"

And Paul answered: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

My friend, whatever sin you may have committed can be forgiven if you'll only come to Christ, put your faith in his finished work on the cross for your sins, and be truly repentant for the wrong you have done.

Ask him now to save you - to come into your heart and life. If you are sorry for the way you've been living and will truly repent you can be "born-again" right now. Pray this prayer and mean it. "Lord, I've sinned. Your word says YOU DIED FOR MY SIN that I may have eternal life. I believe you shed your blood for me that I may be forgiven. Come into my heart and save me now I pray. Amen!

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. And "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

Is There A Sin That Can't Be Forgiven?

When an American Airlines jet crashed in Chicago killing 275 persons it became the highest death toll of any aviation accident in the United States. The plane disintegrated into a ball of fire following the loss of an engine.

Strangely enough, the power loss in a recorder left only one word on the tape... the word "damn."

The word "damnation" is a word used in Scripture meaning destruction. Or in some instances the Greek word translated "damnation" means judgment or condemnation.

As we might wonder--Why was almost all cockpit conversation aboard this ill-fated jet wiped out leaving just one word on the tape... a word used in swearing... a word meaning destruction?

Do our words that we speak have significance?

Indeed, what a tragedy. And yet the Scripture speaks of damnation as the fate of all who reject Jesus Christ and live in sinful pleasure.

Listen to this verse in 2 Thess. 2:12 that bespeaks the awful fate of every sinner that dies without Jesus Christ. For we read: "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Beloved, don't let this be your fate. "Life" can be yours... "Eternal Life," "Life More Abundant," if you'll only trust the Saviour as your Lord who died and rose again that you might be forgiven and set free from your sins.

Thus the Scripture makes it clear that God is not willing that any should perish but that all come to a knowledge of the truth.

Yet, Jesus declared that man has a choice in the matter, saying: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

DAMNED..what an awful word.

Today we continue our discussion on the UNPARDONABLE SIN.. And we point out that there is no sin too great but that God has forgiveness ... except what we refer to as "the unpardonable sin."

In the city of Chicago and located only a few blocks away from the Moody Bible Institute is a park where anyone has the right to express themselves on almost any subject. At least, it was so when I was a student.

The park was given the affectionate name "Bughouse Square." Students were requested not to frequent the place because of the danger of being assaulted.

But for some of us students we could not resist the temptation to go and listen to those who were arguing for a cause in which

they believed, or who may have been arguing for the sake of arguing.

Quite often you would have those standing on their soap box espousing socialism, or preaching atheism.

Otto Klink was such a character. Once in the open air, standing on a soap box at midnight, he tells how he argued against the existence of a personal God.

As is customary on those occasions, a great crowd of people gathered to hear what he had to say.

Klink bellowed: "Now I am going to prove to you that there is no God. If there is a God, I give this God the chance to kill me in two minutes. If I am not dead in two minutes, then there is no God."

Silence reigned. Soon a minute was gone. Then a minute and a half. Some in the audience started to walk away. Others began to shield their eyes.

After the allotted time, Klink shouted, "Two minutes are gone. I am still alive; and there is no God."

Some time afterward Otto Klink became a believer. In the GOSPEL HERALD, published in August, 1940, he wrote an article on the unpardonable sin.

Said Klink: "Even that awful thing that I did years ago when I was a bad-mouthed atheist, an evolutionist, and an anarchist, was not the unpardonable sin. If it had been, I should not be preaching to you now. If God could save a wretch like me, there is hope for any one of you. Why do you reject this marvelous Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ? God loves you and wants to save you and fill you with the Holy Spirit," says Klink.

What is the unpardonable sin? What is the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Ghost that cannot be forgiven?

There are some who believe that only those living in our Lord's day could have committed this sin. For they saw him, they observed his miracles, they knew the prophecies of a coming Messiah that he claimed to fulfill, and yet, they said that he cast out demons through the power of Satan, and they said of him that he had an unclean spirit. That accusation is said to be blasphemy that has no forgiveness. For those who made the accusation made up their minds to reject the claims of Christ that he was the messiah.

