
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: ***Can it ever be too late to receive forgiveness from God?***

A very common idea with many is that it is never too late to ask for and receive forgiveness from God. Many think that men can live as wicked and carelessly as they wish and in their dying hour, on their deathbed, they can suddenly ask forgiveness and God is obligated to grant them forgiveness and an entrance into heaven. But does the Bible really teach this? Can it ever be too late to receive forgiveness from God?

The Bible answers **yes**. Some men sin to the point that they absolutely cannot get forgiveness.

Numbers 15:28-30

²⁸ 'So the priest shall make atonement for the person who sins unintentionally, when he sins unintentionally before the LORD, to make atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him.

²⁹ 'You shall have one law for him who sins unintentionally, for him who is native-born among the children of Israel and for the stranger who dwells among them.

³⁰ 'But the person who does anything **presumptuously**, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people.

Deuteronomy 17:12

¹² "Now the man who acts **presumptuously** and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel.

Presumptuous sin is "high handed" sin. This is when one defiantly rebels against God. The OT provided for no animal sacrifice for this type of sin, because there was no forgiveness to be offered for this sin. Furthermore, men who sin presumptuously and defiantly are not men who would want to offer a sacrifice for their actions anyway.

Presumptuous sin may be committed under the NT as well:

Hebrews 6:4-6

⁴ For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,
⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,
⁶ if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Again:

Matthew 12:31-32

³¹ "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.
³² "Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

Sinning against the Holy Spirit is so blaspheming Him, so violating Him, so rejecting Him and His inspired word to the point that you cannot ever get forgiveness.

This is the dangerous part about continuing in sin. Men begin doing things that bother their consciences. When they first begin they are inclined to stop and change their ways. But if they continue violating their consciences, they eventually become desensitized. Their conscience no longer bothers them. Now sin becomes a game. Now men begin to practice sin openly and try to shove it in everyone's face while they do it. They dare anyone to preach to them. They have gradually destroyed all their ability to show remorse and shame. They are hopeless as far as forgiveness is concerned.

Jeremiah 6:15

¹⁵ Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; **Nor did they know how to blush.** Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the LORD.

Someone who has lost the ability to blush and be ashamed of themselves is someone who is close to being beyond hope.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

Someone whose conscience has been seared over is someone beyond hope. They have sinned so long and so defiantly that sin is a game -- nothing to be ashamed of. There is no forgiveness for someone who reaches this point.

Perhaps only the Lord knows when men have sinned defiantly, but the fact remains that some sins will not be forgiven. This should spur us on to be very, very careful with our lives and attitude.

Hebrews 4:7

⁷ again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts."

My friend, if you have not obeyed the steps of salvation which I will give in a moment, you are lost. It takes more than just being sorry for your sins. It takes more than just believing in Jesus and more than just saying a prayer. You must obey all that the Lord commanded in order to receive the salvation which He offers. If you obey only those things which **you** want then you're not doing the Lord's will at all, you're still stubbornly doing your own will! Think about this. Forget about what you think and what you feel and obey the plan of salvation outlined in the Holy Scriptures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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