**Is Suicide The Unpardonable Sin?**

Several weeks ago a caller to my radio program asked if suicide was the unpardonable sin. The answer is that there is only one unpardonable sin and suicide is not it. Matt 12:31-32 describes for us the unpardonable sin. It reads "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." So the only unpardonable sin is blaspheming against the Holy Ghost. Any other sin can be forgiven as long as it is repented of.

I guess the caller was asking the question because how could one repent of suicide since he is dead? That is a good point. But suppose a person shot himself but did not die immediately. Suppose they didn't die from the wound until two days later. That would give them two days to repent of the sin.

In every case in the Bible, repentance was always necessary in order to receive forgiveness for a sin. In Luke 13:3 Jesus said "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." But if one is willing to repent, any sin (except the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost) can be forgiven.

Even murder can be forgiven. Passages like Rev 21:8 show that those who commit murder will be lost. It reads "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." But suppose a murderer changes his ways and becomes a Christian. Acts 2:38 says if he repents he will be forgiven. That text says "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." So a murderer who repents of his sin and is baptized receives the remission of sins. That would include one who commits suicide but has time to repent.

Even homosexuals can be forgiven. Passages like I Cor 6:9-10 show that homosexuals will be lost. It says "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." (NKJV) But what if a homosexual wants to become a Christian and be forgiven? He can, if he is willing to repent. Verse 11 confirms this when it says "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." Those homosexuals who were willing to change were forgiven.

Even adulterers can be forgiven. Passages like Matt 19:9 show that those who divorce for any reason other than fornication and remarry enter into an adulterous marriage. Jesus said there "Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." But suppose a Christian who has gotten into an unscriptural marriage wants to be forgiven. He can, if he is willing to repent. Acts 8:22 confirms this when it says "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." What would repentance mean in this case? It certainly doesn't mean he can continue to commit adultery with his new wife. Just like repenting of murder means a person must stop murdering people, repenting of adultery means he must stop his adulterous acts, so he must terminate the adulterous marriage. Mark 6:17-18 illustrates this truth as it says "For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife." According to secular history, Herod and Herodias had divorced their spouses and now they were married to each other. John the Baptist (speaking for God) obviously expected Herod to get out of the unscriptural marriage, as he told him "It is not lawful for thee to have her" in Matt 14:4. Does this make adulterous marriage the unpardonable sin? No, it just means a person has to terminate such type marriage in order to be forgiven. It is just like any other sin; repentance is required for forgiveness by God.

So even sins like murder/suicide, homosexuality, and adulterous marriage can be forgiven, if one is willing to repent, to stop the sin. The only sin that can't be forgiven no matter what is the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. But if one dies before he repents of suicide, or if one dies before he repents of homosexual acts, or if one dies while still in an unscriptural marriage, they will be lost - because they have not repented of and received forgiveness for those sins.