At the stoning of Stephen among those in the audience was the Apostle Paul who was then Saul who helped arrange these stonings. Stephen, addressing his persecutors, declared: "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do you."

Resisting the Holy Ghost is a sin. But it is a sin that can be repented of and forgiven. For the Apostle Paul was one who resisted the work of God but who repented and was converted.

Then there is a sin of grieving the Holy Spirit. As we read in Ephesians 4:30, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

When an unconverted person is convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit there should be an immediate response to God's loving call to repent and receive the Lord. For then there would come forgiveness and peace.

However, rejection of the Holy Spirit could bring an end to the

times and ways that God speaks to your heart.

The story is told of a lad who had a dove so tame it would sit on his shoulder and take food from his hand. One day he held out a tempting morsel, and just as the dove was about to eat he clutched his hand tightly closed. The bird turned away disappointed. The boy held out his hand again. The dove came forward timidly until it was ready to snatch up the morsel of food and again the hand was closed. With drooping wings the dove went to the farthest corner of the room. It was some time before it returned. Then once more the hand was extended. The dove hesitated. It was just about to take the food when the hand was closed again. This time the dove spread its wings and flew away. The boy never saw it again.

So the Holy Spirit may be grieved and if rejected time and again may no longer speak as he once has done. Don't grieve the Spirit by closing your heart to him.

As serious as it is to grieve the Holy Spirit that is not the unpardonable sin. As long as there is a tug at your heart, and you know you should be saved, God is still speaking to you and you should respond at once.

The sad aspect of this is, however, that it is possible to go on grieving the Holy Spirit until you no longer experience conviction for sin. That is a sad state to be in.

Of King Saul we read how the Lord departed from and did not answer him any more.

In Noah's day the people sinned continuously, disobeying the voice of God, until we read where the Lord says, "My spirit shall not always strive with man..." Gen. 6:3a

We read how in the midst of the world's wickedness that the Lord was grieved at his heart. For the world was corrupt, filled with violence, and the thoughts of men's hearts were only evil continually.

It was then when the Spirit could no longer get through to people because they were so wicked that the Lord declared he would destroy man, "for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth." (Gen. 6:12)

Could it be that we are fast approaching that day when God is about to destroy us for our many ways that we disobey and thus grieve Him?

For Jesus said, "as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it also be in the days of the Son of man."

How it behooves us to hear and to heed God's Word and not excuse our sinning by saying, "Everybody is doing it so I will do it. Everybody is getting a divorce so I will get a divorce. Everybody is remarriage so I will remarry. Everybody is flirting so I will flirt."

That, my friends, is how the Holy Spirit can be grieved so that He no longer speaks as He once did and we can go on thinking what we are doing is all right until the day when our Lord comes. Then we may discover too late that we weren't ready for His coming after all.

In I John 2:28 we read, "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming," or as Dr. Wuest translates, "in shame shrink back from him at his coming."

How will it be when the Lord comes? Will you be able to welcome him with open arms? Are you abiding in Christ? I John 3:6 says, "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not." So, if you are looking for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ you will not want to be found sinning. Rather, you will want to turn from sin that grieves the Lord and live a life of holiness and purity. For our Lord is coming for a bride that is attired in garments of white, without spot or blemish.

How can we be ready for our Lord's return?

By walking in obedience to His Word, and doing His will.

Years ago I was preaching at a Baptist Church in Georgia when coming up the road was a man bent over and walking with a cane. He had a lusty look, unkept hair, teeth missing with a devilish grin. As he neared the church, walking at a very slow pace, I could hear him mumbling something. I listened more closely to hear him saying: "For the wrath of God cometh upon the children of disobedience." He kept repeating it, "for the wrath of God cometh upon the children of disobedience."

