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"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

GRIEVING THE SPIRIT

C. D. COLE

Although every sin is a sin against the Holy Ghost, yet every sin is not that which is called eminently THE sin against the Holy Ghost. THAT sin is called in Scripture "a sin unto death," for "whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

There are (says an old divine) manifold degrees of sinning that take place before it comes to that dreadful and unpardonable sin. There are five or six degrees of unbelief which bear reference to the Spirit of God, and everyone of them is worse than another, and paves the way for the last, the most terrible one.

One degree of unbelief is that whereby the Spirit is said to be grieved, Ephesians 4:30, "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Another degree is that whereby the Spirit is said to be vexed, Isaiah 63:10, "But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them." A third degree is that whereby the Spirit is

said to be quenched, I Thessalonians 5:19, "Quench not

the Spirit." A fourth degree is that whereby the Spirit is said to be resisted, as Stephen said to the Jews in Acts 7:51, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your father did, so do ye." A fifth degree is that whereby the Spirit is reckoned to be despised, Acts 13:41, "Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish..." The sixth and last, and truly the saddest of all is, when unbelief comes to that pitch, whereby the Spirit is said to be despited, i.e., disdained with defiance, Hebrews 10:29, "Of how much sore punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, and unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" Such a man is filled with horrible malice, and has done despite to the Spirit of

grace, and this is an expression usually taken to signify the unpardonable sin against the Holy Ghost.

A man may grieve the Spirit, and never give a thought, never consider what he is doing, and frequently without paying attention to the sinfulness of his action, or to the promptings of the Spirit.

But when a man vexes the Spirit, his conscience warns him and protests against his evil-doing, but he refuses to give heed to the warning; in one way or another he pacifies and silences his conscience.

When a man quenches the Spirit, he bribes his conscience to call evil good, and now he is no longer disturbed by an accusing conscience. In case he still clings to his church membership, he plays the hypocrite, and, after wiping his foul mouth with the clean napkin of his religious duties, he says with the adulterous wo-

REVIVAL SERVICES

MARCH 23-29

7:30 P.M.

EVANGELIST:

ROBERT GINN

man in Proverbs 30:20, "I have done no wickedness."

When a man resists the Spirit, he breaks out in open rebellion. All men are born with the dagger of enmity in their heart, Romans 3. If it were not for the restraint that God has put on the sinful creatures, the hatred that is by nature in the heart of every one of us against a Triune God, against Holiness and against the way of salvation by the free, sovereign grace of God, would vent itself in an unmistakable manner. And that is exactly what happens when the Lord, provoked by the grieving, vexing, and quenching of the Spirit, removes the restraint. Then the man gives rein to the enmity that is in his heart and he sets himself in array against the Most High. If you read Psalm 2, you will see that though such rebels (if they persist in their rebellion) shall be dashed in pieces as a potter's vessel, they are still within reach of God's forgiveness in Christ, for they are counseled to be wise, to be instructed, to serve the Lord with fear, and to kiss the Son. Is not the longsuffering of God marvelous?

When a man despises the Spirit, he comes dangerously close to the unpardonable sin. Now he not only undervalues the work and the person of the Spirit, but he loathes and contemns Him in his heart, and willfully disregards the authority of the Spirit. Does not his conscience check him in his mad career? It does not: by this time he has seared his conscience with a hot iron.

And when a man does despite to the Spirit, he glories in his shame, and openly mocks, scoffs, and sneers at the work and person of the Spirit of grace, treads under foot the Son of

God and counts the blood of the covenant an unholy thing. For him the day of grace is past: the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men, "...neither in this world, nor in the world to come,"

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The first step downward on the inclined plane that leads to perdition is grieving the Spirit. It is chiefly the religious element of the nation that is guilty of this sin, and frequently without giving it a thought. In fact, the vast majority of the religious people know next to nothing of the Holy Spirit. They talk about Jesus, the Savior, but the Spirit is seldom mentioned. Pentecost is not commercialized; it would be, as well as Christmas and Easter, if the religionists talked about the Spirit as much as they do about Jesus. But we ought to know that the Holy Spirit is not of secondary importance; in the actual salvation of the sinner the work of the Spirit ranks FIRST. God has appointed His elect to obtain salvation, I Thessalonians

