

IPA WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 25, 2011

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Weekly Announcements

Sunday 08:30 AM - 09:30 AM - IPA HINDI SERVICE

Join us every Sunday morning in the IPA Fellowship hall
for worship.

IPA Fasting & Prayer

December 26-30, 2011(Monday to Friday)
10:30 AM & 7:30 PM @ IPA Fellowship Hall

Guest Speakers:

Rev Yeshua Das Markose (India) Mon-Wed

Rev. J Matthews (Texas) Thu-Sat

Saturday, December 31, 2011

IPA Dinner @ 9-10:30 PM

IPA Watch Night / Worship Service @ 11:00 PM

THERE IS NO SUNDAY WORSIP SERVICE

@ IPA JANUARY 1, 2012

The Unpardonable sin

There is mention of an *unpardonable sin* in several passages of the Scripture. Jesus says, “....every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever says a word against the Son of man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age, or in the age to come.” Matt. 12: 31-32. In Mark 3. 29-30, Jesus says, whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven”. Also see Lk. 12:10. A similar scenario is described in Hebrews 6:4-6. “It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened.....subjecting Him to public disgrace.” Also Heb 10. 26-27.

Some hold the view that this refers to the sin that was committed against the person of Jesus when He was on earth, but this is a very superficial explanation, and cannot explain the above passages.

Some hold the view that the sin that is mentioned here is unbelief until the time of death. That is, everyone who dies in unbelief, especially the one who has heard of Christ and His saving grace, has committed this sin. It is a fact that those who persist in unbelief until death will not be forgiven, but on careful examination, that does

not seem to be what is discussed here. It is not unbelief that is the topic when one reads about “*speaks against the Holy Spirit*”, “*blasphemy against the Holy Spirit*”, or commits “*apostasy*”. So they maintain that the sin mentioned here is a willful rejection of the truth of Christ and holding the saving Grace to “contempt”. Heb 6:6.

Is that this sin is serious apostasy by genuine believers, and that only those who are truly born again could commit this sin. This is based on the nature of apostasy described in Heb. 6:4-6. This equates to rejection of Christ and loss of salvation by a true Christian. While this explanation may be adequate with regards to Heb. 6:4-6, it does not explain Jesus’s words, “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit”, as he was speaking to the Pharisees.

A close scrutiny of all these passages and their contexts will make us understand that this sin refers to an unusually malicious, willful rejection and slander against the works of the Holy Spirit attesting to Christ, and attributing that work to Satan. Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees when they accused that “it is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons that this man casts out demons”. Matt. 12:24. The Pharisees were witnesses to the many

works of Jesus. In fact, Jesus had just healed a dumb, demon possessed man. it *Satanic!*

(Matt. 12:22) Many became His followers, just seeing these wonders. But the Pharisees, in spite of the clear demonstration of the works of the Holy Spirit in Jesus right before their eyes, willfully rejected His authority and teaching, and blatantly attributed it to Satan. This amounted to willful and malicious lying against the works of the Holy Spirit as was demonstrated by Jesus. It is in this context that the Lord says, “..every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven, but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit Holy Spirit will not be forgiven”. Their sin was not just unbelief, but includes

A clear knowledge of who Christ is.

A clear understanding of the power of the Holy Spirit working in Him.

A willful rejection about the facts about Christ, which they knew are true.

A slanderous accusation of the works of the Holy Spirit as Satanic works.

The hardness of their hearts was so great that God’s usual means of bringing a sinner to repentance would be already rejected by them. Persistence of truth is useless, because they already know the truth, but willfully reject it. Demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit will not work, for they

have seen it and rejected it and named

It should not be taken that this sin is so horrible that the redeeming works of the Lord is not sufficient to cover it, but rather the sinner’s heart puts him/her beyond the reach of God’s usual means of bringing forgiveness through repentance and saving faith, through belief in the truth. They thus end up rejecting the grace of God, attributing it out of hatred to Satan.

This understanding fits well with the passage in Hebrews also. (6: 4-6). The person who commits apostasy has all the knowledge and conviction of the truth, as they willfully reject it.

The First Epistle of John does not talk about unpardonable sin, instead about a sin that leads to death. This involves the teaching of serious doctrinal error about Christ. 1 John 5: 16-17. We cannot just pray for forgiveness of that sin, unless the person repents about it. This is not to prohibit praying for heretic teachers to turn from their heretical teachings, but that they will not experience the forgiveness of God until they turn from their heresy.

IPA Young Men's Prayer

Fridays 10:30 PM @ 2 Lawrence Street, Hicksville, NY

COAT DRIVE

IPA is teaming up with New York Cares this winter to help provide coats for the city's homeless and less privileged. We will be collecting gently used winter coats every Saturday and Sunday for the month of December. For any additional information please contact: Stanly Mathew (Sr.), Sybil Kompancaril, or Sheba Samuel