## **RESOURCE NOTES & LINKS** Understanding the Sin that Leads to Death

Note: this resource contains excerpts from many different sermons and will serve as a comprehensive resource for you to learn and understand what the Scriptures refer to as the "Unpardonable Sin". It contains many cross reference links to notes and videos that will help you better understand this difficult topic. Because these are notes drawn together from multiple teachings, you will undoubtedly see that there is some repetition. I purposely left those notes intact as oftentimes repetition makes for better learning.

Dr. Jeff

## NO EXCUSES: [See <u>Inexcusable</u>]

- 1. Ignorance is definitely NOT Bliss
  - A. Excuses are NOT Protection
    - (1) No Excuses
      - (a) Truth Suppression: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in

**unrighteousness**, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." Romans 1:18-25 NKJV

- "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8 NKJV
- (2) For that reason...

- (a) God gave them over... "For this reason God gave them **up** to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evilmindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them." Romans 1:26-32 NKJV
- (3) Therefore you are Inexcusable!
  - (a) Hypocrisy is inexcusable! "Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in

whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you **who judge practice the same things.** But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?" Romans 2:1-3 NKJV

- (4) Or do you think that God will not judge accordingly...
  - (a) The righteous judgment of God, "will render to each one according to his deeds... "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds":" Romans 2:4-6 NKJV
- (5) You will get what's coming!
  - (a) There is no partiality with God—everyone will get what they deserve if they turn away from the truth...
    "eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the

**truth**, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For **there is no partiality with God**." Romans 2:7-11 NKJV

- (6) Ignorance of the Law does does not give you a pass!
  - (a) The doers of the law will be justified... "For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;" Romans 2:12-13 NKJV

#### B. Ignorance is NOT Bliss!

- (1) Unintentional sin still confers guilt!
  - (a) Unintentional sin against any of the commandments of the Lord still brings guilt! ""Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If a person sins unintentionally against any of the commandments of the Lord in anything which ought not to be done, and does any of them, if the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, then let him offer to the Lord for his sin which he has sinned a young bull without blemish as a sin offering...

## 'Now if the whole congregation of Israel sins unintentionally, and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done something against any of the commandments of the Lord in anything which should not be done, <u>and are guilty</u>;... 'When a ruler has sinned, and done something unintentionally against any of the commandments of the Lord his God in anything which should not be done, <u>and is guilty</u>, 'If anyone of the common people sins unintentionally by doing something against any of the commandments of the Lord in anything which ought not to be done, <u>and is</u> guilty," Leviticus 4:2-3, 13, 22, 27 NKJV

- Guilty even if you didn't know! ""If a person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the Lord, though he does not know it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity." Leviticus 5:17 NKJV
- Atonement necessary even for ignorance! "And he shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering.
   So the priest shall make atonement for him regarding his ignorance in which he erred and did not know it, and it shall be forgiven him. It is a

trespass offering; he has certainly trespassed against the Lord."" Leviticus 5:18-19 NKJV

- (2) Ignorance ain't all it's cracked up to be!
  - (a) If you want to stay ignorant to God's commands, go ahead; it's your choice! "If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant." I Corinthians 14:37-38 NKJV
    - 1. "I did not know" is no excuse! "And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." Luke 12:47-48 NKJV
    - 2. The old life is marked by ignorance! "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in

your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."" I Peter 1:13-16 NKJV

## C. Grace is NOT an Excuse!

- (1) My badness makes God look better, no?
  - (a) Let us do evil that good may result! "But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? Someone might argue, "If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?" Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say—"Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is just!" Romans 3:5-8
    - All I need is faith, no? "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Romans 3:31 NKJV
    - My sin increases grace, no? "Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as

sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:20-21 NKJV

3. I can keep sinning and grace will keep gracing, no? "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? <u>Certainly not!</u> How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" Romans 6:1-2 NKJV

