

## EVANGELISTIC LECTURES

remnant church of Revelation 12:17 or we will stand on the side of disobedience with the millions of church members, who make up great Babylon of Revelation 17. There is no neutral ground. If we are not with Him, we are against Him. If we do not come out and take our stand for Christ and His great remnant, we are really against Him. The great question is which do you choose, the remnant? Or Babylon?

This message brings people to a dramatic turning point in their life, something like what the Spanish soldiers of Pizarro faced when he was about to embark upon his conquest of Peru. His soldiers had endured indescribable suffering. They were about to desert him. Just at that critical moment when they were about to desert him, ships came into the harbor which would take them safely back to Spain.

Pizarro told his men that they could board the ships, and go back borne if they wanted to. "But wait," he said, and he took his sword and traced a line from east to west upon the sand. Then turning south he said, "Men, before you lies toil, hunger, drenching storms, disease, and possibly death, but there is victory and great wealth and glory. Behind you there is ease and pleasure and safety. On that side lies Peru with its perils and riches. On this side is Spain with its comforts, but eternal disgrace. Now choose which side you will stand on. As for me, I go south," and he stepped across the line.

He waited a moment and his faithful lieutenant said, "I, too, Sir." He too, stepped across the line and joined his commander. Another stepped forward, and another, and another, until the entire band of brave soldiers had stepped over the line and Pizarro took those men and swept to a conquest that has been one of the marvels of succeeding generations.

Our great commander, the Lord Jesus Christ, has drawn a line. On one side is popularity and ease and fame in Babylon. On the other side are trials, reproach, persecution with Christ's remnant. But at the end is victory on the sea of glass and an eternal happy home in heaven. Jesus says, "Choose now on which side you will stand." As for me, friends, I go with Christ's remnant. What do you say? Let everyone say "Amen" to that. That is the way I feel about it.

I am glad that so many have made their decision to go with the remnant. I wish it might be that each would step over the line until every soul who has been coming to these meetings will have made his choice for the truth of God. We do know that "one by one," each of God's true people will be gathered into His remnant fold. In Isaiah 27:12 God says, "Ye shall be gathered one by one." Surely there must be some of those here today, who have not made their decision before, but are ready now to declare their decision.

I want to ask now, if there are those who have not previously made their decision to go all the way, who are ready to say, "By the grace of God I will be one of those whom the Lord is gathering!" Will you lift your hand? Yes, thank God here is one. There must be others. "Ye shall be gathered one by one." Isn't there another one this afternoon, who by putting up his hand will signify, "God helping me I will be one of those ones?"

Friends, it is the greatest privilege under heaven to be one of those "ones" whom the Lord is gathering! I want to ask, How many who were not baptized last night have in their hearts the noble purpose to accept God's message? Will you raise your hands? I am glad to see so many hands. This looks fine.

We shall ask the workers to pass decision cards to any of you who have not filled out one before. This card is not merely for the keeping of the Sabbath. This is a decision card to go all the way in becoming one of God's Sabbath keeping people. If you are not sure about having filled out one of these cards, take one and fill it out because it doesn't hurt anything to fill out a card like this two or three times.

"Ye shall be gathered one by one." This is the way it is. One by one they make up their minds to obey the Lord and keep His commandments, and to come out and take their stand with His remnant. The day is coming soon, when it will be worth more than all the world to be on God's side fully.

The Lord says, "If you be willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land, but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured with the sword." (Prayer).

Our loving Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy presence with us in this Sabbath afternoon meeting. We thank Thee that Thou art gathering out a special people to keep thy commandments and the faith of Jesus.

Lord, Thou hast said, "Ye shall be gathered one by one." And they are coming one by one. We thank Thee for the group who took their stand last night. We thank Thee for those who will go forward this coming Sabbath. We thank Thee for these today who have held up their hand.

