

The Unforgiveable Sin

Part 1

Hebrews 6:4-9

Introduction:

A. Hebrews 6:4-8 is a case study

1. It seems to indicate that a person can l_____ their salvation, but this contradicts Jn 10:27,28; Rom 10:11; Jn 3:16 and that eternal life by definition cannot be t_____
2. Some believe that this is a hypothetical case that can never h_____, but verse 9 indicates the writer believes it can.
3. Some believe that this passage is teaching that if you lose your salvation, you can never g_____ it back.
4. A final position (one I hold) is that this passage is about a person committing a sin that will prevent them from e_____ being saved.

B. Jesus spoke of the only sin that is unforgiveable in Matt 12:31,32

1. The setting
 - a. Jesus had cast out a d_____ from a blind and mute boy which restored the boy's sight and speech.
 - b. The Pharisees told the public that Jesus cast out demons by the p_____ of Satan.
2. The teaching
 - a. Satan is trying to build his kingdom. Casting out demons would be f_____ against his own kingdom.
 - b. Demons can only be cast out by the S_____ of God.
 - c. Blaspheming Jesus is a f_____able sin
 - d. Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is an unf_____ sin
3. The unforgivable sin
 - a. The Pharisees k_____ called the work of God's Spirit Satan's work.
 - b. Those who knowingly call the Holy Spirit's work, the devil's work have committed this sin.

C. The Hebrew writer gives four main conditions that must be fulfilled to be guilty of committing the unforgivable sin

Enlightened (4a)

A. Definition

1. To enlighten – to bring to light something that was h_____

2. To be enlightened – to gain knowledge and be fully c_____ that it is truth.

B. The application

1. The context indicates that the enlightenment has to do with the g_____ message about the Christ (Jesus is the prophesied Christ, God who became flesh to die for sins and who rose from the dead).
2. All of the immediate readers had heard the gospel and were convinced of its truth and so were e_____.
3. Who are the enlightened today? – those who have h_____ the gospel AND are convinced that the gospel is true.
 - a. Many have h_____ the gospel but are NOT convinced that it is true (e.g. atheists) – they have NOT been enlightened.
 - b. Many know and agree with the f_____ of the gospel but have not placed their f_____ in Jesus – they have been enlightened.
 - c. All those who have trusted Christ have been enlightened.

Tasted of the heavenly gift (4b)

A. Definition

1. To taste – implies not a f_____ action of eating or drinking (e.g. Matt 27:34 – Jesus tasted the v_____ that was mixed with gall but did not drink it).
2. Heavenly gift -
 - a. A gift is something that is freely g_____
 - b. Heavenly defines the nature of the gift and corresponds to s_____ (see Jn 4:10; Acts 2:38)

B. Application

1. Tasting salvation is not the same as r_____ salvation.
 - a. Drivers' training tries to give students a taste of the d_____ of driving drunk, or too fast, or without a seatbelt through videos.
 - b. Tasting salvation falls short of gaining it.
2. People taste salvation when they see Jesus t_____ people's lives after placing faith in Him.

Partaker of the Holy Spirit (4c,5)

A. This is not the same as being a partaker of Christ

1. Heb 3:14 shows that becoming a partaker of Christ requires f_____ in Christ.

2. When a person is saved they are made part of the b_____ of Christ (Rom 12:5; 1Cor 12:12; Eph 4:12).

B. Definition

1. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit
 - a. To c_____ unbelievers of sin (Jn 16:8)
 - b. To permanently i_____ believers (Jn 14:17; 1Cor 6:19)
 - c. To g_____ believers with spiritual abilities so the Holy Spirit can work through them (Acts 8:29; Rom 15:19; 1Cor 12:11).
2. How unbelievers become partakers of the Holy Spirit yet remain unbelievers
 - a. Whenever they listen to a sermon – tasted the good w_____ of God (v. 5a)
 - b. Whenever they witness m_____ - tasted the powers of the age to come (v. 5b)

Fall away (vv 6-8)

A. What is the falling away from?

1. The immediate readers were Hebrews who a_____ the old system of priests and sacrifices for Jesus as the priest and sacrifice.
2. To return to the old system even though they know the t_____ of Jesus as priest and sacrifice.
 - a. This would require them to call what they know to be true a l_____ (vv. 4,5)
 - b. This would require them to support the crucifixion of Jesus as meaning nothing but a public d_____ (v. 6)

B. An illustration of rain falling on the ground

1. Some ground receives the rain and produces useful v_____ - a blessing from God
2. Some ground receives the rain and produces t_____ and thistles – only fit for burning.
3. Those who meet all these conditions means that their eternal condemnation is sealed and there is no possibility for repentance.

Conclusion - Can this sin be committed today?

1. It cannot be committed in the exact way (abandoning the old sacrificial system and then returning to it)
2. It can be committed in principle (abandoning the Christian faith one knows to be true and calling it a lie) – next week's message.