## D. Willful Sin is NOT Forgivable

- (1) What could you possibly do that Yahweh would never forgive? Answer: Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit; Grieving the Holy Spirit; Insulting the Holy Spirit
  - (a) Mark: "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation" — because they said, "He has an unclean spirit."" Mark 3:28-30 NKJV
  - (b) Matthew: "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.
    "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word

against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; **but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him,** either in this age or in the age to come." Matthew 12:30-32 NKJV

- (c) John—Don't bother praying about that: "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death." I John 5:16-17 NKJV
- (d) **Paul—Grieving the Holy Spirit:** "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:29-32 NKJV
- (e) Hebrews—Do no insult the Spirit of grace: "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. **Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of \*two or three witnesses.** Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and **insulted the Spirit of grace**? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:26-31 NKJV

- (f) Look at these two categories of people: Believers with bad doctrine and Non-believers who think they are believers AND NEVER WERE!
  - 1) Believers with Bad Doctrine: ""Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall

**be called least in the kingdom of heaven**; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:17-19 NKJV

2) Non-believers who think they are believers AND NEVER WERE: "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to **destruction**, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in

Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Matthew 7:13-23 NKJV

- 3) The were NEVER one of us! "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us." I John 2:19 NKJV
- 4) They were NEVER "enlightened": "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame." Hebrews 6:4-6 NKJV

## E. <u>Hiding is NOT an Option</u>

- (1) Conviction
  - (a) No one can hide! "Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the <u>word of God is living and</u>

powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and <u>is a discerner of the thoughts</u> <u>and intents of the heart.</u> And there is **no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him** to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:11-13 NKJV

- (2) His Word will not return void!
  - (a) What Yahweh says will happen! ""For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:8-11 NKJV

## F. Immaturity is NOT Acceptable

(1) Solid Food

- (a) Those who are mature vs. Unskilled in the word of righteousness! "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." Hebrews 5:12-14 NKJV
- (2) Leaving behind elemental matters...
  - (a) It's impossible for those who seem to have fallen away to have ever been enlightened as partakers in the Holy Spirit! "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the

powers of the age to come, **if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance**, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame." Hebrews 6:1-6 NKJV

## G. Flesh vs. Spirit

- (1) Paul's Soliloquy
  - (a) **To sin or not to sin!** "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the **Spirit**. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So

then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. **But** you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. **But if the Spirit of Him** who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." Romans 8:1-13 NKJV

- (2) It is through great trials...
  - (a) The Kingdom is at the end of our suffering! "And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."" Acts 14:21-22 NKJV
- (3) I no longer live...

- (a) The Life I now live, I live by the Spirit! "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20 NKJV
- (4) To live is Christ to die is gain
  - (a) **To be or not to be!** "For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again." Philippians 1:19-26 NKJV

(5) Hamlet's Soliloquy: (from *Hamlet*) BY <u>WILLIAM</u><u>SHAKESPEARE</u> (through the eyes of Paul!)

To be, or not to be, that is the question: Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, Or to take arms against a sea of troubles And by opposing end them.

[The choice to live or die; however, the real choice is to live by the flesh or live by the Spirit.]

To die—to sleep,

No more; and by a sleep to say we end The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation Devoutly to be wish'd.

[I am desperate to end this human struggle, this wrestling with my sin nature. I would be better off dead than to continue in this turmoil.]

To die, to sleep;

To sleep, perchance to dream—ay, there's the rub: For in that sleep of death what dreams may come, When we have shuffled off this mortal coil, Must give us pause

## [The single greatest conflict for Hamlet and, by extension, all of mankind, is not understanding how death of the flesh brings life in the Spirit.]

-there's the respect

That makes calamity of so long life.

[Because I don't really understand the benefit of surrendering this life, I must go on living it because the alternative seems like death!]