It was as if the needle got stuck in the groove of a phonograph record. I was finally able to engage him in conversation and got the impression that God had called him to the ministry at one time but he got into sin and disobeyed the wooing of the Spirit.

In Ephesians 5 we find the Lord speaking to the Christians, saying, "Be ye followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ hath loved you."

Then we are warned: "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints: neither filthiness, or foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be ye not therefore partakers with them." See Eph. 5:1-7

Did you hear it?

If you are a believer and you engage in the same sins that the world is committing, you are identifying with the world. If you are committing adultery, if you are lying and cheating your fellowman, being covetous, "greedy for gain," you are certainly in danger of not being ready for the coming of our Blessed Lord.

The Scripture is all the more important when you realize this message was given to believers. We are told, "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them."

If you are not a believer it is important that you wake up to the need of responding to the call of God when the Lord speaks to your heart.

Before Moody was converted, he worked in a cornfield hoeing with a man he called Uncle Reuben. Every now and then Uncle Reuben would stop hoeing as if to ponder an important decision.

Moody went to the man and asked him what was the matter. The old man said, "Well, son, you see that house over there? That is where my mother used to live and now my sister lives

there. I was fourteen years of age when I left my mother's home to make my way in the world. My mother gave me a New Testament and told me to read it faithfully, especially Matthew 6:33 - "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." The man told his mother he would not forget it.

The next Sunday he went to church in a distant city, and the preacher got out his Bible and read from Mt. 6:33, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." The minister preached his sermon and then made a call for prayer, pointing his finger to say, "Young man, give your heart to God."

He refused. Next Sunday he went to church in another town and the preacher there read from the same text, and after his sermon pointed his finger to say, "Boy, come give your heart to the Lord."

Afterward, the young man went out of the church and into the cemetery where he knelt between the tombstones. He told God to leave him alone. He wanted to make his way in the world first. From then on, the young man no longer experienced conviction.

Moody was not saved at the time but after his conversion he remembered what Uncle Reuben had told him. He tried to get in touch with the old man but found he was in a padded cell, dangerously insane.

A month later, Moody arranged to visit Uncle Reuben who when he saw him grinned insanely and said, "Young man, seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness."

Moody broke down and wept. Here was a man paying the penalty for his rejection of God's love. And although Moody believed any man could be saved here was a man who spurned God's love, crossing an unseen line, from which he never returned.

Uncle Reuben was later discharged from the asylum. He was still insane but no longer dangerous. And when he saw Moody, he pulled his hair and laughed insanely, "Ha, ha, ha. Young man, seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Ha, ha, ha. And all these things shall be added unto you."

The Bible says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God." While God is speaking clearly, through His Word, and by His Spirit, now is the time to heed this message and receive the Lord. Simply open your heart to the Saviour. Say to him, "I believe you died on the cross for my sins, and I receive you as my Saviour and Lord to live for you forevermore, and be ready when you come."

What a thrilling decision. Seal it with a prayer and a pledge to tell someone immediately what you have done. And lead them to salvation.

Indeed, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

Can ANY Man Be Saved?

The execution of convicted murderer John A. Spenkelink was the first in Florida since 1964 and the first in the nation since Gary Gilmore was shot by a Utah firing squad in January of 1977.

Florida governor Bob Graham, mindful of those objecting to capital punishment, and aware of the historic decision when he signed the death warrant, also made it clear that it was his duty to carry out the law.

According to one report, Graham said he was prepared to sign warrants in a majority of cases estimated to be around 130 now on Florida's death row.

The United States Supreme Court struck down the death penalty in 1972 as "cruel and unusual punishment." The penalty was being so arbitrarily imposed by judges that there was "no meaningful basis for distinguishing the few cases in which it is imposed from the many cases in which it is not," the Supreme Court said.

Florida was the first state in the country to re-enact a death penalty that would meet the court's objections. It did so in a special session in 1972 soon after the Court had struck down the death penalty.

On July 2, 1976, the high court upheld the Florida statute, along with the statutes of Georgia and Texas.