Then, Father, here are all these requests. There are so many of us who have loved ones who are out of the ark of safety. They are far away from Christ. Jesus is able to save to the uttermost all who come. So, Lord, we would bring these cases to Thee. Dear Lord, wherever these people are, we pray that just now Thy Spirit will plead with their hearts. May the cords of love draw them to Thee. Show them the right way, and then give them the courage to take their stand. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

### 51. What Is the Unpardonable Sin?

The worst thing that can ever overtake any person in this world is to come to the place where his sins can never be forgiven, no matter how much he may pray. Many people have wondered, what is this unpardonable sin? Some people say it consists in taking one's own life. Others say it consists in killing an unborn child. Some say it is uttering certain terrible words of cursing or blasphemy. Some people think it is some terrible crime which is so hateful in the sight of Almighty God that He cannot pardon it.

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I can definitely tell you that the unpardonable sin is not murder nor adultery. David committed murder and adultery, and he was forgiven. The unpardonable sin is not some terrible words of cursing. Peter cursed Jesus Christ bitterly on the night of His betrayal, and Peter was forgiven and became a mighty man of God.

Is it possible to know what is the unpardonable sin? Yes, Jesus Christ makes it plain that the unpardonable sin is a sin against the Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit. I read His words as recorded in Matthew 12:31, 32, "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. Whosoever speaks against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

Jesus makes it plain that the unpardonable sin consists in doing something against the Holy Ghost. What is it that people do against the Holy Ghost, or the Holy Spirit which puts them where God cannot forgive their sins? The Scriptures show that the most common manifestation of the sin against the Holy Ghost consists in the persistent refusal to turn and obey God.

The unpardonable sin may be explained in just three sentences. No person can ever receive forgiveness without repentance. He cannot receive repentance without the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. Thus, he who grieves away the Holy Spirit sins the unpardonable sin, since he cannot meet the conditions on which God grants pardon.

I am happy to tell you tonight that God is ready to forgive every penitent sinner. In Psalm 86:5 we read, "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee." God is ready to forgive every kind of sin when a sinner repents of it, and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

No man can ever receive forgiveness without the Holy Spirit. Why not? Because the Holy Spirit is the only agency by which he may come to repentance. He is the only agency by which one can meet the conditions on which God can grant pardon and forgiveness.

Here is something to think through. It is impossible for any man to repent of himself. Man has a part to do in repentance, but the Holy Spirit also has a part, so that it is impossible for anyone to repent of himself. He can repent only under the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

We read about this in John 16:8. Speaking about the work of the Holy Ghost, or the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness, and of judgment!" The Holy Spirit convicts men of sin and of righteousness. He points out wrong habits and evil practices which we should turn from. He then shows us right ways and right duties which we should do. "When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness!"

Have you ever been conscious of a still small voice, saying within your heart when you were about to do something wrong? "You had better not do that; it is wrong?" Or have you heard a still small voice saying, "This is the right way for you to go?" How many of you during these meetings have been conscious of a still small voice saying within your heart, "This is the right way. This is what you ought to do?" Or it may be that this still small voice has shown you certain wrong things in your life from which you should turn.

I wonder how many have been aware of such a still small voice speaking to you during these meetings? May I see your hands? (Many hands were raised.) Yes, I think everyone here would put up his hand on that. This still small voice is the convicting power of the Holy Ghost. Your uplifted hand testifies that John 16:8 is true. "When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness."

The Holy Spirit has been doing His part in these meetings. You have heard that still small voice speaking to your hearts. The most important question of all is, What have you done about it? What are you going to do about it tonight? I hope you will never forget that your eternal welfare depends on how you respond to that still small voice of the Holy Spirit. If you yield to the pleading of the Holy Spirit, you will be saved. If you reject the pleading of the Holy Spirit, you will be lost.

We are just as dependent upon the Holy Spirit for conviction unto repentance, as we are upon the blood of Jesus Christ to cancel our sins. Repentance is a gift from God. A lot of people do not understand that. Repentance is a gift from God by the Holy Spirit just as much as forgiveness is a gift of God by the blood of Jesus Christ.

