



Ignorance vs. Blaspheme (I Timothy 1:12-20)

A Foundational Truth

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because **He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry**, although I was **formerly a blasphemer**, a **persecutor**, and an **insolent man**; but I obtained mercy because **I did it ignorantly in unbelief**. And the **grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant**, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. **This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance**, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**, of whom I am chief. However, **for this reason I obtained mercy**, **that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering**, as a **pattern** to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.” I Timothy 1:12-17 NKJV

I Timothy 1:12-17

☑ *“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, **putting me into the ministry,**” I Timothy 1:12 NKJV*

☑ Y’shua put Paul into ministry...

☑ It is a perfectly orchestrated hostile takeover. He was not looking for it; he did not want it; he was actually going in the complete opposite direction; but, when you are encountered by the living God, you will not be able to resist!

☑ Knocked of his high horse...

☑ “Then Saul, still **breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord**, went to the high priest and **asked letters** from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and **suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground**, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.** It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord,

what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and **you will be told what you must do.**" And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. Then Saul arose from the ground, and when **his eyes were opened he saw no one.** But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And **he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.**" Acts 9:1-9 NKJV

- ☑ Let's recap...
- ☑ Paul was so hostile against those who believed that Y'shua was the promised Messiah that he slotted himself into the role, as the one who would expose and extinguish that blasphemy.
- ☑ Look at what he recalls about himself, later into the ministry he was "put into": *"Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. **If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a***

Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.” Philippians 3:2-6 NKJV

- ☑ But, even though he was going in one direction, suddenly, and without Paul asking for it, Y’shua knocked him off his high horse and knocked the direction of his life into another universe!
- ☑ “I’m Y’shua; I AM the one you’ve been persecuting; I AM the Messiah you’ve been looking for; and you WILL follow Me!”
- ☑ When you have an encounter like that, there is only one way to respond... “Lord, what do You want me to do?”
- ☑ We see that his eyes are now opened, but there is still a temporary blindness
- ☑ This type to moment in life is always a good time to fast!
- ☑ **Here is your assignment...**
 - ☑ “Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, “**Ananias.**” And he said, “**Here I am, Lord.**” So the Lord said to him, “Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at

the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And **in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.**" Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." But the Lord said to him, **"Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."** Acts 9:10-16 NKJV

- ☑ Let's recap...
- ☑ Here's what you're going to do Paul.
- ☑ I've gone on ahead of you and have already orchestrated your next steps.
- ☑ I gave this guy Ananias a vision that you will be coming to him. He had the same response you had when I approached him! "Here I am, Lord!" So, you see, that is always the way to respond, even long after you are following Me!
- ☑ Now, he was certainly a bit hesitant at first, knowing your reputation against Me, but, he's on board now.

- ☑ He is going to open your eyes completely to who I am and then he's got one more thing for you!
 - ☑ It may not be easy for you to here, but he's going to lay out the ministry I have for you, for the rest of your life! You have so much to do for Me. I will send you to your people and the Gentiles, and to world leaders, all so you can show them who I am!
 - ☑ Oh, and the assignment is going to bring a lifetime of difficulties and suffering. It's all on My account, so it's completely worth it!
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- ☑ *“although I was formerly a **blasphemer**, a **persecutor**, and an **insolent man**; but I obtained mercy because **I did it ignorantly in unbelief.**” 1 Timothy 1:13 NKJV*
 - ☑ **When is it ignorance and when is it blasphemy?**
 - ☑ The following is a resource that contains excerpts from many different sermons and will serve as a comprehensive guide 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.