## H. <u>Understanding Forgiveness and Your New Nature—Going</u> <u>Back will NOT End Well</u>

- (1) He will cast your sins far way...
  - (a) He will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea!
    "Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?
    He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins
    Into the depths of the sea. You will give truth to Jacob And mercy to Abraham, Which You have sworn to our fathers From days of old." Micah 7:18-20 NKJV
- (2) Don't get entangled with sin...
  - (a) **Don't get ensnared with sin!** "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let**

us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

- (3) Don't forget! Your sins are in the past! Leave them there!
  - (a) Forgiven means forgiven, don't forget that! "For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins." II Peter 1:9 NKJV
    - I highly recommend you review the teachings on II Peter 1:5-15 here:
      - a) <u>The Path to the Divine Nature—Foundational</u> <u>Teaching</u>
      - b) <u>The Path to the Divine Nature—Scripture</u> <u>Resources</u>
      - c) <u>Enough Already!</u>
  - (b) **As far as East is from West vs. North South:** "For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; **As far as the east is from**

# the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us." Psalms 103:11-12 NKJV

- (c) Forgetting the past "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14 NKJV
- (d) He keeps no records of wrongs "If You, Lord, should mark [keep a record of sins] iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared." Psalms 130:3-4 NKJV
- (e) You keep no records of wrongs "does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil [keeps no record of wrongs];" I Corinthians 13:5 NKJV
- (4) The latter end is worse for them than the beginning
  - (a) Once forgiven, if you go back to your sins, it is worse than had you never been forgiven in the first place!
     "For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the

beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," [*Proverbs 26:11*] and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."" II Peter 2:20-22 NKJV

- (5) In the Struggle—the conclusion to come to!
  - (a) **Don't identify your sin as if it is you!** "For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in **me.** I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law

in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin." Romans 7:14-25 NKJV

#### THE SOBERING TRUTH

## 2. I can go after other gods and Yahweh will bless me anyway

- A. <u>Heart Blindness</u>
  - (1) I will bless myself anyway!
    - (a) "so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart'— as though the drunkard could be included with the sober." Deuteronomy 29:18-19 NKJV

- (2) The deception of thinking Yahweh will accept you even while you violate Him! (Having peace about it in your own heart!)
  - (a) ""You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts." Malachi 1:7-9 NKJV
  - (b) "You have wearied the LORD with your words; Yet you say, "In what way have we wearied Him? " In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, And He delights in them," Or, "Where is the God of justice?"" Malachi 2:17 NKJV
  - (c) ""Your words have been harsh against Me," Says the LORD, "Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?' You have said, 'It is useless to serve God; What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, And that we

have walked as mourners Before the LORD of hosts?" Malachi 3:13-14 NKJV

- (3) What happens if you follow the dictates of your own heart and go after other gods?
  - (a) **"The LORD would not spare him;** for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, **and the LORD would blot out his name from under heaven.** And the LORD would separate him from all the tribes of Israel for adversity, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this Book of the Law," Deuteronomy 29:20-21 NKJV
  - (b) What precedes this abomination in verse 18 is the warning to not turn your heart toward the worship of foreign gods which is the equivalent of swallowing a deadly poison; what follows in verse 20 is WHY the poison results in death.
  - (c) The NIV says it this way: "The Lord will never be willing to forgive them; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. All the curses written in this book will fall on them, and the Lord will blot out their names from under heaven." Deuteronomy 29:20 NIV

- B. <u>What could you possibly do that Yahweh would never</u> <u>forgive?</u>
  - (1) Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit; Grieving the Holy Spirit; Insulting the Holy Spirit
    - (a) Mark: "Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation" — because they said, "He has an unclean spirit."" Mark 3:28-30 NKJV
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      "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come." Matthew 12:30-32 NKJV
    - (c) John—Don't bother praying about that: "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to

death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death."I John 5:16-17 NKJV

- (d) **Paul—Grieving the Holy Spirit:** "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:29-32 NKJV
- (e) Hebrews—Do no insult the Spirit of grace: "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of \*two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of

grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:26-31 NKJV (\*Who are the witnesses: see Section 5 in these notes—Two Witnesses: A Song and a Scroll)

