

# **DON'T TRIFLE WITH TRUTH**

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**MATTHEW 12:31-32 • TV236A**

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by  
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## **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. 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.”*

There's a poem that is often quoted by preachers who endeavor to frighten people into religious professions. I'm sure that you have heard this poem before and it goes something like this:

“There's a time I know not when,  
There's a place I know not where,  
When every man crosses a line to salvation or despair.”

Then, the preacher will preach a sermon on crossing the deadline and urge people to come forward and make a profession of faith, a confession of Christ or religion, and they will say; “ Before it is everlastingly too late.”

Another popular hymn that they use to frighten people into religious professions is this one:

**“There’s a line that is drawn  
By rejecting our Lord  
When the call of the Spirit is lost  
As you hurry along with the pleasure, mad, throng  
Have you counted, have you counted the cost?”**

My friends, I believe that this is a mighty weak and sorrowful method to use for the purpose of getting men and women to make religious professions or to induce them to seek the Lord. I believe in reality, sinners come in faith to Christ because they believe Him, love Him, and they desire Him to be their Lord and Saviour.

Coming to Christ is not simply coming because you may not have another opportunity. Sinners receive Christ and believe on Him because they love Him and they desire Him to be the Lord and Saviour of their lives. It is not because they may not have another opportunity or that they may cross some imaginary deadline. I believe that sinners come to Christ because they find in Him all that they need. They find in Him their soul’s delight and their soul’s comfort.

They do not come to Christ because they fear hell and fear condemnation. They come to Christ because they find in Him all wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. It is not that they fear condemnation or fear hell, (not completely), but they love Christ.

Believers are not forced to faith but they come to Christ willingly. The Scripture says in **Psalm 110:3**; *“Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power.”*

In **Revelation 22:17** the Scripture says; *“The spirit and the bride say come and let him that heareth say come. Let him that is athirst come and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”*

So, using deadlines as an incentive to get people to make religious professions, I believe, is a very weak and sorrowful method.

However, I want you to listen to me; there is a note of warning in the Word of God sounded over and over in the Scriptures, which needs to be stressed. We are warned about trifling with truth.

The Scripture says, *“He that being often reproveth and hardeneth his heart (or stiffens his neck) shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy.”*

In other words, the prophet is saying; *“It is dangerous to trifle with truth.”* It is dangerous to hear truth over and over again and trifle with it.

According to **John 12:35** there may be in time in a person’s life when he so sins against the light of Scripture, the light of the Gospel, the light of the Word of God, that the light will be removed. That light becomes darkness.

Listen to the Lord; is this not what Christ is saying in **John 12:35**? He is saying, *“Walk while you have the light lest darkness come upon you; for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not where he goes.”* Again, our Lord says, *“If that light which be in you be darkness, how great is that darkness.”*

In other words, “If all the light you have has been turned to darkness, how great is that darkness.” I am saying this to those who trifle with truth. There may be a time in your life when you so sin against truth, against light, against the revelations of the Word of God, that light will be removed and you will be left in darkness.

Now; listen to this as I have thought this through very carefully; while I do not preach what they call “deadlines,” these things are true. The Scriptures indicate these things.

There may be a time in a person’s life when he refuses and rejects the truth of the Gospel, the truth of Christ and the truth of God’s glory as it is seen in the face of Christ Jesus.

He may be so consistent and persistent that he becomes satisfied and comfortable in a false refuge of religion. He becomes Gospel-hardened. He resists and rejects the truth concerning the glory of Christ, the sufficiency of Christ, the substitution work of Christ as he hears it over and over again. He does nothing about it and does not seek to know that Lord so that after awhile he becomes totally satisfied and totally comfortable and is not disturbed at all.

Listen to **1 Thessalonians 2:10** and listen carefully; our Lord says, *“Because they receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved.”* And because they receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved, God shall send them strong delusions that they should believe a lie and be damned.” The truth is Christ, He said; *“I am the way; I am the truth.”*

They shall be content with a lie, believe in a lie, rest in a lie, and be damned for believing that lie. This is what that is saying. *“They receive not the love of the truth.”* In order to receive it you have to hear it. And in order to reject it, you have to hear it.

So, they heard the truth; it was preached to them. They held to their tradition; they held to their customs; and they held to these other things and refused the truth. *“God sent them strong delusions that they should believe a lie and be damned (damned for believing that lie).”* They were comfortable in a false refuge.