So, accordingly, the Florida Statute took its first life. And mindful of the law, Governor Graham has indicated the signing of death warrants will be "routine" from now on.

Candidates for the next death warrants include...Learie Leo Alford, convicted of raping and murdering a 13-year-old girl and leaving her body in a garbage dump.

We might ask...What about sins of rape and murder? Is there a sin so great that God can't even forgive?

Some say that rejecting Jesus is the only sin that will not be forgiven. How important then to believe on Him while God has given the opportunity to be saved.

As the Scripture says: "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2)

To put off your salvation is to forever be barred from the gates of heaven. It is the sin that will keep you from spending eternity with God.

In Rev. 21:8, we read: "The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Is this what we want? Then let's turn to Christ now and be saved.

Dr. R. A. Torrey says: "Any man can be saved who thinks he has committed the unpardonable sin, but is willing to come to the Lord Jesus Christ now!"

In the Gospel we have the record of the scribes who said of Jesus, "He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils he casteth out devils."

By attributing the marvelous works that he had done to the devil, our Lord replied: "All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: because they said, He hath an unclean spirit." (Mark 4:28-30)

Occasionally I hear of those who say that UFO's (Unidentified Flying Objects) are of the devil. Well, we would not question the fact that some may be of Satan but to say that all unidentified flying objects seen in our skies are of the devil is attributing to him more acknowledgment than he deserves.

It reminds me when I was a boy and some said radio was of the devil because Satan is the "prince and power of the air." We have since learned that radio is one of the greatest tools of evangelism we have today. We can reach countries by radio that could not be reached in any other way.

Occasionally some write to ask: What of the charismatic movement? Well, my answer would be that we believe in the moving of the Holy Spirit promised for the last days. There is much in the charismatic movement that we do not understand, nor do we accept, but we would not for a moment speak openly as some do and say it is all of the devil. We think that is dangerous. May we exercise care and caution. We believe there is a genuine moving of the Holy Spirit today. God is moving in a mighty way by preparing believers for the rapture.

Paul spoke of being a blasphemer before his conversion but declared, "I did it ignorantly in unbelief." (I Tim. 1:13)

Hear Jesus again say: "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." (Mt. 12: 31-32)

Dr. Torrey, an associate of the famous evangelist Dwight L. Moody, tells of a letter he had received from a Presbyterian minister who wrote to say his son was in awful darkness. The son thought he had committed the unpardonable sin, and he was plunged into absolute despair. At that time Dr. Torrey was associated with the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. So the father wanted him accepted as a student thinking his son could be helped somehow.

The father continued to write, and urged his friends to write, pleading for his son.

At last, Dr. Torrey agreed to see the young man. He was brought to his office under guard, lest he might do something rash on the way.

When he came into the room where Dr. Torrey was seated he began the conversation by saying, "I am possessed of the devil."

Said Torrey: "I think quite likely you are," but reminded the young man, "Christ is able to cast out devils."

"You do not understand me," he said, "I mean that the devil has entered into me as he did into Judas Iscariot."

"That may be," said Torrey, "but Christ came to destroy the works of the devil."

"Do you believe in the Bible?" he asked. "Yes," he replied, "I believe everything in it."

Then do you believe John 6:37 - "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out."

"Yes, I do; I believe everything in the Bible."

"Well, then, will you come?" asked Dr. Torrey.

"I have committed the unpardonable sin," said the young man.

Torrey replied: "Jesus does not say, 'Him that hath not committed the unpardonable sin that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out', but He says, 'Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.'"

The man continued to give all kinds of arguments and excuses but Dr. Torrey kept repeating our Lord's gracious words, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

"Now will you come? Get down on your knees, and quit your nonsense," said Torrey. And the young man knelt by his side.

Then Torrey led him in this prayer: "Lord Jesus, my heart is as hard as a millstone. I have no desire to come to thee. But Thou hast said in Thy word, 'Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.' Now the best I know how I come."