- (f) Look at these two categories of people: Believers with bad doctrine and Non-believers who think they are believers AND NEVER WERE!
  - Believers with Bad Doctrine: ""Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:17-19 NKJV
  - Non-believers who think they are believers AND
     NEVER WERE: "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to

**destruction**, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" Matthew 7:13-23 NKJV

3) The were NEVER one of us! "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that **none of them were of us.**" I John 2:19 NKJV

4) They were NEVER "enlightened": "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame." Hebrews 6:4-6 NKJV

## C. Why has the Lord done this?

- (1) The Common Denominator: serving other gods and insisting that Yahweh will be okay with it!
  - (a) "All nations would say, 'Why has the LORD done so to this land? What does the heat of this great anger mean?' Then people would say: 'Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt; for they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods that they did not know and that He had not given to them." Deuteronomy 29:24-26 NKJV

- 1. Summary of the Sobering Truth:
- 2. There is a sin witnessed in the Torah and the Prophets in which the heart of a rebellious people goes too far, even for Yahweh.
- 3. That sin looks like this; "I can do whatever I want, even go after other gods, and even be warned that I am about to cross the point of no return, and still act as if Yahweh will bless me anyway."
- 4. There is a sin that Yahweh Himself considers unforgivable. And Y'shua, John and Paul all expose this sin in the New Testament—Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
- 5. There are some who believe they are in the family of God but they are NOT: How do you recognize them?

## THE SEARED CONSCIENCE [See Darkness You Can Feel]

## 3. The Nail in the Coffin

## A. <u>The Seared Conscience</u>

- (1) Evil thoughts and intents
  - (a) "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5 NKJV

- (2) The defiled conscience
  - (a) "To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled." Titus 1:15 NKJV
- (3) Blindness of the heart
  - (a) "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the **futility of their mind**, having their **understanding darkened**, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the **blindness of their heart**; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." Ephesians 4:17-19 NKJV
- (4) The seared conscience
  - (a) "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron," I Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV
- (5) How did this play out in the life of Pharaoh? Before the first plague~
  - (a) "And **Pharaoh's heart grew hard**, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said." Exodus 7:13 NKJV

- (6) Pharaoh's Pride
  - (a) "So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me." Exodus 10:3 NKJV
  - (b) The King Admits he has sinned after the Locusts—but still can't repent: "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only." So he went out from Pharaoh and entreated the LORD." Exodus 10:16-18 NKJV

## B. The Prophetic Moment

- (1) Killed by his own words! Because of the Plague of Darkness
  - (a) "But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go. Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! For in the day you see my face you shall die!" So Moses said, "You have spoken well. I will never see your face again."" Exodus 10:27-29 NKJV

- (2) Prophetic Pattern: the wicked will die by their own schemes!
  - (a) "So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided." Esther 7:10 NKJV
  - (b) "The wicked have drawn the sword And have bent their bow, To cast down the poor and needy, To slay those who are of upright conduct. Their sword shall enter their own heart, And their bows shall be broken." Psalms 37:14-15 NKJV
- (3) Death of the firstborn announced
  - (a) "Then Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals. Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.'" Exodus 11:4-7 NKJV

- (b) PRIDE CONTINUES: Even after the threat of the death of the firstborn, the seared conscience cannot change.
   Pharaoh literally has LOST THE CAPACITY to truly repent: "But the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."" Exodus 11:9 NKJV
- (4) Death of the firstborn Fulfilled
  - (a) "And it came to pass at midnight **that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt**, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; **and there was a great cry in Egypt,** for there was not a house where there was not one dead." Exodus 12:29-30 NKJV

