

## *Answers with The Bishop*

August 2018

**Question:** In 1 John 5:16 it says that there is a sin that leads to death and we should not pray about it? What sin is that?

Some have said John is either referring to a sin at the time that was punishable by physical death or a sin that cannot be forgiven and is punishable by spiritual death which is separation from God! **I believe the latter!**

*KJV Mark 3:28 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme:*

*29 But he that shall blaspheme (insult, attack violently) against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:*

This is what is referred to as “**The Unpardonable Sin**”!

To attribute the work of The Holy Spirit to Satan or giving credit to Satan for what The Holy Spirit has done is an insult or attack against who God is!

Since all other sins can be forgiven we can pray and ask for forgiveness; but since this sin can never be forgiven, there is no reason to pray for the one who commits it.

**Question:** As it is often said, we are "living in the last days". How does the book of Revelation align with what we are seeing in the world today and is it true that only a certain pre-determined number of people will be saved?

**Last Days** is an expression used in scripture to describe the final period of the world as we now know it!

The Holy Bible is a book about God’s plan for mankind worked throughout history.

The **Last Days** are the time in history when God finishes His plans on this earth for humankind, Israel, The Church, Satan and the fallen angels.

**The Book of Revelation** is different than other NT books because it is **strictly** a book of prophecy.

*KJV Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear **the words of this prophecy**, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

There are several types of Biblical literature or writing types and styles:

Historical, The Law, Wisdom, Poetry, The Gospel, Epistles (letters) and Prophecy.

Each type is be **read and interpreted differently!**

*ESV Revelation 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,*

## **The Book of Revelation is about what it says!**

The Revelation of Jesus Christ in the last days! It reveals the historical events that surround how and when Jesus Christ will reveal Himself to the world.

**Again, what makes the book of Revelation so different is prophecy can only be interpreted by the human spirit that is in fellowship with The Holy Spirit!**

*1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

*GWN 2 Peter 1:20 First, you must understand this: No prophecy in Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation.*

*21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

*ESV Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet...*

John the apostle was in The Spirit or he came under the influence of The Holy Spirit on The Lord's Day (Sunday when Christ rose from the dead) when he wrote.

*ESV Revelation 1:7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.*

**The Book of Revelation is first and foremost about Jesus Christ!**

**He is the focus of the Book—it's about everyone seeing Jesus in all His glory—EVERYONE!**

It's not a sci-fi movie or just a list of terrible events that will happen on earth, It's **The Revelation** (unveiling & revealing) of **Jesus Christ** to the world.

After John explains his situation he goes right in to telling us the awesome beauty and majesty of Jesus Christ when **he saw Him.**

*Revelation 1:14 His head and his hair were white like wool-like snow. His eyes were like flames of fire.*

*15 His feet were like glowing bronze refined in a furnace. His voice was like the sound of raging waters.*

*16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword. His face was like the sun when it shines in all its brightness.*

*17 When I saw him, I fell down at his feet like a dead man. Then he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.*

*Revelation 1:7 Look! He is coming in the clouds. Every eye will see him, even those who pierced him.*

**Every eye is going to see Jesus! The question is will you be ready?**

*NIV Revelation 1:19 "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.*

The Book of Revelation therefore is about **past events, current events and things that will happen.**

**Jesus told John to write what is NOW, what was happening during John's day and what will happen later! The book of Revelation** lines up with every generation from the time John wrote it until the end!

**Question: are there a pre-determined number of people who will be saved.**

This question is referring to **predestination!** This is another **not-so-short answer!**

Often when people hear the word **predetermine** they immediately think people have no choice!

For God to be God as the scripture declares—omnipotent, omniscience, omnipresent and sovereign.

His will **must** be done, things must end as He has determined, or He is **not** God!

If things turn out the way an angel, Satan or any other being choses they are the most wise and powerful!

**So predestination and predetermination rest solely in the hands of God!**

*ESV Romans 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."*

*18 So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.*

*19 You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? **For who can resist his will?"***

*20 Who do you think you are to talk back to God like that? Can an object that was made say to its maker, "Why did you make me like this?"*

*21 A potter has the right to do whatever he wants with his clay. He can make something for a special occasion or something for everyday use from the same lump of clay.*

*22 What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath-- prepared for destruction?*

*23 What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory--*

*24 This is what God did for us whom he called--whether we are Jews or not.*

God is sovereign His will alone will be done—we are created beings, created to His good pleasure!

*Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

*ESV Ephesians 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...!*

Without predestination and predetermination all things couldn't work together for our good!

Question: How do we cast our cares upon the LORD? What exactly does this entail?

*KJV 1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

Peter begins this part of his letter by saying in **verse 1**.

*“I appeal to your spiritual leaders. I make this appeal as a spiritual leader who also witnessed Christ's sufferings and will share in the glory that will be revealed.”*

*2 Be shepherds over the flock God has entrusted to you. Watch over it as God does: Don't do this because you have to, but because you want to. Don't do it out of greed, but out of a desire to serve.*

*3 Don't be rulers over the people entrusted to you, but be examples for the flock to follow.*

*4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

Peter is talking about dealing with the stress and strain of leading people, first as leaders in the church, then as leaders in the home.

Peter says don't get mad, frustrated or anxious and try to force people to follow, lead by example and Christ will reward you!

Then Peter says in *1 Peter 5:5* *Young people, in a similar way, place yourselves under the authority of spiritual leaders. Furthermore, all of you must serve each other with humility, because God opposes the arrogant but favors the humble.*

*6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,*

7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

There is always stress, tension and anxiety among leaders and the people they lead!

The apostle Peter is telling us how to relate to one another while this tension is going on between leaderships vision and style of leadership and the followers wants and needs!

Peter goes on to tell the young people it's the same with you—allow yourselves to be led, place yourself under spiritual leadership and let all of us serve with humility.

- Not putting constant unnecessary pressure on one another!
- Not placing unreasonable expectations on one another!

**1 Peter 5:7** was taken from **Psalm 55** David is in **great distress** and grieved by is happening in his life!

- *My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught!*
- *Because of what my enemy is saying, because of the threats of the wicked;*
- *They attack me out of anger!*
- *My heart is bounding out of anxiety!*

**Psalm 55:6** *I said, "If only I had wings like a dove- I would fly away and find rest. 7 Indeed, I would run far away. I would stay in the desert. Selah*

**Psalm 55:12** *If an enemy had insulted me, then I could bear it. If someone who hated me had attacked me, then I could hide from him.*

**13** *But it is you, my equal, my best friend, one I knew so well!*

**14** *We used to share our hearts with each other; enjoyed sweet fellowship at the house of God, as we walked about among the worshipers.*

David is so wounded and overwhelmed he begins to curse his enemies!

**15** *Let death take my enemies by surprise; let them go down alive to the realm of the dead, for evil finds lodging among them.*

Then it's almost like David remembers who he is! **He's God anointed vessel!**

*CJB Psalm 55:16* *But I will call on God, and the LORD will save me.*

**17** *Morning, noon, and night I complain and groan, and he listens to my voice.*

This is how we cast our cares, turn our anxieties over to God by talking to Him about them all day everyday—complain to Him and not your family & friends!

*GWN **Psalm 55:22** Turn your burdens over to the LORD, and he will take care of you.  
He will never let the righteous person stumble.*