When he had finished praying, Dr. Torrey asked - "Did you come?" The young man replied that he did.

Years later, although time and again the devil tried to plunge him into despair the young man remembered the words of John 6:37, "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out."

Said Torrey of this man - he was doing a greater work for God than almost any man he knew. Among other accomplishments he was the author of the hymn, so familiar to most of us...

"Years I spent in vanity and pride
Caring not my Lord was crucified.
Knowing not it was for me He died
On Calvary.

Mercy there was great, and grace was free.
Pardon there was multiplied to me.
There my burdened soul found liberty,
At Calvary."

How wonderful to know that Jesus invites us to come to Him. He says, "Come to me, and I will give you rest!"

Perhaps you are listening today and you've carried the burden of your sin so long. Psychiatry has not been able to help. Your closest friends have not been able to help. But Jesus can and will help you.

Remember his promise, "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out."

Come to him today. Believe in Him without delay. Receive Him as your Lord and Saviour. Acknowledge his shed blood as the atonement for your sins and go away forgiven."

Then live for Jesus every day and "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

Blasphemy Against The Holy Ghost

Occasionally we read of gruesome stories like that of the mother who chopped off the hands of her two daughters and then chopped off her own hand.

Or there is the mother who threw her two sons into a river saying she did not want her boys to grow up to follow her sinful footsteps.

Today we might ask again - Is there a sin that we can commit that is so great that God can never forgive us?

What about the unpardonable sin?

A young man called one day to say, "I'm afraid I have committed the unpardonable sin."

"Why do you ask that?" I asked.

Well, I have thoughts that would indicate that I have, and even words seem to frame themselves in my mouth making me think that I may have committed this sin.

On another occasion a person engaged in sexual sin said, "I'm afraid I have committed the unpardonable sin. I guess there is no hope for me."

In I John 5:16 we read: "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 he shall pray for it."

Now, here mentioned is a "sin unto death."

Again, turning to Mark 3:28-29 we read: "Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation."

Then, the next verse tells us exactly what the unpardonable sin is, for we read: "Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit."

A subject seldom discussed is the UNPARDONABLE SIN. Some people do not like to hear about the unpardonable sin and for that reason few preachers preach on it.

Yet, the Bible speaks of the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Ghost as the unpardonable sin, saying, "He that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation."

We might ask - What about the Apostle Paul? Did he not engage in open activity against the early church, killing Christians? Was he not a blasphemer?

If you'll read the Apostle Paul's account of his conversion you'll find he speaks of himself as the "chief" of sinners. So if God can save the "chief," He can save anyone.

But notice what he writes of his call to the ministry, saying: "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." (I Tim. 1:12-13)

The Apostle Paul says he was a blasphemer before God saved him, but he admits he did it ignorantly; therefore the unpardonable sin is not something one does ignorantly.

An unbeliever is without the life of God in him. He uses the name of the Lord in vain and thinks nothing of it. But that is not the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost unless there is an agreement or bargain with God to stay out of his life.

We have all read in history books about Aaron Burr who missed becoming President of the United States by just one vote.

The story of Aaron Burr is the story of a man who bargained with God. He was eighteen years of age when he decided to go to Princeton University. Back in those days Princeton was a biblically-oriented institution. While he was there a revival broke out and nearly everyone got saved, or at least they were under deep conviction.

Aaron Burr came under conviction and was questioned as to whether he would accept the Lord. He replied: "I am going home now for two weeks, and when I come back, I shall give you my decision."

Returning home he met an atheist who said to him, "Aaron, that is all excitement. That is nonsense."

Aaron Burr then made up his mind not to become a Christian. Returning to the university he was asked by his colleagues, "Have you settled the question?" "Yes, I have," he said, "I have told Jesus Christ that if he will leave me alone, I will leave him alone."