I refer you to Acts 5:31. There you will read that God has exalted Jesus to be a Savior to give repentance unto Israel, and the forgiveness of sin. Notice that repentance and forgiveness are joined together as being gifts of God through His son.

If you want to be forgiven, you must take repentance when the Holy Spirit convicts you. Some people think that they can wait, and turn to God when they get ready. This may prove to be the most fatal mistake they have ever made. No man can obey God, or come to Christ unless the Holy Spirit draws him. You will find this thought in John 6:44. "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him." The Father draws him by the Holy Spirit. I say again, that if you want forgiveness, you must take repentance while the Holy Spirit is convicting you. There is danger in delay.

The Scriptures show that there is danger, possibly tragic. For, if a person persistently refuses to yield to the pleading of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit may leave him never to return. Then his sins will be unpardonable.

Take your notebook and record some important references. The first one is found in Genesis 6:1 God says, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man."

This shows that the Holy Spirit strives with a person for a certain period. If he persistently refuses to yield and obey, the Holy Spirit may leave him. In such a case, his sins would be unpardonable. Why? Because they are so horrible that God could not pardon them? No! God says, "Though your sins be red as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." But God cannot forgive, unless man repents, and man cannot repent if he grieves away the Holy Spirit. Now you begin to see what is the unpardonable sin, don't you? This is a solemn warning to every soul not to go in disobedience against the pleading of the Holy Spirit. "My Spirit shall not always strive with man."

The Bible speaks definitely about the Holy Spirit being taken from people. Put down Psalm 51:11. David had sinned a most horrible sin. In fact a terrible double sin of murder and adultery. He had gone directly against two of the Ten Commandments. He feared that the Holy Spirit would be taken from him. He knew perfectly well that if the Holy Spirit was taken from him, he was a lost man forever, whether he lived on for twenty years or forty years.

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So he pleaded with God, "Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me." This shows that the Holy Spirit can be and sometimes is, taken from people. It shows that the Holy Spirit will be taken from those, who continue to go against the commandments of God.

Next I refer to 1 Samuel 16:14. This is another significant statement. It says, "The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul." The Holy Spirit left him.

Why did the Holy Spirit depart from Saul? Because he persisted in pursuing a course that was contrary to the commandments of God. I wish you would read 1 Samuel 15 when you go home, and see what led to his eternal ruin.

God told Saul to march against the Amalekites, and to slay every one of them and all their cattle. Saul marched against them, and killed every one of them-except one. He spared Agag the, king. He killed all the cattle except a few choice specimens.

See how near he came to obeying the Lord's commandment. He killed them all except one and all the cattle except a few choice ones. He intended to sacrifice those few choice specimens on the altar, and then they would be destroyed. He argued that he was doing the right thing. People become so self-deceived, that they argue that they are doing the right thing, when they are doing the wrong thing.

Samuel said to him, "Since thou hast rejected the word of God, God has rejected thee." Then he persisted in a wrong course until in the next chapter we have that tragic statement, "The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul." Let me tell you that he was just as lost from that moment, as if he were already in hell. He had sinned the unpardonable sin.

We need to study this experience, because this has been placed in the Bible for a lesson to us. Doesn't Saul's experience preach a powerful sermon to you and me on the question of keeping the seventh day as commanded in the fourth commandment? Saul lacked on only one point of obedience. He killed all, except one.

Many Christians obey all the Ten Commandments-except one. The one that says, "The seventh day is the Sabbath; in it thou shall not do any work." Of course, many Christian people are doing this ignorantly. God graciously forgives their sins of ignorance, but God is sending light in these meetings to show people what to do about the Sabbath.

Many have made a wise decision to walk in the light of God's word. I hope every one of you will make that good decision while the Holy Spirit still pleads with you. Remember "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." There is a danger, that if a person delays too long, if he refuses to turn and obey God, the Holy Spirit may leave him never to return.