- ☑ This is such an important topic that I suggest you study those notes and watch the related videos.
- ☑ **Critical Reference Notes and Videos**
- ☑ [Understanding the Sin that Leads to Death](#)
- ☑ Key scriptural concepts that will help you understand when someone has crossed the point of NO RETURN!
- ☑ This is what seems to be the case with Hymenaeus and Alexander at the end of this chapter in I Timothy.
- ☑ **Excerpts from those notes...**

THE SOBERING TRUTH

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

A. Heart Blindness

(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) **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) Where the NKJV says, “The LORD would not spare him,” the NIV says it this way: *“The Lord **will never be willing to forgive them;** ...”* Deuteronomy 29:20 NIV

1. The “Unpardonable Sin”

B. What could you possibly do that Yahweh would never forgive you?

(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
- (b) **Matthew: ...** “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." 1 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..."
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

C. What could possibly bring you to this point of no return?

(1) T’shuvah—Hebrew for repent: “Turn toward or return to Yahweh”

(a) What does this mean that *“it will not be forgiven him”*?

It means that you have reached the point of no return, a point related to a person’s inability to repent, rather than Yahweh’s inability to forgive. And that phrase (“the point to no return”) that is common in our culture is prophetic in nature, as repent in Hebrew means to “turn toward or return to Yahweh”, as opposed to “turn away from sin”!

(b) Now, of course, when you turn toward Yahweh you are turning from sin, but the emphasis is on what you are turning toward, not what you are turning away from.

(c) And when you reach the “point of no return” it is saying you have reached a point in which you will NEVER repent!

(d) What does that look like? (See [Darkness You Can Feel](#))

D. The Seared Conscience

(1) 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
- (2) 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
- (3) 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

Back to Timothy...

☑ “And the **grace** of our Lord was **exceedingly abundant**, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.” I Timothy 1:14 NKJV

☑ **Abundant grace!**

- ☑ God's grace is never ending—it will never run out. His side of the equation is never the issue!

- ☑ *"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." 1 Timothy 1:15 NKJV*
- ☑ **Let's get this straight...**
 - ☑ Y'shua is here to knock every sinner off his high horse and draw them to repentance! You need to know this. It is a constant and will NEVER change.
 - ☑ But, what will also never change is that you still must repent! He will call you to repent, but you are the one who must do the repenting, and not everyone will do it. And some will reach a point at which they CAN'T DO IT!

- ☑ *"However, **for this reason** I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might **show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.**" 1 Timothy 1:16 NKJV*
- ☑ **What is also a faithful saying is this...**
 - ☑ God's patience will never run out. He will wait as long as it takes for those who, "He knows are going to come to the faith," to do so!

- ☑ It is the very reason He was able to use me (Paul). Even though I was doing the worst things imaginable against Him, He knew I would repent, and He knew I would accept the call to the ministry, and He knew I'd be willing to suffer for the calling on my life!

- ☑ *"Now to the **King** eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." I Timothy 1:17 NKJV*
- ☑ **It's all about Him**
- ☑ Timothy, Y'shua is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and the whole journey, and all it will ever take to serve Him, is all about Him, and bringing glory to Him. Don't ever forget that!

You Can Only Go so Far...

"This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to **the prophecies previously made concerning you**, that by them you may **wage the good warfare**, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, **concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck**, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I **delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.**" I

Timothy 1:18-20 NKJV

I Timothy 1:18-20

☑ *“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may **wage the good warfare,**” I Timothy 1:18 NKJV*

☑ **You have a call on your life Timothy...**

☑ The gifts that are in you!

☑ **“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.** Meditate on these things; **give yourself entirely to them,** that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” I Timothy 4:14-16 NKJV

☑ “when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. **Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.** For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” II Timothy 1:5-7 NKJV

- ☑ **Wage the good warfare:** It will be a battle!
- ☑ **Preview:** “*No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with **the affairs of this life**, that he may **please him who enlisted him** as a soldier.*” II Timothy 2:4 NKJV

☑ “*having **faith and a good conscience**, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom **I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.***” I Timothy 1:19-20 NKJV

☑ **Shipwrecked Faith: full and final rejection of the faith**

☑ In contrast to Paul, who, although he was aggressively against Y’shua, never did so “on purpose”, but out of ignorance, we have Hymenaeus and Alexander.

☑ They have clearly reached the “point of no return”, or in other words, the point at which they can no longer repent—a seared conscience!

☑ **What is their sad destiny?**

☑ They were, “*delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.*”

NEXT WEEK

Good & Acceptable (1 Timothy 2:1-15)