This is true; there may be a time when people are so given over to evil, to the direction of evil, the life of evil, to habits of evil, idolatry, and corruption, that God will give them up. God will give them over completely to do those things which are not convenient.

God will give them up to do those things which are corrupt and depraved. He will just give them a seared conscience so that they have no trouble anymore. They have followed this course so long and God has given them over and given them up to this sort of thing.

You will find this in drunkenness, homosexuality, gambling, and all of these things. God just gives a man over. He no longer has any conflict or has any trouble with his conscience. He is just given over to this sort of thing and takes pleasure in it.

Let me read you some Scriptures: Turn to **Romans 1:26**. *“God gave them up to vile affections.”* This is what He is talking about in **Romans 1** where women desired women, and men desired men. This practice went on until God just gave them over to it. He gave them completely over to *“vile affections”* and they had no conscience about it any longer.

In **Romans 1:24**, He says the same thing; *“God gave them up, just gave them up to uncleanness.”* He gave them over to vile affections and gave them up to uncleanness.

In **Romans 1:28**, in this same chapter, which you should read sometime, *“God gave them over to a reprobate mind,”* to a mind that is totally reprobated.

What I am saying is this and I want you to listen to me; while our God is able to save whom He will, He saved Saul of Tarsus out of the wicked religion, the most self-righteous, legalistic and wicked religion.

He saved the thief on the cross in the eleventh hour of his life. God is able to save whom He will by His mighty power. That is evident in so many cases in the Word of God.

He saved the man of Gadarenes who had lost his mind. He saved the thief on the cross, and the harlot, Mary Magdalene. You can read on and on and on and name them.

Yet, I am telling you, there is a clear truth taught in the Word of God that men and women may trifle with truth and trifle with the Gospel to the point of becoming dead while they are living. This is what I've been reading to you; *“They become dead while they are living.”*

This is what He says in **John 12**; *“Walk while you have the light, lest darkness come upon you,”* while you are still living and walking in total darkness where there is no light.

Then He says, *“They receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved.”* So God sent them instead of truth, or a preacher of the truth and the message of truth, God will send them someone to confirm them in their refuge of lies, someone to agree with them in their refuge of falsehood.

God sends someone to confirm and agree with them and soothe their itching ears that they might believe a lie and be damned for it.

These people that continue the road of rebellion, evil, and vile affection, God gave them up; He turned them loose. He released them to do what their depraved, wicked, hearts, would do.

We are seeing so much of that in our own day. My message to you today is: **“Don't Trifle With Truth.”** Don't trifle with truth to the point of becoming dead while you still live.

In **Hebrews 12:17**, the Scripture says; *“Esau found no place of repentance though he sought it carefully with tears.”* This is in your Bible right there before you. Esau sold out and sold his birthright.

This birthright was not just an inheritance, because Esau received an inheritance. This birthright was not just a big bank account. He received a big bank account from his father. This birthright was not just earthly possessions; it was the relationship with God.

This birthright was the place of the firstborn in the home. It was the place of the priesthood in the home. He turned that down. To be God’s man, He said, “I don’t need to be God’s man; I will sell that.”

Later, when he wept over it and wanted it, he sought it with tears but he never found it. In **Proverbs 1:28**, the Scripture says; *“Then shall you call upon me and I will not answer.”* (This is God speaking). *“I stretched out my hand and no man regarded. I called to you and you would not hear.”*

God said, *“One of these days you will call on me and I will not answer you. You will seek me and shall not find me.”* Yes, there are men who become Gospel-hardened. To be Gospel-hardened is to be damned.

There are men who become judicially blinded. We can see that in the nation Israel. To be judicially blinded is to be damned.

There are men who become content, totally content, in a religious refuge of lies. The longer they stay there the more secure they feel. To be content and satisfied in a refuge of lies is to be damned.

I want to touch on three areas today and I want you to listen to me; I believe that I can help you:

First of all: What is the unpardonable sin, the blaspheming of the Holy Ghost, what is that?

Secondly: What is it to fall from grace?