This is the worst thing that could ever happen to any man or woman. You may talk about a man losing his legs and arms, having his eyes put out, or being crippled for all his days. It is tragic, yes. But none of these is as bad as the Holy Spirit leaving a man. That is the worst thing which can ever happen to a man or woman while he lives on the face of the earth.

The attitude that each soul takes toward the Holy Spirit seals his fate for everlasting joy or everlasting destruction. The attitude that you and I take toward the Holy Spirit seals our destiny for everlasting joy or everlasting destruction. Here are three texts.

In Ephesians 4:30 Paul exhorts Christians to "grieve not the Holy Spirit, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption!"

In Acts 7:51 we read about people resisting the Holy Spirit. In Hebrews 10:29 we read about those who have done despite unto the Spirit of grace. This is what leads people to commit the unpardonable sin, grieving the Holy Spirit, resisting the Holy Spirit, doing despite unto the Holy Spirit. If a person persists in grieving and resisting the Holy Spirit he will finally sin the unpardonable sin.

Some will ask, "How do people grieve the Holy Spirit? How do people resist the Holy Spirit?" When a man knows what he ought to do, and refuses to do it, or fails to do it, that is grieving the Holy Spirit. Every time a man fails to turn and obey God as the Holy Spirit pleads with him, or impresses him, he is resisting the Holy Spirit. Every time a call is given for a person to surrender to the Lord Jesus, and he resists that call, he is resisting the Holy Spirit. When the Word of God shows a person the right way, and he refuses to walk in it, that is resisting the Holy Spirit. Some of you have been doing this week after week in these meetings. O, brother, sister, I hope tonight you will resist the Holy Spirit no longer, but yield to His pleading in full surrender to the Lord Jesus.

I beg of you to listen to the call of the Spirit, because God cannot reach you except through Him. If a man grieves the Holy Spirit away, his case is absolutely and completely hopeless, eternally hopeless. The most terrible sin is the sin against the Holy Ghost, because He is the only One Who can ever bring you to Christ.

God is merciful and kind. He is longsuffering with sinners, but when people persist in disobedience, God finally gives them up. Let me tell you that the saddest thing in this world is when God gives a person up. It is bad enough when a husband gives up his wife. The world is filled with divorces and broken homes. It is sad to see a mother give up her children. We sometimes see that, but listen, the saddest thing is when God gives a person up.

Do you know why God gives people up? Hosea 4:17 says, "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone!" God sends the Holy Spirit to lead people to give up their sins, and to draw them to Christ. When a person persistently refuses to give up a certain sin in response to the pleading of the Holy Spirit, the time will come, when God will say, "He is joined to his idols: let him alone!" Then the Holy Spirit will leave him, never to return. "My Spirit," says God, "shall not always strive with man!"

God sends us light from the Bible to show us the right way. He gives us a desire to turn and obey. He impresses us and pleads with our hearts to surrender all to Jesus Christ and to keep His commandments; but if a person persistently says, "No," to the call of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit will leave him and God gives him up. This is the saddest thing that can ever happen to a human soul. "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone!" If the Holy Spirit leaves him, he cannot repent; and where there is no repentance there is no forgiveness; and where there is no forgiveness, there is no salvation.

Judas Iscariot committed the unpardonable sin when he sold his Lord for thirty pieces of silver. He was a man of good intentions, but he was covetous. He was greedy for money. The Holy Spirit pleaded with him to turn from his covetousness, but he allowed that covetous spirit to grow larger and larger. He persisted in disobeying the tenth commandment which says, "Thou shall

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not covet!" Finally a persistent transgression of the tenth commandment led him to commit the unpardonable sin in selling his Lord to secure thirty pieces of silver.

