

## **"BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT"**

*By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.*

In Matthew 12:22-37 we find a passage which has caused much discussion. It deals with Christ stating that one can do something which is unforgivable. Several ideas have been presented pertaining to this, such as:

- 1) This act was done by the Pharisees at that time and can not be done today.
- 2) It is the sin of rejecting the invitation of to become a Christian.
- 3) The refusal to accept miraculous works today.

The setting of this Scripture is that Jesus had just cast out a demon from a man. This was done by the power of the Spirit which He had "without limit" (John 3:34). All of the miraculous works which Jesus did (heal the diseased and crippled, raise the dead, cast out demons, etc., was for the purpose to prove His divinity (Matt. 9:6; Acts 2:22; 10:38). Thus, through His miraculous workings the Holy Spirit was giving His witness that Jesus was really the Messiah.

When the Pharisees ridiculed the miraculous works of Jesus, they were blaspheming the witness of the Holy Spirit in Him. Blasphemy is translated from a Hebrew word "NAQAB" and a Greek work "BLASPHEMIA" signifying:

- 1) The attributing some evil to God or denying Him some good that one should attribute to Him (Lev. 24:11; Rom. 2:24).
- 2) Giving the attributes of God to a creature (Matt.26:65)

Today the Holy Spirit no longer works through miraculous manifestations (I Cor. 13:10), as these have served their purpose in establishing the church. The witness of the Holy Spirit today is in the Scriptures. This is God's final revelation to mankind (II Tim. 3:16-17). God's promise of miraculous power was to the Apostles only (Acts 1:1-8), part of which was the ability to pass on a gift of the Holy Spirit to those on whom they laid hands (Acts 8:1-8), and one of the gifts enabled them to record the witness of the Holy Spirit without error for us today (John 20:30-31; 17:20; 16:13-15). This is why Paul says, "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

Since the witness of the Spirit today is through the pages of the Scriptures it is still possible to blaspheme the Spirit and the witness which He has given, just as the Pharisees in Jesus' day, by rejecting and refusing to be obedient continuously to God's Word. Such a person has denied the only means available from God whereby he can obtain a knowledge of truth, and by obedience to His Word receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). The Bible is the Word of the Spirit. To reject the Word is to reject Him (Jesus) who is the only way to salvation. Thus, this sin is unforgivable! Thus, the "Unforgivable Sin" is not a one time sin, but a continuous rejection of God's will!

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