

Sinning Away Your Day of Grace
by Oliver B Greene

“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” Proverbs 27:1

SINNING AWAY YOUR DAY OF GRACE

This statement has confused a lot of people. Some ministers use this term when preaching on the unpardonable sin; some say this is the only UNPARDONABLE sin. What does it mean? It means a person says “NO” to God one time too many, and he departs this world before he has another chance to be saved. For instance, if a man attends church Sunday after Sunday, he hears the Word of God, he is convicted of sin, he feels in his heart that he should be saved and live right, BUT— he refuses to be saved, he refuses to give his heart to God in response to the Spirit’s call, he rejects God’s grace again and again—ONE DAY God will withdraw His call. No one can say when—for no one knows how many times God will call.

ONE THING WE DO KNOW – God is not DUTY BOUND to call a sinner over and over. When God by the Holy Spirit calls a sinner and that sinner does not respond to the call, God is under no obligation to call him again. ALL of us deserve hell, for “ALL HAVE SINNED . . .” (Romans 3:23). God could permit us ALL to die and go to hell and still be a just God, a holy God.

God does not own man anything. ALL GOD HAD DONE FOR US is because of His “GREAT LOVE WHEREWITH HE LOVED US” (Ephesians 2:4). If you, dear soul, at one time or another have rejected the call of God, DO NOT EVER DO IT AGAIN. That is, IF GOD CALLS YOU AGAIN— if you have another chance — THAT MOMENT receive Jesus as your Saviour. Do we have any Scripture to prove there is a time when God withdraws His Spirit and instructs the Holy Spirit never to convict or call an individual again? Yes, we do; and we will look at a limited number of the MANY Scriptures that clearly prove man can cross the deadline by continually rejecting the call of the Holy Spirit. In the first book in the Bible, God said, “My Spirit shall not ALWAYS strive with man . . .” (Genesis 6:3).

The meaning is clear: There comes a time when God withdraws His Spirit, and the Spirit no longer strives with that person. Pharaoh brought destruction upon himself by putting of God’s instructions. God sent Moses to Pharaoh to tell him to let God’s people go out of Egypt, but Pharaoh kept saying “Tomorrow: – he promised, but his did not keep his promise. Pharaoh DROWNED and went to hell when the waters of the Red Sea closed in upon him and his army. (Read Exodus chapter 7: 10 though chapter 14, and you will see the mighty hand of God in destroying the enemies of His people.) “Tomorrow” is the word that will destroy you spiritually. TODAY if you hear HIS VOICE . . . BE SAVED! Listen to this

solemn warning: “He that being often reprovèd hardeneth his neck, shall SUDDENLY be destroyed, and that without remedy” (Proverbs 29:1).

During more than a quarter of a century of meetings in big tent, auditoriums, and churches all over this country – I SAW THAT SCRIPTURE FULFILLED MANY TIMES! I could give truthful accounts that would literally fill pages in this book, of times when men and women, and even young men, sat in my meetings, heard the Word of God, heard the call of God, rejected God’s call night after night – and suddenly they were cut down in tragic death! I literally SHUDDER when I think back over some of the experiences I had in the meetings God allowed me to conduct – – – BRIEFLY:-- A dear man dropped dead at my feet while I was telling him from God’s Word how to be saved.

Another man died in the prayer room while a minister was instructing him in the way of salvation. A young man ran from the tent to keep from coming forward at the altar 30 call – got in his automobile, left at a high speed, went down the road a half mile, ran into a bridge, and went out to meet the God he had rejected! The car had to be cut apart to get his body out. An elderly couple attended services every night for two weeks in a church meeting. They raised their hands for prayer night after night, but would not be saved.

The last night of the meeting I went back to where they were sitting and pleaded with them to be saved – – but THEY REFUSED! – – The next morning the husband killed his wife and then took his own life! In another city a rich man was invited to the meetings day after day for four weeks – – – he finally cursed and asked to be left alone! (He had a beautiful home on a big farm– a two-story house; he slept on the second floor.)-- – ONE WEEK after the tent meeting closed, when his wife called him for breakfast that morning, he got out of bed, put on his house shoes and robe, and started down the stairs.