It was unbelief that led the Pharisees to commit the unpardonable sin. Put down Mark 3:28-30. There you will find that the unpardonable sin in their cases consisted in attributing the miracles wrought by the Holy Spirit through Christ, to the power of the devil. But it was their determination not to accept Jesus Christ of Nazareth as the Son of God, that led them to assert that He cast out devils by the power of the devil.

Any known sin that a person persists in against the conviction of the Holy Spirit may lead him to commit the unpardonable sin. If a person has certain wrong things in his life, the only safe thing to do is to give them up, no matter how dear or how necessary those things may seem to him.

Have you ever wondered what Jesus meant when He declared that if your hand offend you, cut it off? Let us read His words as given in Mark 9:43-48.

"If thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where their worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where their worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched. And if your eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: where their worm dies not, and the fire is not quenched."

Jesus did not mean for people to disfigure their bodies. He was speaking figuratively. Some people have sinful habits that seem as dear and necessary to them as their eyes, or hands, or feet. There are people whose feet are addicted to dancing. They had far better give up that dancing, than to dance their way to hell. There are people who have evil habits, which are as much a part of their life as their own right hand.

Some people are in love with the sinful ways of the world. These sinful things of the world are as precious to them as their own right eye. Some men have formed unlawful attachments for other men's wives or other women. Those attachments are as dear to them as their own right hand. There are women, who have formed attachments for other women's husbands or for other men. But these unlawful attachments will take people to hell if they cling to them.

These people had far better listen to that still small voice that says to turn from this unlawful way, than to cling to it and go into hell fire. This is what Christ meant about cutting off your right hand or plucking out your right eye, or cutting off the right foot. It is those unholly and sinful habits which are dragging people down to hell. They had far better give them up than let those things drag them down to hell.

Some people attempt to smother the conviction of the Holy Spirit with the thought that they can go on committing sin, and then break off whenever they so desire. But the man who persists in sin against the conviction of the Holy Spirit may find himself bound or held with the cords of his own sins.

There was a snake charmer who had a boa constrictor that he had raised from birth. It was his delight to step out in front of the footlights. In a wing of the theatre was a cage in which he kept his boa constrictor, now fully grown. He had caught that snake when it was a little tiny thing, and had raised it on a bottle.

He trained it to mind every signal that he gave. At a certain signal that snake would crawl from the cage and come out on the stage. At another signal it would wrap itself around its master. At another signal the snake would uncoil and go back to its cage.

Day after day this man carried on his thrilling performance. When the audience thought the man would be crushed to death, he would give the signal and the snake would uncoil and go back to his cage. The man thought he had complete control, because he had had that snake from the time it was a little tiny thing.

One day he signaled the snake. It crawled out to him. He gave another signal and the snake crawled around him. He gave another signal, at which it was supposed to uncoil, but the snake did not obey. He tightened his coil around the man. Bones crushed and the poor man fell in a lifeless heap.

So habits of sin grow and some day the sin you think you can control will master you. The sinner will be held with the cords of his own sin. The only safe way is to yield to the pleadings of the Holy Spirit and let Jesus set you free. The unpardonable sin is a sin against much light. I refer you to Matthew 11:20-22.

"Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! Woe unto thee, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you."

Jesus told these people that they had sinned against great light. The transgression of any of the commandments, if persisted in against the light of the Word of God, may lead to the unpardonable sin. I turn to Hebrews 10:26. "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins."

If a person deliberately persists in disobeying God's commandments when he knows better, he will come to the place where there is no sacrifice for sin. If there is no sacrifice, there is no forgiveness. "If we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins."

This is the text that led me to begin keeping the seventh day. I once kept Sunday strictly. There isn't any one in the city of Des Moines who believes any more sincerely that Sunday is the right day than Mr. Shuler did at one time. I thought it was the right day for Christians to keep. But when I searched the Bible I found that the only day of the week that Jesus has ever sanctified, or set apart, for man is the seventh day. The seventh day of the week is the only day He ever asked people to keep.