## Summary: THE SEARED CONSCIENCE

- The seared conscience is the final nail in the coffin—no turning back. The moment when you literally LOSE THE CAPACITY to truly repent!
- 2. It is a defiled conscience, a permanently blind heart.
- 3. It simply will not humble itself even when it is sure it is wrong!
- 4. All that it declares will be used against itself.
# **THE POINT OF NO RETURN:** [See KEM Sermon <u>The Sin that Lead</u> to <u>Death</u>]

## 4. The Oft Taboo Topic: Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

## A. Let the Journey Begin—from "many chances" to "too late"

- (1) Becoming an Enemy of God
  - (a) If you study all the plagues of Egypt you will notice that there are certain nuances.
    - 1. **From Israel's perspective:** Some have built in protections, some would never affect them, some in which they could be protected, yet they needed to do something.
    - 2. From Pharaoh and Egypt's perspective: Some he ignored, some he repented and asked for prayer, and in one was given no option to repent—darkness, which led to Pharaoh's prophetic declaration against himself—death!
- (2) The darkness was symbolic of a seared conscience!
  - (a) For a complete teaching on this subject: See <u>Darkness</u> <u>You Can Feel</u>

- B. <u>The step-by-step path to the "Sin that leads to death!"</u> <u>Pharaoh's journey into darkness—a path you don't want to</u> <u>take!</u>
  - (1) It starts off like this with Moses' first encounter with Pharaoh...I don't know your God!
    - (a) "And Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go."" Exodus 5:2 NKJV
    - (b) As you will see, it is not possible to commit the "sin the leads to death" if you don't first "know Yahweh." Of course it is bad to "not know Yahweh," yet it is not irredeemable.
  - (2) By the time we get to the second plague, frogs (swamp creatures), Pharaoh begins to acknowledge that Yahweh is God—this will later leave him with no excuse!
    - (a) "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Entreat the LORD that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD." And Moses said to Pharaoh, "Accept the honor of saying when I shall intercede for you, for your servants, and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses, that they may remain in the river only." So he said,

"Tomorrow." And he said, "Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God." Exodus 8:8-10 NKJV

- (3) Even his own spiritual advisors inform him that this is the true God during the third plague—Lice
  - (a) "Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said." Exodus 8:19
     NKJV
- (4) He is the Lord, but He's your Lord...the fourth Plague— Flies
  - (a) "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said,
    "Go, sacrifice to your God in the land."... So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the
    LORD your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me."" Exodus 8:25, 28
    NKJV
- (5) The home stretch to the point of no return—after the seventh plague of Fiery Hail: "I'm a sinner; Yahweh is righteous; pray for me."
  - (a) "And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked. Entreat the

**LORD**, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."" Exodus 9:27-28 NKJV

- (6) Pharaoh is right on the edge by the eight plague—Locusts: look closely at his final decent into total darkness.
  - (a) How long will you refuse to humble yourself? "So
    Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him,
    "Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me." Exodus 10:3 NKJV
  - (b) Pharaoh even received a final warning from within his own camp: Don't you see? "Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to us?
    Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?"" Exodus 10:7 NKJV
  - (c) Pharaoh's FINAL shot at repentance; is it real; will it stick? "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only."" Exodus 10:16-17 NKJV

- It is beyond doubt at this point that Pharaoh has gone from "Who is the LORD...I do not know the LORD" in Exodus 5:2 to "I have sinned against Yahweh; He is God; please forgive my sin; Pray to Yahweh for me to take away from me this death."
- 2. As we will see later in this Section of Notes, "THE POINT OF NO RETURN", for the unpardonable sin, the sin that leads to death, to be committed, the offender **must first acknowledge that Yahweh is the one true God, and then turn away!**
- (7) Then Darkness Descends over Egypt (Pharaoh). He can no longer repent as a response to God's chastisement. Instead, his fate is sealed by his own words.
  - (a) "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt."... Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! For in the day you see my face you shall die!"" Exodus 10:21, 28 NKJV
  - (b) "So Moses said, "You have spoken well. I will never see your face again."" Exodus 10:29 NKJV
- (8) Before the Death of the Firstborn, Pharaoh will not, CANNOT, turn back!