5:9, "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ." In order to make that salvation effective, some things have to be done FOR the elect, and some things have to be done IN them. Christ has done FOR His people all that was necessary: He satisfied the justice of God, bore the curse due to transgressors, fulfilled all righteousness by a perfect subjection to the law; He bruised the serpent's head and destroyed the works of the devil who had the power of death; and now liberty is proclaimed to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound, Isaiah 61:1. There is nothing more to be done FOR them; but the reconciliation that was intentionally in the Father's election, and virtually in the death of Christ, must actually be performed IN man; in other words: It is not sufficient that the Father ordained the redemption of the elect; that Christ purchased it by the shedding of His blood and the death on the cross; it is not enough that the prison doors are opened: MAN IS STILL IN PRISON. And man in his natural state has no desire to leave the prisonhouse of Satan; he does not know that he is in a state of misery and enmity and alienation; and is not looking for deliverance and reconciliation. The ambassadors for Christ may plead with him as though God did beseech him, saying, "We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God," II Corinthians 5:20. None, no not one sinner wants to be reconciled to God.

Present day evangelists have no trouble in persuading sinners to accept Christ; the strait gate of which the Lord spoke to Nicodemus, is broken down to make it easy for any unconcerned sinner that has

Dear Parents—

I am your child... You have brought me into this world and raised me to what I am today... If I am not what I should be, please don't be too harsh with me... for I am your product... My actions advertise the quality standards of our home... Do not point at one of my playmates as an example of how I should behave... By doing so you are admitting that his parents are doing a better job than you... You say that you are a Christian... Yet when Church time comes you make little effort to attend, giving me no encouragement to go either... You say that you love me... Yet it has been years since you put your arms

about me at bedtime and with tears in your eyes asked your Heavenly Father to watch over me as I slept... You seem to be more interested in my school grades than in the condition of my soul... You give me the impression that it is better to be popular than to be pure... better to be attractive on the outside than to have that "inner beauty" that comes to one who loves the Lord... So next time you feel like throwing up your hands and saying, "I just can't do a thing with you," please remember you have had the opportunity to influence me since I was born... "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it"... That's from the Bible... If you're not happy with me, I'm not the only one to blame...

"The Coming Of The Lord Draweth Nigh"

James 5:8

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:44.

WHERE
WILL YOU SPEND
ETERNITY?

never repented of his actual sins and that knows nothing of the corruption that is within, to walk in with all his guilt and filth, and promise himself a cordial welcome. But such converts are saved(?) in their sins, not from their sins. Noah, a preacher of righteousness, preached 120 years, but he could not persuade one sinner to leave the camp of Satan and seek entrance into the ark. Neither God's election, nor Christ's satisfaction, nor the proclamation of the Gospel by Christ's servants, will save a sinner without the work that the Spirit performs IN man. The Spirit alone can convince of sin, of enmity, of the necessity of being reconciled to God. If the Holy Spirit has never convinced you of your state of sin, if He has never shown you that you are on the wrong side of the fence, that you are by nature (with all your natural religion) in Satan's prison, and on account of your guilt and sin under the wrath of God even as others, Ephesians 2:3, in a word, if the Spirit has never convinced you that the only thing you are entitled to is temporal and eternal punishment; that you have deserved, a thousand times over, to be left out of heaven, out of the communion with God, you'll never be brought in, you'll never be reconciled to God: Christ came to save and to seek that which is lost, and He died, NOT for free-willers that can accept Him as their personal Saviour if they want to, but Christ died for the ungodly, Romans 5:6, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." He died for those ungodly whom HE wants to save. He shall never have to thank any for being willing to accept Him.

seen one of the ways in which thousands and thousands are grieving the Spirit. Though the Spirit is called the third person in the Trinity, He is the first one to deal with a dead sinner, to quicken him, and to apply to him all that Christ has merited for His people and to ingraft that sinner into Christ. Therefore, all those who were never convinced by the Spirit, who were never emptied of their self-ability, never brought to see their hopeless condition, but who by another spirit have been persuaded that there is an easier way: just believe and accept Christ, those deluded souls are grieving the Holy Spirit; they don't KNOW Him, they don't NEED Him: they can believe and accept; yea, THEIR FAITH IS THEIR SAVIOUR; they don't WANT Him to reveal to them how deceitful and desperately wicked their heart is, Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" It is one of the marks of a self-deceiver that he has a good opinion of himself, and in self-complacency refuses to consider it possible that he deceives himself. ARE WE BLIND? John 9:41, "Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see, therefore your sin remaineth."

David prayed, "Search me O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

That prayer did not grieve the Spirit.

READ THIS COPY AND PASS ALONG

By this time you'll have