Thirdly: What is the sin unto death? We read where John says, *“There is a sin unto death. I do not say that you should pray for it.”*

A lot of people write me and want to know about the unpardonable sin found in **Matthew 12: 31 and 32**. Are you interested? Let’s look at it and listen carefully to the Scripture; *“All matter of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men, but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.”*

*“Whosoever speaketh against the Son of man;”* (try to remember that), *it shall be forgiven him. But, whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven him in this world nor in the world to come.”*

In order to understand these verses you have to read what Christ said before and what took place in the context. Did you ever think about doing that? When you are trying to interpret Scripture, do not just read one verse or two verses; read the entire chapter. If you will listen; read what happened before and what took place in the context.

Our Lord had just healed a man who was possessed of evil spirits. Our Lord healed him by the power of the Holy Spirit. He had the spirit without limit. The Holy Ghost came upon him at his baptism. He did what he did in the power of the Spirit of God.

This man was blind and this man was dumb. He was made immediately whole. The people heard this man speak and knew that he could now hear. When the people saw this miracle, (which this is one of the keys to understanding this unpardonable sin), they were amazed.

The people cried out; *“Is this not the son of David?”* Do you know what they were saying? They were saying, this is the Messiah. Is this not the Christ? Is not this the Messiah? *“Is not this that prophet of whom Moses wrote?”* Is not this the redeemer of Israel?

You know; when John was in prison, he sent two disciples to the Lord Jesus Christ and said; *“Are you he that should come or do we look for another?”* Are you the Christ? Are you the Son of God?

Our Lord sent those disciples back to John and said, *“Tell John how the lame walk and the blind see and the deaf hear and the dead are raised. Be not faithless but believe.”*

These works and these miracles performed by our Lord were clear indications that He was the Christ, the Messiah. The Spirit of God was manifesting through these miracles that Jesus was indeed the Christ.

This is what these works were saying. This is what His words were saying. This is what the Holy Spirit was saying. Nicodemus said the same thing; *“No man could do what you do except God be with him,”* except He be God and God be with him.

When He performed this miracle in which the blind saw and the deaf heard, these people said; *“Is not this the Messiah?”*

What did their religious leaders say? The religious leaders said, *“No; this fellow, (this is what they called Him, “this fellow”) is not the Messiah.”* This fellow does what He does *“by the power of Beelzebub, by the power of the devil.”*

My friends; many people spoke about the Son of Man and said; *“He is the carpenter.”* They said that He was a *“wine bibber and a gluttonous man.”* They also said, that *“He is a friend of sinners.”* Some said, *“We know his mother, Mary.”*

Even His brothers didn't believe on Him, even the brothers of His own household. They talked about Jesus the Son of man, "*a wine bibber, a gluttonous man, a friend of sinners, a carpenter,*" and this entire sort of thing.

These Pharisees, these religious leaders, were not speaking against the Son of Man. They were not speaking against the man Jesus of Nazareth; they were rejecting and blaspheming a clear revelation by the Holy Ghost of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.

The Holy Spirit's work is to reveal Christ, to reveal the Redeemer, to reveal Christ as the Son of God, the Redeemer of sinners. That is the work of the Holy Ghost.

Our Lord Jesus said, "*When he, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you unto all truth. He shall not speak of himself but he shall glorify me. He shall take the things of mine and show them to you.*" That is exactly what the Holy Ghost was doing in this case, in this event, on this occasion.

Our Lord healed the blind and deaf man, a man who had never seen, never heard, or never spoke. He could now see, hear, and speak, and the people said; "*this is the Christ.*" These Pharisees said, "*No it's not; it is a devil.*"

That is when our Lord said; "You can speak against the Son of Man." You can call Jesus of Nazareth a "*wine bibber, a gluttonous man,*" or what you will. But, when the Spirit of God, the Holy Ghost, is pleased, (in no uncertain terms and in an unquestionable manner), then He is pleased to set forth in a clear fashion, that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God, that He is the Messiah, write it down!

He is the one of whom Moses wrote and Isaiah wrote. He is the one for whom we look. He is the one whom God sent. He is the anointed Son of God. When the Holy Ghost says that and then you say; that is a lie; it will never be forgiven you in this world or the world to come.

Write it down; I'm telling you the truth; that is what the unpardonable sin is. "*When he is come, the Holy Ghost; he will not speak of himself.*"

I hear people say that the unpardonable sin is to criticize other religions. We are told to "*Try the spirits whether they be of God.*"

They don't want us to say anything about the phony healers out there, these fellows who are making a million dollars every six months off of poor people. They act like they are healing sick folks.