- (a) "But the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."" Exodus 11:9 NKJV
- (9) Death has come
  - (a) "And it came to pass at midnight that **the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne** to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock. So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not one dead." Exodus 12:29-30 NKJV

(10) So go!

- (a) "Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said,
  "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said." Exodus 12:31 NKJV
- (11) Even after all this, because Pharaoh no longer has any capacity (possibility) to repent, he displays total and complete obstinance toward the one TRUE GOD
  - (a) "Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am

the LORD." And they did so. Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, **and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people**; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"" Exodus 14:4-5 NKJV

(12) The set-up for the final defeat of God's enemies

- (a) "And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over
  Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the
  LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over
  Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."" Exodus
  14:17-18 NKJV
- (13) The end is total destruction of God's enemies and deliverance of His people
  - (a) "Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Exodus 14:28-29 NKJV

#### (14) FINAL OUTCOME: Witness, Reverence, Faith!

(a) "Thus Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses." Exodus 14:31 NKJV

#### C. <u>The decent into Total Darkness in a nutshell!</u>

- (1) Who better than Paul could describe such?
  - (a) "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as <u>**God**</u>, nor were thankful, but became **futile in their** thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor

their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile **passions.** For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, **haters of God**, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them." Romans 1:18-32 **NKJV** 

- No excuses: punishment is coming—you have met all the legal requirements to commit "the sin that leads to death."
- 2. They knew God
- 3. They entertained futile thoughts
- 4. Their foolish hearts become **dark**
- 5. They are given over to lusts and vile passions
- 6. Why? Because **they knew God but don't retain God** in their knowledge (like we just saw with Pharaoh)
- 7. God then gives them over to a debased mind
- They become dreadful as they practice all sorts of sin —They HATE GOD!
- 9. And in the END, the righteous judgment of God is that those who practice such things are put to death.

# D. From the point of no return of Pharaoh to Blasphemy of the Holy Spirt in the New Testament

- (1) Grieving the Holy Spirit
  - (a) "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30 NKJV
- (2) Blasphemy against the Spirit
  - (a) "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the **blasphemy against the Spirit** <u>will</u>

not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come." Matthew 12:31-32 NKJV

- Context: Attributing Yahweh's qualities to another "god". This is important to recognize when we study the same pattern in Deuteronomy and Joshua below.
- 2. "Then one was brought to Him who was demonpossessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the **demons.**" But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. **But if I cast out**

demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad." Matthew 12:22-30 NKJV [See Mark 3:20-30]

- (3) Luke's perspective:
  - (a) "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. "And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven. "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." Luke 12:8-12 NKJV

#### E. The Sin that Leads to Death!

(1) There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that (v. 16)

- (a) "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death." I John 5:14-17 NKJV
- (2) The opposite of the sin that leads to death—Truly Knowing Him
  - (a) "We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." I John 5:18-20 NKJV

## F. <u>What leads to the unforgivable sin according to Moses?</u> <u>Notice the same pattern!</u>

- (1) The choice—the offer of relationship
  - (a) "All of you stand today before the LORD your God: your leaders and your tribes and your elders and your officers, all the men of Israel, your little ones and your wives—also the stranger who is in your camp, from the one who cuts your wood to the one who draws your water— that you may enter into covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath, which the LORD your God makes with you today, that He may establish you today as a people for Himself, and that He may be God to you, just as He has spoken to you, and just as He has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Deuteronomy 29:10-13 NKJV
- (2) Take note: this offer is not only for them...
  - (a) "I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone, but with him who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today" Deuteronomy 29:14-15 NKJV
  - (b) Y'shua and Paul both understand our connection to"back then" and into the "future":
    - "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into

Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. **Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted**." I Corinthians 10:1-6 NKJV