When I found this out, I knew that I ought to keep the seventh day. But like a lot of people I was slow to obey the light. I didn't want to step out and keep a different day from other people. So I put off making a start to keep the Sabbath. Then a man

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directed my attention to Hebrews 10:26. "If we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins."

I want to tell you that that text put me in a corner where I had to do something. I saw that if I continued to refuse to keep the Sabbath, I would come to the place where there was no sacrifice for my sins. I knew that if I got to that place, I would be a lost man. So I made my decision; sink or swim, live or die, survive or perish, I would keep the Lord's Sabbath.

I could not afford to come to the place where there was no more sacrifice for my sins. Can you?  
"There is a line that is drawn by rejecting our Lord, Where the call of His Spirit is lost, And you hurry along with the pleasure-mad throng. Have you counted, have you counted the cost?"

I appeal to you who have been attending these Bible lectures from week to week and have not yet begun to keep the true Sabbath. You have heard the Word of God, and God tells you what day of the week you ought to keep. He says, "The seventh day is the Sabbath; in it thou shall not do any work."

This is the only commandment which God ever has given about the keeping of a weekly day unto the Lord. Now you know what you ought to do. The Word of God says, "If we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins."

Friends, the worst thing that could happen to a person is to come to the place where there is no more sacrifice for his sins. I do not see how you can go another week without beginning to keep the seventh day holy as the Lord commanded.

Now the question comes, how can we tell when a person has committed the unpardonable sin? The unpardonable sin condition may manifest itself in any one of three different ways. The first way is in being indifferent to one's own spiritual condition. In Ephesians 4:19 it talks about people who are past feeling. The most tremendous appeal has no effect whatever upon them. If one has no desire whatever to turn and obey the call of God, that may be the unpardonable sin condition.

A second way it may manifest itself is in being calloused in disobedience. "There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Men can persist in disobedience until they think they are right even when they are disobeying God. If you can transgress any of the Ten Commandments and your conscience doesn't hurt you, you may well be alarmed.

The third way that the unpardonable sin may manifest itself is in open hostility to God, Jesus Christ, and the Bible.

A young man was taken very ill one night. His mother called the doctor, and the doctor told the mother, "Your boy will not be alive more than twenty four hours." She knew the young man was not a Christian. After she had gained her composure, she went in and told the boy. She said, "Son, the doctor says you cannot live more than twenty-four hours. I have just telephoned my pastor to come and talk with you."

The boy looked at his mother and said, "Mother, I do not want to see your preacher. I will not even let him talk with me. Two years ago in a revival meeting I was powerfully impressed one night to go forward and give my heart to Jesus Christ, but I resisted that impression. I grabbed my hat and left the church. Outside the church I prayed, 'Holy Spirit leave me alone.' I determined I would blot the desire out of my heart to be a Christian. I have never had a desire to be a Christian since then. I am lost and I don't care."

Yes, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." You say, "How can I tell that I have not committed this fearful, unpardonable sin?" If you have a desire to obey God, then the Holy Spirit is still pleading with you. If you once lived a Christian life and you have wandered off into the sinful ways of the world, and you have a desire to return, that is the Holy Spirit still pleading with you. If you have never given your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, and you have a conviction that you ought to be a Christian, that is the Holy Spirit still pleading with you. If you have heard these Bible lectures about the Sabbath and you know the seventh day is right, that is the Holy Spirit pleading with you. The important thing is to yield yourself to the sweet, tender, pleading, drawing power of the Holy Spirit. Thank God for the conviction the Holy Spirit gives you, and act on that conviction before it fades away and is gone.

If a person does not act on the conviction he has, it will likely get weaker until he will not even think about it. This is why God solemnly warns us to decide today. "Today, if you will hear My voice, harden riot your hearts."

The unpardonable sin is that which hardens the heart. If the Holy Spirit impresses us to obey God, and we fail to respond, the heart will be a little bit harder. If a person goes on and on refusing, he will become so hardened that he will be past yielding, and the Holy Spirit will leave him. There are some people who get to the place where an alarm clock will not awaken them. Why? Just because morning after morning they refuse to get up when the alarm sounds.