Without warning he 31 tripped, fell, BROKE HIS NECK, and woke up in HELL! What a terrible way to die! These are TRUE STORIES, and I could give a hundred more just like them – – some just as gruesome. It may be that YOU can shake your head in God’s face time and again, and get away with it-but ONE DAY you will say “NO” to God the last time, and God will say the same thing about you that Jesus said about the fig tree: “. . . three years I come seeking fruit on this tree, and find NONE: CUT IT DOWN; WHY CUMBERETH IT THE GROUND?” (Luke 13:7).

How many years has God sought fruit from you–that is, how many years had God been seeking, calling, inviting you to be saved: One year, or two, maybe five . . . ten . . . twenty – – OR EVEN MORE? I wonder just how long it will be before He says to the heavenly REAPER– – “CUT HIM DOWN!” Something to think about; do you agree? Then THINK, and be saved– –before you, too, SIN AWAY YOUR DAY OF GRACE! 32 In the Book of Hosea God told His people: “Ephraim is joined to idols: LET HIM ALONE: (Hosea 4:17). When God says “Let him alone,” ALL HOPE IS GONE! In

Romans chapter 1 we read: “Wherefore God also GAVE THEM UP . . .” (verse 24). “For this cause GOD GAVE THEM UP . . .” (verse 26). “. . . as they did not like to retain God in their KNOWLEDGE (thinking), God gave them over to a reprobate mind (dead mind – they could not think intelligently) . . .” (verse 28).

The people of whom Paul is speaking in Romans chapter 1 were GIVEN UP BY GOD – soul! spirit! and body! (Please read all of the first chapter of Romans.) Yes, you can say “NO” to God so long that He will withdraw His Spirit and will say to the Spirit – “Leave him alone.” Or He may say, “Cut him down!” ARE YOU SAVED? If

you are not, please THINK! Please allow God to speak to you through His Word. REMEMBER – “Ye know not what shall be on the morrow. . .” (James 4:14). “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1). TRUST JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOUR TODAY!

THE SIN UNTO DEATH

We have studied the unpardonable sin, the sin that cannot be forgiven. We have studied sinning away your day of grace, or putting off salvation too long. Both these sins are committed by unbelievers, but THE SIN UNTO DEATH is a SIN committed by a Christian; it cannot be committed by an unbeliever. continued rebellion on the part of a Christian – knowing all the while what he should do, but refusing to do it – spells death. (This sin is like the unpardonable sin in that it stands alone.) The first two sins we studied bring SPIRITUAL DEATH, eternal death in the lake of fire and brimstone; but the sin unto death brings PHYSICAL DEATH and has nothing to do with the eternal damnation in the lake of fire. SCRIPTURE: “If a man see his brother sin a sin 35 WHICH IS NOT UNTO DEATH,

he shall ask, and He shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. THERE IS A SIN UNTO DEATH: I DO NOT SAY THAT HE SHALL PRAY FOR IT. ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IS SIN: AND THERE IS A SIN NOT UNTO DEATH” (I John 5:16, 17).

Let me repeat: There is a distinct difference between the unpardonable sin and the sin unto death. The sinner commits the unpardonable sin, the born again believer commits the sin unto death. According to God’s Word, THERE IS NO NEED, OR POINT, IN PRAYING FOR A PERSON WHO HAS COMMITTED EITHER SIN. Blasphemy

against the Holy Spirit is the unpardonable sin (Matthew 12:31, 32); and as I have already stressed, a born again believer – born of the Spirit, indwelt by the Spirit, led by the Spirit, sealed by the Spirit – will not blaspheme THE SPIRIT! So again, knowing that you are born again, say “THANK GOD!” However – it is possible for the 36 GREATEST CHRISTIAN, the most spiritual believer in your church or community, to commit the sin unto death.

It is possible for YOU to commit it – it is possible for me to commit it! YOU

SEE . . . since the devil cannot damn us, he will do all in his power to rob us of our spiritual birthright. The spiritual birthright of every believer is to enjoy FULL JOY (I John 1:4) and ABUNDANT LIFE (Johan 10:10). If the devil can lead us aside from the “straight and narrow way,” if he can cause us not to live a dedicated spiritual life—HE WILL; and if he can get control of our mind and body strongly enough, he can cause us to commit the sin unto death. Every book in the Bible has a key verse that unlocks the book and reveals to us the primary purpose for the particular book. The First Epistle of John is God’s love letter to His little children—“that YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL” (I John 1:4).

