**SERMON SHEET 11/5/23**

**Study of Hebrews #25**

**“When Repentance is Impossible”**

**Text: Hebrews 6:4-8**

I. Introduction & review

1. The joyful reality of the secure Christian
2. The sorrowful tragedy of the “almost Christian”

II. A vivid illustration: the land that is worthless (Hebrews 6:7-8)

1. Genesis 3:17-18
2. Matthew 13:1-9

III. An obvious connection: the sin that is unforgivable (Mark 3:22-30)

IV. A hopeful declaration: our God who is omnipotent (Matthew 19:23-26)

V. Conclusion – a final word

**QUOTES**

1. ESV Study Bible:

*Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit—that is, the persistent and unrepentant resistance against the work of the Holy Spirit and his message concerning Jesus (cf. Acts 7:51)—this, Jesus says, will not be forgiven. The person who persists in hardening his heart against God, against the work of the Holy Spirit, and against the provision of Christ as Savior, is outside the reach of God’s provision for forgiveness and salvation.*

2. J. C. Ryle:

*What then is the unpardonable sin? It must be frankly confessed that its precise nature is nowhere defined in holy Scripture. The most probable view is that it is a combination of clear intellectual knowledge of the Gospel, with deliberate rejection of it and willful choice of sin. It is a union of light in the head and hatred in the heart. Such was the case of Judas Iscariot… In the absence of any definition in Scripture, we shall probably not get much nearer to the mark than this. Yet even this view must be treated carefully. The limits which knowledge combined with unbelief must pass, in order to become the unpardonable sin, are graciously withheld from us. God has mercifully ordered that we can never decide positively about any person that they have committed a sin which cannot be forgiven.*

3. R. C. Sproul:

*Worrying about it is one of the clearest evidences that [you] have not committed this sin, for those who commit it are so hardened in their hearts that they do not care that they commit it. Thanks be to God that the sin that is unpardonable is not a sin that He allows His people to commit.*

4. James R. Edwards:

*Finally, it is imperative to note that Mark places this saying as a warning, not as a condemnation or cause for anxiety. The same saying that warns against ascribing evil to Jesus also assures of God’s willingness to forgive “all the sins and blasphemies of men.” Anyone who is worried about having committed the sin against the Holy Spirit has not yet committed it, for anxiety of having done so is evidence of the potential for repentance. There is no record in Scripture of anyone asking forgiveness of God and being denied it!*

5. John MacArthur:

[The Greek word translated “restore” means] *to bring back to an original condition. The original condition of these Jews was that of excitement about the gospel when they first heard it… They had moved from Judaism right up to the edge of Christianity, evidently even to repentance… They had come all the way up to the edge of salvation*.

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE**

* **Matt. 7:221-23; Gen. 3:17-18; Matt. 13:1-9**
* **Mark 3:22-30; Is. 1:18; Deut. 29:29**
* **1 Tim. 1:12-15; Matt. 19:23-26**