Some people attend meetings like this and hear lectures about the true Sabbath. At first they are powerfully moved to begin to keep the Sabbath: but they put it off and say, "I will do it a little later." Then the conviction begins to fade. There are people tonight who are not half as much impressed to begin keeping the Sabbath, as they were two weeks or three weeks ago. This is a dangerous thing. Soon the conviction may be entirely gone and they will never even think of doing it.

"There is a line by us unseen,  
That crosses every path;  
The hidden boundary between  
God's patience and His wrath.

"Oh! Where is this mysterious borne  
By which our path is crossed,  
Beyond which God Himself hath sworn,  
That he who goes is lost?"

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“How far may we go on in sin?  
How long will God forbear?  
Where does hope end? And where begin  
The confines of despair?

“An answer from the skies is sent:  
Ye that from God depart!  
While it is called today, repent  
And harden not your heart.”

O, friends, if we persistently refuse the call of the Holy Spirit, He may leave. By delaying, holding back, and putting off taking our stand we may grieve away the Holy Spirit forever. I beg you tonight for the sake of your own eternal welfare, that to trifle with God's Holy Spirit any longer, but yield to His pleading now.

I want to remember in prayer those who have not made their decision to obey God. I wonder how many there are, who have not made their decision to obey the Lord, who would like to have us pray that God will give you strength to yield to the pleading of the Holy Spirit? How many are there, who have not made your decision, and you want us to pray that God will give you strength and grace to yield to the pleading of the Holy Spirit? Will you lift your hand please? Yes, I see a number of hands.

Friends, we do need help from God to do this, because we cannot do it of ourselves. The Holy Spirit has been pleading with you, but you must have help to obey God. How many want the help of God that you may fully yield yourselves? Will you lift your hands? (PRAYER)

### 52. How God Leads Into the Truth

(Copy of the Bible lesson outline, which was distributed to the people preceding the fifty-second lecture.)

1. There are three special parts to the call of the Lord to the people in these last days.
- 2A. The primary step of decision, which the Lord asks man to take, is to believe on His Son Jesus Christ (John 3:16).
- 2B. By truly believing on Jesus a person receives remission of sin and a change of heart, or the new birth.
3. Your first step in responding to the call of the Lord is to give your heart to Jesus, so He can cleanse you from all sin and give you a new heart.
4. The Lord gives the believer a new heart so he may keep His commandments.
5. After a person takes the first step of receiving Jesus for justification and regeneration, then he can take the second step, which is obedience to the will of God, and walking in the commandments of the Lord (Psalm 119: 146 margin).
- 6A. God Himself has appointed the keeping of the seventh day as the sign of man's obedience to God.
- 6B. The keeping of the Sabbath is the only item which God has ever appointed as the sign of the true God and the only Savior.
7. Your second step in responding to the call of the Lord is obedience to God's commandments, with the keeping of the seventh day as the sign of your obedience and loyalty to God.
8. God is calling all those who keep His commandments into His remnant church.
9. Your third step in responding to the call of the Lord is to become a member of His remnant church.
- 10A. The call of the Lord to people today is a threefold call – “Give Me your heart (Proverbs 23:26); take thy foot off of the Sabbath (Isaiah 58:13) and come out of the world or Babylon into the remnant church (Revelation 18:4).
- 10B. The call of God is for conversion to Christ, the keeping of the Sabbath of Christ, uniting with the remnant church of Christ, and then being true to the commandments of Christ to the end (Mark 13:13; Revelation 2:10).
11. Those who are truly born of God and have the right experience are victorious over sin (1 John 5:4, 18) and will not backslide from the truth (Jeremiah 32:40; Psalm 80:17, 18).
12. We should respond to the call of the Lord just as soon as it comes to us.