

THE UNFORGIVEN AND REPENTANCE

Various contributors

Daniel was converted to Christianity at the age of fourteen and was very keen. He was preaching within a few months. He developed an obvious and natural interest in girls and when he went to work he met affluent people, which he deemed unfair because he and his family were poor. He began to steal from his firm and, eventually, went to prison where he met some dangerous men. He had an unhappy marriage but fathered two boys. He divorced his wife and she wanted divorce as well. He then lived with another woman and they were intimate. He was very passionate and, for the first time, felt loved.

Now in his seventies, he is slowly going back in his mind to when he was an active believer. He has some life threatening health issues which he sees as a punishment for his wayward life. That may be so; we reap what we sow. A valued gospel preacher in another country died prematurely because of drug addiction before his conversion.

As for Daniel, he is a bag of nerves. If he is truly converted then he is saved for ever - but he is confusing penance with repentance. Penance is a word used by Catholics to mean repentance and is a "sacrament". A penance could be determined by the priest and an assigned penance is called an expiation. In other words, a payment or action of some sort must be made. A penance is supposed to be an atonement and reparation, but no-one can make reparation for what he has done in a way that satisfies God. Christ alone is the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10).

Repentance is turning from evil and from what is wrong to that which is good. It is a change of heart and a sincere attitude of remorse and involves confession, owning up and admitting to the wrong doing (Acts 20:21, Romans 10:9, 1 John 1:9).

Forgiveness by God is the first issue. However, a person's sins may still have natural and lasting consequences for him and for those he or she has wronged. For example, if a girl is raped and becomes pregnant, the wrongs can have a lasting effect for her and for the attacker. The attack continues to haunt the victim, who may well have mental health issues to contend with, and perhaps be scared for life. If a rapist is found and proven guilty, then justice must be done as the law provides.

How some girls dress is likely to cause sexual attacks but that is no defence.

King David saw Bathsheba taking a bath. It was not her fault. It was David's fault. He 'arranged' for her husband to die in battle. David married Bathsheba and their son, Solomon, turned out to be evil, a serial idolator and adulterer (1 Kings 11:6) and still people claim that Solomon is a type of Christ!

There have been many cases in recent years of attractive young women being raped and murdered and many of them were wearing mini skirts at the time. On the internet, many said that wearing these skirts may be unwise particularly around men who have no self control.

There is sound advice for the new Christian. The men have to give up girlie magazines, drugs, loutish behaviour and bad language and the girl is not to worship that attractive man in the Christian band and be modest, and not vain,

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 list those who will not enter heaven. They are:

* fornicators, those who have sex outside of marriage,

- * idolators, those who worship idols
- * adulterers, sexual intercourse between a couple who have their own spouses,
- * effeminate, those men who act in feminine ways, unmanly,
- * men who abuse themselves with other men, homosexuals,
- * thieves, covetous, those who go after wealth, power and possessions,
- * drunkards, those who abuse alcohol,
- * revilers, those who have abusive lifestyle and/or bad language,
- * extortioners, those who extract money and property by force or threats.

These people will not enter heaven and are unforgiven by God. However, if they truly repent and change their life style, they can be forgiven and be counted among the redeemed (1 Corinthians 6:11).

Sadly , there are Christians who state that homosexuality does not refer to those in a stable and loving gay relationship and that same sex marriage is a good thing, but these views are contrary to the Scriptures such as Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9. If we are to doubt or contradict these Scriptures it leaves the door open to the possible rejection of other Scriptures, and Revelation 22:18 tells us that we must not add to or subtract from the Scriptures. Those who distort Scriptures will be subject to the plagues in the book of Revelation and will not enter the holy city .

Sin is the transgression of God's law. God will punish the wicked. See Psalm 11:5, Romans 3:10 and 3:19, Romans 6:23, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Revelation 22:15 etc.

There is the unforgivable sin, sometimes called the unpardonable sin, which is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit which the Gospels mention as accusing Christ and His miracles of being attributable to the power of Beelzebub, and saying that the Lord was possessed of an unclean spirit. It also denies the Deity and Sovereignty of the Lord (see Matthew 12:22-30, and Mark 3:22-30). Therefore, this unforgivable sin is not some enormous sin of commission or wrong-doing, but simply the refusal of what the Holy Spirit has made known through Christ and the Word of God. Today, it is rejection of the Holy Spirit's testimony through God's word, the Bible.

All atheists are guilty of the unpardonable sin in refusing the Lord and His Deity.

(985)

© COPYRIGHT CHRISTIAN-MORAL.NET 2017. No part of this article, however small, may be reproduced or stored in any system whatsoever. It must not be copied, altered or downloaded. Failure to comply is illegal being theft and contrary to International Copyright law and will render any offender liable to action at law.

CM17-20