- "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;" John 17:20 NKJV
- (3) And you clearly KNOW what it means to worship false gods!
  - (a) "(for you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by, and **you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them**—wood and stone and silver and gold); so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a

root bearing bitterness or wormwood;" Deuteronomy 29:16-18 NKJV

- (4) Here's the turn—You, ON PURPOSE, choose to STILL go after false gods, after knowing the TRUE God, and believe it is OK and that Yahweh will STILL BLESS YOU...
  - (a) "And so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart'— as though the drunkard could be included with the sober." Deuteronomy 29:19 NKJV
- (5) If you do so, Yahweh will never be willing to forgive you!
  - (a) "The LORD <u>would not spare him</u>; for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is <u>written in this book would</u> <u>settle on him</u> [see Section 5 below on Decisive Victory, Deuteronomy 28], and the LORD would blot out his name from under heaven." Deuteronomy 29:20 NKJV
  - (b) NIV says it more clearly—"The Lord will <u>never be</u> willing to forgive them; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. <u>All the curses written in this book will</u> <u>fall on them</u> [see Section 5 below on Decisive Victory, Deuteronomy 28], and the Lord will blot out their names from under heaven." Deuteronomy 29:20 NIV

#### G. <u>What leads to the unforgivable sin according to Joshua?</u>

- (1) The Choice—there is clear moment of choice
  - (a) "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."" Joshua 24:14-15 NKJV
- (2) Okay—so you are completely aware of your choice—and you have chosen to serve Yahweh and forsake foreign gods
  - (a) "So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the

Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God." Joshua 24:16-18 NKJV

- (3) If you go back to foreign gods He WILL NOT forgive you!
  - (a) "But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; <u>He</u> will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good." Joshua 24:19-20 NKJV
- (4) You've chosen Yahweh, now you are a witness against yourself! (In modern terms, "Don't call yourself a Christian and then follow the dictates of another god!")
  - (a) "And the people said to Joshua, 'No, but we will serve the LORD!' So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses!"" Joshua 24:21-22 NKJV
- (5) Signed, Sealed and Delivered—You cannot turn back without unforgivable consequences!
  - (a) "Now therefore, he said, 'put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel." And the people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we

will obey!" So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem. Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. And Joshua said to all the people, "**Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us,** for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God."" Joshua 24:23-27 NKJV

(b) Now these words in Hebrews make so much sense!

1. "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the <u>adversaries</u>. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,"

says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:26-31 NKJV

- (c) Vengeance is His! This idea comes from the song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32. Can you recognize the same pattern of those who become Yahweh's adversaries?
  - "They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation...They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear...' Is this not laid up in store with Me, Sealed up among My treasures?
     Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.'" Deuteronomy 32:5, 16-17, 34-35 NKJV

# H. <u>What do think is in store for people like this and his</u> <u>associates?</u>

- (1) Quick reminder of what you just read...
  - (a) And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the LORD!" So Joshua said to the people, "You are

witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses!" Joshua 24:21-22 NKJV

- (b) You've voluntarily chosen the God of the Bible—Yahweh and His Son—by swearing an oath to Him with your hand on that Bible— so, now you are a witness against yourself!
- (c) In modern terms, "You identify yourself as a Christian, a follower of Christ and His Father." What will happen if you then choose to follow the dictates of your own heart and to go after other gods?
- (2) Has a world leader done this in front of our very eyes?
  - (a) Excerpts from the transcript of the recent inauguration speech given by Joe Biden after he swore oaths on the Judeo-Christian Holy Bible!
    - "Many centuries ago, Saint Augustine, a saint of my church, wrote that a people was a multitude defined by the common objects of their love."
    - 2. *"I promise you this: as the Bible says* weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning."
    - 3. "Before God and all of you I give you my word."
    - 4. "And, this is certain. We will be judged, you and I, for how we resolve the cascading crises of our era".