The first thing I want you to see in our study os this sin is: THERE IS 37 NO POINT IN PRAYING FOR ANYONE THAT COMMITS THE SIN UNTO DEATH. God will not hear

the prayer—the person MUST DIE— there is NO ESCAPE! This Bible face should make us shudder. There are MANY passages in the Bible that clearly teach the sin unto death. We will look at just a few: First let me show you that there is a time when we should stop praying for, or witnessing to, certain people under certain circumstances. In the case of Abraham and his nephew Lot, IN SO MANY WORDS God said to Abraham, “Abraham, there is no need to pray for Sodom any more—get Lot out. I WILL DESTROY SODOM!” The account is found in Genesis 18:20-33. Read it. CONCERNING THINGS SPIRITUAL, Jesus said: “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you” (Matthew 7:6). 38 WHAT IS THE SIN UNTO DEATH? Please note the Scripture says “sin”—not “sins”! The ONLY place to find BIBLE answers to BIBLE QUESTIONS is in THE BIBLE. Religion and denominations have done an excellent job of confusing people; but God “is not the author of confusion” (I Corinthians 14:33).

The Apostle Paul was called and commissioned of God as the apostle to the Church. Fourteen New Testament epistles were penned down by this CHOSEN VESSEL, and he gives the answer to our question in I Corinthians, in WORDS easy to understand. The Corinthian church was a special object of the devil’s attack, to be sure— he did everything in his power to hinder the work of the Lord there. The factions in the church were not due to heresies, but to the carnality of the restless Corinthians, and also to the admiration of wisdom and eloquence. Many in the church were vain, many were carnal; but the condition that upset Paul more 39 than all the rest, was a case of incest that had not been dealt with by the leaders in the church.

Concerning this Paul wrote: “It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should HAVE HIS GATHER’S WIFE. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. “For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to DELIVER SUCH AN ONE UNTO SATAN FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FLESH, THAT THE SPIRIT MAY BE SAVED IN THE DAY OF THE LORD JESUS” (I Corinthians 5:1-5).

This man was in the church; he was a believer. His mother, no doubt, was 40 dead, and his father had taken another wife—maybe a young woman, possibly very attractive. Whether it was her fault or his, this man took his stepmother and was living with her as husband and wife—he stole his own dad’s wife, his stepmother! The leaders of the church knew about it but had not done anything to correct this ugly situation in the church family. It was not a secret thing; it seems the whole church knew about it. When the report reached Paul, he immediately sent instruction to the church telling them what to do; he did not want them to wait until he could come to handle the case—it was too serious to think of that. IT MUST BE DEALT WITH IMMEDIATELY!

Paul assured the Corinthian church that his spirit would be there with them when they met to do what HAD TO BE DONE! THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO; there could

be NO COMPROMISE. Paul made it VERY CLEAR what they were to do with this man: –

– 41 “IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST” –not in their name or the name of the church; they were to carry out this discipline in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! What were they instructed to do? They were instructed “to DELIVER SUCH AN ONE UNTO SATAN FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FLESH (body)”

Does that mean the church was to turn this man over to the devil to damn in hell? NO!!! It certainly does not! Read the rest of verse 5: – “. . . that the SPIRIT may be SAVED IN THE DAY OF THE LORD JESUS.” This account in I Corinthians chapter 5 is a Bible picture of “the sin unto death.”

A believer living in known sin, going on, and on, and on, without any sorrow for that sin—persistently refusing to repent of the sin, WHATEVER IT MAY BE—such a person will be cut off (physically) and removed from the church and the earth by death. God will not allow one of His children to continually live in sin and bring reproach on the name of Jesus and the Church, His body! According to II Corinthians 2:1-10, this man did repent when confronted by the officials of the church, and was spared. However, THE TRUTH IS SET FORTH HERE that a truly born again believer living in unconfessed sin will be CUT OFF—CUT OFF physically, not removed from the Lamb’s book of life.

