

Is There A Sin That Shall Never Be Forgiven?

A tentative response by Gerry Beauchemin 10/12/2015

"Every sin and blasphemy **will be forgiven**, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not....either in this age nor in the **age to come** (Mt. 12:31–32; Mk. 3:29–30).

“Whosoever shall revile against the Holy Spirit, hath no forgiveness, unto times age-abiding,—but is guilty of an age-abiding sin’: because they were saying—‘An impure spirit, he hath!’ (Mk. 3:28–30 ROTH).

This is saying that every sin and blasphemy (but one) will be forgiven at some point, either in this age or in one to come. Think carefully about what this means. If all sins but one will be forgiven, then we can all have assurance of forgiveness and salvation beyond death and hell if we have not blasphemed the Spirit. If not, what is the point of singling out this one sin as an exception? Think about it.

This is further proof why death and judgment then, cannot be a barrier to God's forgiveness. Having said that, let us now consider the significance of the sin of blasphemy against the Spirit. Why is it the one sin that cannot be forgiven for the two ages mentioned?

One reason might be: How can we receive our Lord's forgiveness so long as we think that He is a mere human with an impure spirit or possessed by a demon? We would think Jesus has no true divine power to forgive and thus we would be impeded from trusting in Him for forgiveness.

So, in the meanwhile, it seems that this false assessment of Christ, due to His true Divinity, at its core, is in some sense, "blasphemous." But I don't understand why since those guilty of it cannot help it since they are blinded from perceiving who Jesus really is. Jesus said no one can come to Him unless the Father draws them. So if the Father does not draw someone, are they truly guilty? What do you say?

In some future age, beyond those Jesus alludes to, the veil from all faces concerning Jesus' identity will be lifted. So I don't see how it will then be possible for a spirit of blasphemy to continue existing.

4. Because a particular sin will not be forgiven at a given time does not require that the penalty be infinite. God's justice in judgment does not change! (Mal. 3:6). All judgment is measured and with a purpose. Either a just penalty will be exacted (He.

2:2) or its forgiveness must await a subsequent age. Scripture alludes to more than just one age to come (Ep. 2:7). We can rest assured that the Father's chastising penalty for this sin will be just, righteous and in character with His loving heart for all.

5. The word "never" is not an accurate translation of the Greek "ou." YLT reads, "... hath not forgiveness to the age." Most Bible translators, having a predisposed eternal punishment mindset, naturally understand the Greek word "ou" Strong's #3756 ("not") to really mean "never" in this context. I cannot blame them. But "never" is not the literal translation.

YLT states: "... hath not forgiveness—to the age [*aiōn*], but is in danger of age—during [*aiōnios*] judgment (Mk 3:29–30)."

The REB: "...hath no forgiveness unto times age—abiding."

The JMT: "...continues not having a release on into the Age."

The CLT: "...is having no pardon for the eon."

The ABP: "...has not forgiveness into the eon."

The Online Interlinear: "...not is—having pardon into the eon." (1)

The 2001T Gk Interlinear: "...won't be forgiven through the age." (2)

Ou is used 1,537 times in the NT. The KJV translates it:

"not" (1,210x)

no (147x)

cannot (with G1410) (57x)

misc (123x)

Do the math: "not," "no" and "cannot" make up 92% of uses. (3)

And, based on the evidence in "Hope for All" (Greek Terms Affirm Hope), concerning the Greek word *aiōnios*, I do not see how "never" could have been in the Gospel writer's mind.

(1) www.Scripture4all.org

(2) www.2001translation.com

(3) <http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G3756&t=NKJV>