They say that you might be blaspheming the Holy Spirit. There is not a word of truth in that. You blaspheme the Holy Spirit only when you deny His redemptive message, when you deny His Gospel of Christ and when you attribute the message of Christ to the devil. It is the Holy Ghost's business, work and task to magnify Christ, that's why the Holy Ghost came. "*These things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God.*"

When our Lord performed that miracle, when the Holy Spirit clearly identified who He is and the people saw it, heard it, and the people rejoiced in it, they said; *“this the Christ.”* These religious leaders said, “No He’s not.” Our Lord said, “That won’t be forgiven you.” When you miss Christ you miss everything.

Now here is the second thing I want us to look at, **Galatians 5:4** says, *“You are fallen from grace.”* If we are to have any understanding of this falling from grace or any understanding of this phrase, then we are going to have to read the context again.

I wish people would start reading the Bible. I wish we would get rid of “verse-itus.” I wish there was some shot that you could take to cure it or take some kind of medicine. I guess that there never will be.

These false teachers had risen up in the church of Galatia. This is found in **Galatians 5:4**. These false teachers had risen up in the church at Galatia and what they were saying was this; “Faith in Jesus Christ the Lord, in His life and in His death, was not sufficient to save a sinner, or sufficient to justify a sinner.”

They were saying that His precious blood and His obedient life was not enough to honor God’s law and satisfy God’s justice and it wasn’t enough to save a soul. In order for a man to be justified before God, he must not only believe on Christ, but you have to add something to it.

They did not only deny that. They said, “Yes, you must believe that He died, was buried, and rose again, but you have to add something to it. They said, you have to be circumcised and become a Jew. You have to keep the Sabbath Day. You have to be baptized or you have to keep some other part of the Levitical law.

They said you cannot eat pork. You have to do this, that, and the other. You have to do all of these different things. You have to become a Jew. You have to be circumcised and get under the Levitical Law. You have to keep Sabbath Days, Holy Days, and Feast Days.

They were implying that Christ does His part but we have to do our part. What you are saying is Christ is not sufficient of and in Himself; faith is not enough. That is what Paul called *“Another Gospel.”*

He declared in **verse 1 of Galatians 5** that Christ freed us from the bondage, the curse, and the covenant of the law. He says in **Galatians 5:1**, *“Stand fast in that liberty wherewith Christ has made you free.”* Stand fast in that freedom of Christ.

Don’t become entangled again in the bondage of laws, Holy Days, circumcision, ordinances, and requirements. Don’t be entangled with *“touch not, taste not, and handle not, all of which is perishing with the use of it.”*

## DON'T TRIFLE WITH TRUTH

MATTHEW 12:31-32 • HENRY T. MAHAN

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Then, he says in the next verse; if you do become circumcised in order to be saved, in order to be accepted of God, if you do keep Holy Days, Sabbath Days, along with baptism and rituals, in order to be accepted of God, *“Christ will profit you nothing.”*

He will not profit you anything at all for He said; “A man who does one part of the law in order for righteousness, or for acceptance with God, he is indebted to obey the whole Law.

A man, who does one thing such as circumcision, baptism, tithing, Sabbath Days or whatever for righteousness before God or sanctification, is indebted to obey the whole Law, every jot and tittle.

He has to obey every law, every rule, and every work. *“Christ becomes of no affect.”* This is when He says, *“You have fallen from grace.”* You have departed from salvation by grace.

You see, salvation can't be grace and works. It cannot be grace plus anything. *“For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast.”*

Then lastly, John said; *“There is a sin unto death. I do not say that you shall pray for it.”* All of our sins deserve death; *“the wages of sin is death.”* Thank God there is mercy, forgiveness, and grace for sin.

There is a sin unto death that leaves a man in death and results in eternal death. That sin is to depart from the perfect righteousness of Christ and seek acceptance in the works of the flesh and the deeds of the Law.

God took Adam's fig leaf apron off, totally. He covered him with coats of skin, which is a picture of the righteousness of Christ. The man that sins a sin unto death is a man who reaches for the fig leaf and puts it back on. What he is saying is; “Christ is not sufficient.”

There will be no use in praying to reject and refuse the Son of God; that man is damned; *“For there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved!”*