

## CROSSING THE DEADLINE

### Matthew 12:31, 32

**Introduction:** There has been much religious discussion about the "unpardonable sin" and so forth. Let us consider the subject of the "unpardonable sin" or "waiting too long" or simply, "crossing the deadline." It is, after a great light and many calls that causes one to be left in his/her sins. Only a lost sinner who is convicted of his/her sins, who deliberately turns away from the Holy Spirit, who ignores the wooing and the calling of the Holy Spirit is capable of this "sin." Any lost sinner who has heard the Gospel, who has been deeply convicted, who has been enlightened as to his/her sin and his/her need of the Savior is in deadly danger of committing this sin of which he/she cannot be forgiven.

### I. THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN UNPARDONABLE SIN

1. In all ages God has had only one plan for His people - FAITH. By faith Abel pleased God. By faith Abraham believed in the Lord and so on through the Bible. God has never had any plan except that sinners put their trust in Him.
  - Sacrifices did not save.
  - Baptism did not save.
  - Church membership did not save.
  - Works did not save.
  - Only faith in God has ever saved anyone.
  - The Holy Spirit called Abel, Cain, Noah, the people of Noah's day. He called Moses, Pharoah and He called Paul and King Agrippa. Some followed the calling of the Holy Spirit and some did not.
2. There are millions who were called before the flood.
  - God said that His Spirit would not always strive with man.
  - The people of Noah's time were wicked yet they never said blasphemous things about God. They never did curse God. All they did was to ignore and put off the calling of the Holy Spirit.
3. After the flood, during the Old Testament times, the Bible speaks of many who crossed the deadline of mercy and that God gave them up. (*Romans 1:21-23*)
  - They knew about God but were not thankful. They gave their attention and love to some thing else. They didn't want to think of God.
  - The Bible says that "*...God gave them up...*"
  - Before the flood the Holy Spirit called and called and finally gave them up. He finally quit calling.
  - What happened in the Old Testament times? The Holy Spirit called and called and finally quit, He gave them up.
  - The people received God's gifts but were not thankful. They knew God but did not honor Him.
  - They built the tower of Babel. God finally gave them up and scattered them over the earth.

4. During the time of Jesus Christ, many crossed the deadline.
  - Time and time again Jesus preached to the Pharisees.
  - They heard Jesus, saw His miracles, were convicted of their sins, but they still rejected Him.
  - Jesus warned them that for their sin, there was no forgiveness, in this world or in the one to come. They rejected Him.
5. Every person who has heard the Gospel, who has recognized and admitted that he/she was lost, who felt the Holy Spirit at his/her heart and knew what to do to be saved and yet refused Jesus Christ is in the Greatest and Gravest danger of his/her life. If he/she keeps on putting God off too long, he/she will cross the line of no return. The Holy Spirit will leave and there will be no way for him/her to ever be saved.

## **II. OPPORTUNITY TO BE SAVED CAN PASS AWAY (Luke 19:41-42)**

1. Why did Jesus weep over these people?
  - Many of the people in that city had neglected their opportunity to be saved. Jesus had taught, He had called, but they had not received Him. They went on their sinful ways, lost and doomed.
  - Satan does not care if you come to Church and even be attentive and interested IF you will only not decide anything. If you will only put off any decisions involving Jesus.
2. In this city Jesus preached and prayed. It was where he wept and died. Many resisted and ignored His saving power and went on their way, still lost and condemned.
  - Two thousand years ago, yes, and yet the same thing is happening today. People hear the Gospel, feel the Holy Spirit at their hearts, convicted of their sins, but still turn away from the saving hand of Jesus.
  - God is never at fault. It is not God's fault if a person dies without salvation. God says:  
*"...As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live..." "...turn ye, turn ye, why will ye die?"*

## **III. THERE IS A PAST REDEMPTION POINT**

1. Do not trifle with the patience of God.
  - It is true that God is merciful and is not willing that anyone should perish.
  - However, love so merciful, so long-suffering, so sacrificial may be spurned too long. God's patience does wear out.
  - The ignored and rejected love of God, the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, the calling of the Holy Spirit, so often put off. Will God's patience last forever? NO! One day the Holy Spirit will withdraw and that person will be left to his/her eternal ruin.
  - Do not trifle with the patience of God. If you ever intend to be saved, turn to God now, before God withdraws His Holy Spirit.

2. Be saved today!

- If you can feel the Holy Spirit calling you, if your heart is about to burst, if your conscience is moved, be saved today.
- If you can feel the Holy Spirit that means that God is still there, you are still being called by the Holy Spirit and you have not crossed the deadline.
- Every pastor can tell a story how some person came to him and told about rejecting the call of the Holy Spirit for so long that finally the Holy Spirit does not speak anymore and there is nothing anymore. That person can sit through any kind of service and invitation and feel absolutely nothing. The deadline has been crossed.
- If you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, then listen, act and be saved right now.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Each time you hear the Gospel preached, each time you put God off, your feelings will become less and less interested, less and less your heart will respond.
2. The most serious thing in the world is putting away God's light and your feelings.
  - When will God's last visit be with you? This year? This month? This week? Now?
  - If you have any desire at all to be saved, act now, give yourself to Jesus.
  - Which shall your choice be? Jesus Christ or Satan?
    - Which eternal world will it be? Heaven or Hell?
  - Your very soul is at stake. Your life. Your very all. Won't you act right now?
3. Is there a Christian here who has drifted away from God? Your life is miserable, you need to come back home right now, do so now.
4. It is human nature to put things off and Satan uses our human nature to fit his purpose. He doesn't want anybody listening to God. Just think how often you listen to him and not God. Now is the time to get things right with God.