I do not mean such a person will drop dead a day or two. . .or even a week or two. . . after he commits known sin. No one can say how long God will, in His mercy, spare a person like that, or how long he can continue in sin—but it is

a Bible truth that a born again person, living in sin and refusing to repent of that sin, will be removed from the church and from the earth by physical death. Let me say again: -- THE SIN UNTO DEATH HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ETERNAL DESTRUCTION OF THE SOUL.

It has to do with the destruction of the BODY. A person who commits the sin unto death will suffer great loss--HE WILL LOSE HIS REWARD! The Word of God clearly teaches that every believer's works will be put to the test: "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what SORT it is. "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, HE SHALL RECEIVE A REWARD. "If any man's work shall be burned, HE SHALL SUFFER LOSS: BUT HE HIMSELF SHALL BE SAVED; YET SO AS BY FIRE" (I Corinthians 3:13-15).

I confess I do not know what it will mean, or belike, to be in heaven without a REWARD; but there will be MANY who will be there empty-handed! And certainly anyone who commits the sin unto death will lose his reward. The only possible way to understand the Word of God is to compare Scripture with Scripture (I Corinthians 2:13, 14). When we compare Scripture with Scripture and rightly divide the Word of God 44 (II Timothy 2:15) IT IS CLEAR, to all with an open mind, that the sin unto death has nothing to do with the salvation of the soul; it has to do with the destruction of the body--DEATH physically, not spiritually. THE SIN UNTO DEATH was common among the Corinthian believers, so it seems, from the information we have in Paul's first epistle to the church at Corinth.

If you will study chapter 11 of the epistle you will find that some believers in the church were grievously misbehaving, making gluttons of themselves, and drinking excessively, even to becoming drunk, at the Lord's table. To these CARELESS, CARNAL believers Paul said: "When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper. For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. (THINK OF THAT--PICTURE THAT IN THE LORD'S HOUSE IF YOU CAN.) "WHAT? (Paul was amazed!) Have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? 45 or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I praise you not" (Corinthians 11:20-22).

In verses 27 through 29 of chapter 11 Paul instructed the Corinthians to examine themselves, search their hearts, and to eat the bread and drink the fruit of the vine only after such an examination--BECAUSE, if they should eat the bread and take the cup UNWORTHILY they were "guilty of the body and blood of the Lord." Paul followed those instructions with the observation--"FOR THIS CAUSE MANY are

weak and sickly among you, AND MAY SLEEP (that is, many are DEAD)” (verse 30).

In verses 31 through 34 of that same chapter Paul instructed the believers in the church at Corinth that if they would judge themselves, repent of their misbehaving at the Lord’s table, and other things they were doing in God’s house . . . IF THEY WOULD STRAIGHTEN UP AND WALK AS A CHILD OF GOD 46 SHOULD, God

would not be forced to judge them and even allow some of them to die. BUT IF THEY DID NOT JUDGE THEMSELVES, REPENT, AND GET RIGHT—God would have no alternative

but to judge them and chasten them, THAT THEY “SHOULD NOT BE CONDEMNED WITH THE

WORLD” (I Corinthians 11:32).

So we see that BECAUSE OF THEIR MISCONDUCT in the house of God, many of the believers in Corinth were SICK—and many had gone so far, so long, they had committed the sin unto death. THEY WERE DEAD! Paul made it clear that others would die also if they did not judge themselves. THE SIN UNTO DEATH, therefore, is continually rebelling against the Lord, against spiritual light. When a believer KNOWS what he should do, but refuses to OBEY the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, THAT BELIEVER IS IN DANGER OF COMMITTING THE SIN UNTO DEATH!

Friend—HAVE YOU EXAMINED YOUR HEART AND LIFE LATELY?

Think about it! Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart and see if there be any wicked way in you. If He points out to you things you should do, OR NOT DO, obey Him. Repent of the sin in your life and surrender all to Jesus—WALK IN THE LIGHT and you will never commit THE SIN UNTO DEATH. In I John 5:17 we read:

“ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IS SIN: and there is a sin not unto death.” We need to know

all we possibly can about sin, for we are ALL SINNERS. Some of us are saved sinners . . . some are lost sinners. “ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “There is none righteous, no, not ONE” (Romans 3:10). “If we say that we have NO SIN, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (I John 1:8). “IF WE SAY THAT WE HAVE NOT SINNED, WE MAKE HIM (GOD) A

LIAR, AND HIS WORD IS NOT IN US” (I John 1:10). Man is born in sin, shapen in iniquity 48 (Psalm 51:5).

