

LIFE QUESTIONS



The Unpardonable Sin

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Many believers live in fear that they have committed the unpardonable sin, because they don't understand what the Bible teaches on the subject. If you are in such a position, I want to assure you that you have not committed the unpardonable sin no matter what you may have done!

The unpardonable sin or blaspheming against the Holy Spirit is not the result of something you have said or done before you surrendered your life to Christ or since making this important decision. Rather, it is the result of a person continually ignoring and rejecting the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who wants them to know that Jesus is God and their only Saviour and to make them aware of what He has done for them. If a person keeps doing this until their death, there is no way such a person can ever know God's great salvation.

Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus, God's Son paid the price for the salvation of the world by dying on a cross for the sins of humankind. At the start of His ministry, John the Baptist said of Jesus, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn 1:29 NIVUK). Then in 1 John 2:2 we read, "He (*Jesus*) is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" (NIVUK). In both these instances, the world refers to everyone, not just believers. The apostle Paul supports this when he says, "that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them" (2 Cor 5:17 NIVUK). Here Paul wanted his readers to grasp that Jesus' sacrifice had paid the price for the sins of the world, past, present and future! No longer could humankind's sin be the problem that kept us separate from God. For, Jesus Christ had taken upon Himself all the wrath of God against sin. Now all that was necessary, was for humankind to accept that Jesus Christ, God's Son had paid the full price for humankind's salvation.

What about hell? Does this mean that people won't go to hell? Certainly not! People go to hell after they die, not because of their sin, but because they have chosen not to accept or have refused God's only way of salvation. For such individuals, there is now no way for them to be reconciled to God, or to go to spend eternity with Him and all who have accepted Jesus Christ as God's only way of salvation!