The result of that decision is now history. Aaron Burr became a successful lawyer, practicing in Albany, N. Y. and in New York City. He was elected to the Senate, and ran twice for the presidency with Thomas Jefferson. At that time the Constitution was not very clear, so that when there was a tie vote, the House of Representatives had to break the tie. It took 36 ballots to come to a decision. Alexander Hamilton helped determine the final outcome which made Jefferson president and Aaron Burr vice president.

Later, on July 11, 1804, an angry Aaron Burr challenged Alexander Hamilton to a pistol duel. Hamilton was fatally wounded with one shot. A coroner's inquest found Aaron Burr, vice president of the United States, guilty of "willful murder."

Aaron Burr was now a politically-ruined man. He went abroad and made the acquaintance of an English preacher who said to him, "Aaron, I would like to introduce you to my friend." Said Burr, "If your friend is as excellent as you are, I should like to meet him." The preacher then said, "My friend is the Lord Jesus Christ."

Burr's face turned an ashen white. He said to the preacher, "Years ago I settled that question. I told Jesus if He would leave me alone, I would leave Him alone, and He has not bothered me since."

How sad. Burr's life was one of dishonesty and dissipation. He went from bad to worse, even living under an assumed name. By his total rejection of Jesus Christ he committed a sin for which there is no forgiveness.

Some of you may have read or heard of Winnie Ruth Judd. She was born in a Methodist minister's home, dedicated as a baby, but when she grew up she killed two girl friends whose bodies she tried to dispose of by shipping them to Los Angeles in trunks.

Declared insane, she was placed in an institution where she kept repeating, "If I only had." Seven times she escaped but never will she escape from the God whose call on her life she rejected when she turned down the claims of Jesus Christ.

My friend, it does not pay to reject the Saviour. No excuse is great enough to keep you from making a decision right now for Jesus Christ.

As the Scripture says, "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

When the Philippian jailor was confronted with the claims of Christ, he did not argue or offer excuses. Instead, he cried out, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31)

Perhaps you offer the excuse of many who say, "I'm not so bad. I don't need Christ." But the Bible says in Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Or, you may say, "I'm pretty good." I haven't committed any crimes; I treat my neighbors right, and bring up my children to respect the law and the rights of others. What else do I need?"

Again the Bible tells us in Romans 3:10, "There is none righteous, no, not one."

But you say, "I try to keep the Ten Commandments; isn't that good enough?"

We would reply, It's wonderful to want to keep the commandments, but again the Scripture says, "Therefore by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified." (Romans 3:20)

You see, if you could be saved any other way then Jesus would not have had to come and die on a cross for your sins. But the Bible tells us that there is no other way to be saved. Only through Christ can we be saved, for we read, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

You name the founders of various religions. They are all imposters. Only Jesus saves. He died and shed His blood for our sins and God raised him from the dead to prove that He was His son and our only Saviour. So to absolutely reject this salvation is to seal forever your doom.

But we repeat - "Today is still a day of salvation. Harden not your heart." Right now, say, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart and life. If you died to save me, I will live for you."

Pray that prayer and mean it and you will discover the reality of salvation. A peace and joy will flood your heart and you will know that you have done what God has required. You have accepted the sacrifice of Him who died for your sins.

That's why we read in Hebrews 2:1-3, "Therefore we ought to

give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation...?"

You may be one who has thought you have committed the unpardonable sin. You may have committed murder, or some other heinous crime, but if you are truly repentant, God will forgive. Our Lord has promised, "He that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37)

The fact that God is speaking to you - you know you are a sinner, and that you need to be saved, is proof that you have not committed the unpardonable sin.

For whenever you feel in your heart that God is dealing with you, it is proof that the Holy Spirit is doing his work of convicting you, and if you will simply bow to Him, and say YES to Jesus Christ, He will save you.

Acts 2:21 says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

So call on Him. Pray: "Lord Jesus, save me. I believe you died for my sins. And I now receive you as my Saviour and Lord, to live for you- until you come again to receive unto yourself all who know and love you.

Indeed, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."