Man SINS! But Christ died for our sin (and for our sins), and when man repents of sin and receives Jesus by faith, God saves from SIN and that person instantly becomes a child of God. BUT—that does not mean that one saved by God’s grace, washed in the blood of the Lamb, will never sin again. God does not want His children to sin, but even the most dedicated Christian will come short of God’s glory at times—and that is sin: “. . . whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23). “To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is SIN”

(James 4:17).

When we as believers sin, come short of God's glory, fail to do good, we should confess our sin to God, for "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). We have One to plead our case before the heavenly Father. Notice these words in the First Epistle of John: "My little children, these things write I 49 unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ THE RIGHTEOUS: and He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2:1, 2). THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR UNCONFESED SIN in the life of a born again Christian.

BUT—if a believer refuses to confess and forsake known sin in his life, THIS LEADS TO THE SIN UNTO DEATH— –and there is no provision for repentance; IT IS FATAL!!! We are instructed not to pray for a BROTHER who has committed the sin unto death. There are those who do not agree that the sin unto death is physical death and not spiritual, and that only believers commit this sin. I pointed out in the beginning of this booklet that "sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:15).

Unless the sin in an unsaved one's life is forgiven, taken away, that person is SURE TO DIE ETERNALLY because: "THE WAGES of sin is death . . ." (Romans 6:23).

50 God clearly instructed Adam, the first man, what he was to do and what he was not to do in the Garden of Eden. God said to Adam: "Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof THOU SHALT SURELY DIE!" (Genesis 2:17). ADAM ATE the forbidden fruit, and the instant he ate—HE DIED! The wages of sin claimed him! But Adam did not die physically; he put his mind and hands to work and desperately tried to cover up from God what he had done. But Adam failed, and all who have tried since have failed.

Adam became a dead man spiritually—"dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). Adam was afraid when he heard the voice of God and ran and hid among the trees. He was very much alive physically. NOW— — — If the statement "THERE IS A SIN NOT UNTO DEATH" is speaking of SPIRITUAL DEATH, we have a flat contradiction in God's Word—and that 51 JUST CANNOT BE! There are NO contradictions in the Bible. BY THIS we know the sin unto death refers to PHYSICAL DEATH. When a child of God falls into sin, God chastens and corrects him (Hebrews 12:5-11). In verses 5 and 6 of that passage we read: ". . . My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: for whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth." But if the child of God does not heed God's chastening, if he continues to live in sin, refuses to confess that known sin, and refuses to

repent of sin— **SUCH LIVING ON THE PART OF A BELIEVER WILL BRING PHYSICAL DEATH.**

Believers are “**CHASTENED OF THE LORD**, that we should not be condemned with the world” (I Corinthians 11:32). **THE PROMISE OF JESUS IS:** “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my Word, and believeth on Him that sent me, **HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, AND SHALL NOT COME INTO CONDEMNATION:** but is passed from death unto life!” (John 5:24).

All born again believers will eventually **DIE** physically, if they depart this life before Jesus comes in the Rapture. (See I Thessalonians 4:13-18.) But a believer may **LIVE OUT** his days, if he lives a dedicated life and follows the steps of Jesus— **OR** a believer may cut his days short on this earth if he does not live a dedicated life, a surrendered life that glorifies God. I believe many children of God die prematurely because of their careless living. I am quite sure I have witnessed such cases in my ministry. **IT IS A BIBLE FACT** that **BEFORE GOD WILL ALLOW HIS CHILD TO DISGRACE THE NAME OF JESUS AGAIN AND AGAIN** before a world that **HATES GOD AND HIS SON**, God will remove that **CHILD OF HIS** and bring him up to heaven for **SAFEKEEPING!**

Some will not agree with this, but that is your privilege to disagree. According to the words of Jesus Himself, the born again believer “**SHALL NOT COME INTO CONDEMNATION!**” 53 Moses committed the sin unto death. Moses was **ONE OF THE GREATEST** men who ever lived! Moses prayed when the children of Isreal were in the wilderness starving for water. God heard the prayer of Moses and instructed him to strike **THE ROCK** (a perfect picture of Jesus, our Rock). Moses obeyed God, **STRUCK** the **ROCK**, and water gushed forth (Exodus 17:1-6).