- 1. Reminiscent of Joshua's words: "You are witnesses against yourselves," and Pharaoh's words threatening Moses, words which were a curse to himself... "For in the day you see my face you shall die!" The next time Pharaoh saw Moses was after the death he threatened Moses with had enveloped all of Egypt, including his own household.
- (3) What evidence do we have that he has tuned his back on Yahweh and Y'shua, and the very Bible he placed his hand upon?
  - (a) **The Bible Says:** There is a man, a woman; marriage is the sacred union between a man and a woman; and that the fruit of this union is children. This human family is the express image of Yahweh (the Trinity).
  - (b) **Joe Biden's Beliefs:** There is no distinctive truth that there is a man or a woman, nor that marriage is between a man and a woman, nor is there any sanctity of life of the unborn! In other words *"Yahweh is not the only true God, I have another version, even while I swear to Him!"*
  - (c) Can you see that he has forsaken the One True God who he claims to serve and has, instead, gone after another god?

- (d) A decisive punishment is coming upon him! So, what is the penalty for this sin! I will NEVER FORGIVE YOU! He has committed the sin that leads to death! Don't pray for him!
  - "And so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart'— as though the drunkard could be included with the sober." Deuteronomy 29:19 NKJV
  - "The Lord will never be willing to forgive them; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. <u>All the curses</u> written in this book will fall on them [see Section 5 below on Decisive Victory, Deuteronomy 28], and the Lord will blot out their names from under heaven." Deuteronomy 29:20 NIV
  - 3. "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death.
    There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death." I John 5:16-17 NKJV

## I. <u>Do think this kind of decisive punishment did not happen in</u> <u>the New Testament? (See: Fire, Worms & Warring Angels)</u>

- (4) Sudden, Total, and decisive Judgment of God's enemies!
  - (a) "Now Herod had been very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; but they came to him with one accord, and having made Blastus the king's personal aide their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was supplied with food by the king's country. So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died. <u>But the word</u> of God grew and multiplied." Acts 12:20-24 NKJV
- (5) Ananias and Sapphira: You Lied to the Holy Spirit— Blasphemy!
  - (a) "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the

land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Then immediately she fell down at his feet and **breathed her last.** And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things." Acts 5:1-11 NKJV

### Summary: The Point of No Return

- There is one sin that leads to death 100% of the time, as it is the sin from which the perpetrator cannot repent: Y'shua called it Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
- 2. To understand what that really means, we must venture back into the Old Testament.
- 3. If I were to sum it up in a formula it would look like this: A conscious acknowledgement of who is the one true God + the conscious and willing decision to follow Him and forsake all foreign gods + the purposeful and conscious decision to return to the worship of false gods + the belief that it is perfectly fine to do so and that Yahweh will do nothing about it.
- 4. We can see the pattern in the life of Pharaoh as he progressed through the stages: first not knowing anything about Yahweh, to belief that Yahweh is real, to the point that he acknowledges his sin, repents and asks for prayer. And then he goes back to the deepest place of darkness.
- 5. We see this same warning later from both Moses and Joshua, both ending with people willfully going back to foreign gods with the arrogant belief that Yahweh will simply overlook it and even bless them anyway.
- 6. Paul does an excellent job summing up the decent into this depravity in Romans Chapter One.

- 7. In the New Testament, John calls it "The Sin that Leads to Death" and teaches us that there is no need to pray for those who have crossed that line!
- 8. We also see the consequences of such playing out in the New Testament. There is no better demonstration of this than in the deaths of Ananias and his wife Sapphira in Acts Chapter Five.
- 9. And now we should look at some of our new world leaders and ask ourselves, "Have they crossed this line when they placed their hands on the Bible and swore to God, while at the same time upholding the beliefs in their false religion of gender re-identification, homosexuality, the destruction of the nuclear family, and the murder of the unborn?"

## SEE <u>IMPACT DISCIPLESHIP</u> TEACHING OF THE SAME NAME: <u>The</u> <u>Sin that Leads to Death</u>