



Dear Crossroads Family,

This Sunday is National Back-to-Church Sunday. People all across our country are being urged to attend Bible study and worship. Those who have never attended or slipped in their attendance are encouraged to start or restart participation in a church. I hope you are already planning to be in Bible study and worship and are encouraging others to worship with you.

The staff and leadership of our church chose this Sunday to request that, as we are led by the Lord, each of us make a generous financial gift to help with some very important repairs and improvements that need to be made to our facilities. Specifically, repairs need to be made to the roof of our sanctuary building. Additionally, much needed improvements to the sound and lighting equipment in our sanctuary are crucial to ensure that worship is enhanced and the communication of the gospel is unhindered. These are pressing concerns, important to the future ministry of our church. Of course, we want to complete these needed tasks without going into debt. I hope you will join with your church family to make this Sunday's special offering a gift pleasing to the Lord.

Pray about what God would have you to do. Remember that this contribution must be over and above your regular gifts. Otherwise, we would only be "robbing Peter to pay Paul," so to speak. Finally, remember this: "If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have" (2 Cor. 8:12).

I am so thankful to be the pastor of a church that is always generous and ready to meet ministry needs whenever and wherever they arise. Thank you in advance for considering this request and for making this Sunday's special offering a priority in your life.

Sunday's message will address something Jesus spoke about that has been a point of concern for many. Jesus taught that there is a "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit" that will not be forgiven—a rather shocking statement from the One who is the epitome of grace and forgiveness. You will certainly want to be present for the message, "What is the Unpardonable Sin?" (Sermon notes are provided below.)

I'm looking forward to worshipping with you this Sunday!

Love,

Bro. Doug

What Is the Unpardonable Sin?

Matthew 12:22-32

The frightening thought that a single, wrong choice could lead to ultimate _____ is what some people fear because of an expression Jesus used in Matt. 12:22-32: "_____ against the Holy Spirit."

The meaning of Jesus' teaching becomes clear in the context of the _____ of the demon-possessed man and His _____ with the Pharisees. They accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of the prince of demons. Jesus pointed out that their accusation was a _____ evaluation of Jesus' power and ministry.

Jesus recognized in the _____ of their response that these Pharisees were willing to believe any irrational idea or use any counterintuitive argument to _____ the most obvious truth before them—that Jesus was the _____ and Son of God operating by the power of the _____ of God.

The sheer _____ of those Pharisees to believe what was clearly before them meant that they were guilty of committing, or very close to committing blasphemy, against the Holy Spirit. That sin is coming to the _____ that you will not believe in Jesus or accept Him as your way to a restored relationship to the Father no matter what _____ the Holy Spirit offers. Presented with unmistakable evidence, those Pharisees had already made up their minds. And once someone's mind is firmly made up, God will allow them to _____ as they wish.

2 Thess. 2:10-12 _____ clearly what blasphemy against the Spirit is, and the account of Pharaoh persistently hardening his heart against God's will and then God finally hardening Pharaoh's heart is an obvious _____ of blasphemy.

The most important question you can ask yourself is, "_____ committed the unpardonable sin?" It's _____, but we don't know when we might settle into firm _____. So, the Bible says, "_____, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart."

A Few Announcements:

Because Sunday is National Back-to-Church Sunday, we are also making it "Name Tag Sunday". Hopefully we will have larger than normal attendance, and we want to be sure we know people's names! Sunday School classes will have printed name tags for those who regularly attend, and some extra blank name tags for any guests. If you don't attend Sunday School, please pick up a name tag in the foyer. This is a great way to get to know more of our church family!

Kyrie is coming in concert on Sunday, September 28, at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Make plans to join us for a special evening of worship through the music of Kyrie.

Have you been to Brazil? If so, please contact Rose Purcell (210.612.5860) or anyone on the Missions Committee. You could have valuable knowledge and/or resources for our International Mission Study on Brazil. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

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