The time came when it was necessary for Moses to pray a second time for water, and this time God told Moses to “**SPEAK** to the rock” (Numbers 20: 2-12). But instead of speaking to the rock as God said, Moses **STRUCK THE ROCK!** Moses smote the rock the first time, and that was as it should have been— **but** the second time Moses did not do what God told him to do. Without a doubt he was greatly vexed at the murmuring Isrealites, and in a moment of anger Moses **SMOTE THE ROCK** the second time.

“The rock” in the wilderness was a type of Jesus, **THE ROCK** (I Corinthians 54 10:1-4) from which comes “**LIVING WATER**” (John 4:10-14). It was necessary for “**THE ROCK**” to be smitten, but only **ONE TIME!** Jesus was smitten once for all forever; He will never be smitten again. **IT IS NOT NECESSARY.** Moses deliberately disobeyed God, and God would not allow him to enter the promised land that flowed with milk and honey. **INSTEAD, GOD TOOK HIS LIFE, AND “BURIED HIM IN A VALLEY IN THE LAND OF MOAB . . . but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day”**

(Deuteronomy 32:48-52; 34:1-6).

Achan committed the sin unto death (Read Joshua chapter 6 and 7.) What a horrible death he died because of his disobedience to the clear instructions of the Lord. Samson committed the sin unto death. He kept company with the wrong crowd; he talked to the wrong person. he did not let God rule in his daily life, he disregarded and dishonored his Nazarite separation unto God—and it cost him his life. (Read Judges chapters 13 through 16.)

There are others—many others; but if these instances in the lives of these men do not convince you, I am sure you have your mind made up NOT TO BE CONVINCED.

The daily prayer of a child of God should be: “O Lord, cleanse thou me from secret sins. . . . Keep me also from presumptuous sins. . . .LET THE WORD OF MY MOUTH, AND THE MEDIATION OF MY HEART, BE ACCEPTABLE IN THY SIGHT, O Lord, my

strength, and my Redeemer!:(Read Psalm 19:12-14.) WE KNOW: “We KNOW that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. (Remember—it is man’s SPIRIT that is born of God, and the spirit of a born again man sinneth not. The devil cannot touch the spirit of a believer.

He can touch only the flesh part—the outer man.) “And we KNOW that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. 56 And we KNOW that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding. THAT WE MAY KNOW HIM THAT IS TRUE,

and we are IN HIM THAT IS TRUE, even in His Son Jesus Christ. THIS IS THE TRUE GOD, AND ETERNAL LIFE. Little children, keep yourselves from idols” (I John 5:18-21). The Holy Spirit uses the word “know” seven times in verses 13 through 20 of this chapter. God gave us The Gospel of John to show us the way of eternal life (John 20:31); and God has given us The First Epistle of John that we my KNOW that we have eternal life (I Johan 5:13).

Some say that we should not be so dogmatic about KNOWING FOR SURE, WITHOUT ANY DOUBT, that we are saved— –but Paul said, “. . . I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED.

.” (II Timothy 1:12). We should be dogmatic when such dogmatism is based on THE WORD OF GOD! We are living in an hour when the devil is making his last all-out drive to damn every soul he can, for he knows 57 his time is short. The contrary winds are blowing; the boisterous waves are beating hard and strong; but when we are founded and grounded upon the solid Rock we WILL weather the storm—“because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world” (I John 4:4).

BELIEVERS ALSO KNOW:-- – “We now that WHOSOEVER is born of God sinneth not. . .

.” ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND that the spirit is BORN OF GOD, not the flesh.

The flesh you have now is the same flesh you had before you became a child of God. Jesus said, "That which is born of the flesh IS FLESH; and that which is born of the Spirit is SPIRIT: (John 3:6). Your body acts differently because you have a new heart, a new spirit. You possess divine nature in the inner man—BUT YOUR FLESH IS THE SAME, AND ALWAYS WILL BE UNTIL IT RETURNS TO DUST . . . or until it is changed at the second coming of Jesus (I Corinthians 15:51- 53). THE SPIRIT, the inner man, that which is BORN OF GOD, does not sin! Your 58 SPIRIT will enter heaven when you die, not your flesh!

Your body will not be resurrected until the coming of Jesus the second time. Believers are "new creatures" (II Corinthians 5:17). "We are His WORKMANSHIP, created IN CHRIST JESUS. . ." (Ephesians 2:10). The new creation within, created IN CHRIST, is just as HOLY PURE, and RIGHTEOUS AS JESUS IS HOLY, PURE, AND RIGHTEOUS! ". . . Christ IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GORY: (Colossians 1:27). "Christ. . . is MADE unto us WISDOM, and RIGHTEOUSNESS, and SANCTIFICATON, and REDEMPTION!" (I Corinthians 1:30). "AND YE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM . . ." (Colossians 2:10). What other assurance do we have as believers? "We KNOW THAT. . . HE THAT IS BEGOTTEN OF GOD KEEPETH HIMSELF, AND THAT WICKED ONE TOUCHETH HIM NOT: (I John 5:18).

The Greek word used here is the same word used in John 20:17, where Jesus 59 said to Mary Magdalene, "Touch me not." Believers should rejoice and praise God for this wonderful ASSURANCE! The devil CANNOT lay hold on us! We are God's children, God's possession; we possess divine nature; the Holy Spirit leads us, fills us, SEALS US! ". . . he that is BEGOTTEN of God keepeth HIMSELF. . . ." Again we must look at the original Greek text here to understand the FULL, GLORIOUS meaning of this statement. The greatest Greek authorities tell us that "He that is BEGOTTEN of God" speaks of JESUS—not you or me, who are children of God through faith in the finished work of Jesus.

We KNOW we CANNOT KEEP OURSELVES any more then we can SAVE ourselves. Our salvation BEGINS in Jesus, CONTINUES in Jesus, and it will be JESUS who will grant to us entrance into heaven. Jesus is the "AUTHOR of eternal salvation" (Hebrews 5:9). Jesus is the "AUTHOR" and He is the "FINISHER" of FAITH (Hebrews 12:2). 60 Jesus GIVES us VICTORY, and apart from Him we could not OVERCOME (I John 4:4; 5:4). Jesus is ABLE TO KEEP US FROM FALLING (Jude 24). The Greek read: "HE (Jesus) that is begotten of God keepeth HIM (the believer)." Allow me to repeat:—We cannot save ourselves; and we are just as dependent UPON JESUS to

KEEP us as to save us! ALL YOU–AND ALL I–CAN DO, IS TRUST JESUS– –for salvation and for victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil!

“There is therefore NOW NO CONDEMNATION to them WHICH ARE IN CHRIST JESUS. . .”

(Romans 8:1). “CHRIST IN YOU–THE HOPE of glory (heaven)” (Colossians 1:27). “. . . we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM (Jesus) that loved us” (Romans 8:37).

The wonderful salvation God provided for us IN CHRIST is ALL sufficient. If we live a defeated life we have no one to blame but ourselves; if we fail to 61 repent and confess our sins to Him who is faithful and just to forgive our sins, we have no one to blame but ourselves–and IF WE COMMIT THE SIN UNTO DEATH by

continuing in sin and practicing things that bring reproach upon the Lord Jesus, WE HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT OURSELVES! IN CLOSING– Let me ask you, do you KNOW

you are born again? If so, you will NEVER commit the unpardonable sin.

The Holy Spirit LEADS YOU, and He will never lead you to blaspheme Himself. If you are not SURE you are born again, be saved this very moment! “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou SHALT BE SAVED!” (Acts 16:31). If you are SURE you are born again, ARE YOU FULLY SURRENDERED to Jesus? To live DAILY completely

surrendered to Jesus is the ONLY GUARANTEE that you WILL NOT commit the sin unto

death. The devil would take great joy in causing you to commit the sin unto death.

The devil is a murderer, 62 a liar, a thief, a deceiver– –and if he cannot damn your soul, he will do all in his power to rob you of your spiritual birthright, which is full joy here in this life and a full reward in the life to come. If you commit the sin unto death, you will not lose your soul, thank God– –BUT you will lose your joy, your physical life, and your REWARD. THEREFORE– – “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a FULL REWARD” (II John 8). “And now, little children, abide in Him; that; when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at his coming” (I John 2:28). 63