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*The Essential Jesus as
Revealed in the Gospel of Mark*

THE
AUTHORITY
of Scripture



The Bible: A Confession of Faith

We believe that God, who is Himself Truth and speaks truth only, has inspired Holy Scripture. We believe he has done so in order to reveal Himself to lost mankind through Jesus Christ as Creator and Lord, Redeemer and Judge. We believe the Bible is God's inerrant witness to Himself. **We believe. Amen!**

The Bible: A Confession of Faith

We believe that the Scripture, being God's own Word, written by men carried along by God's Spirit as they wrote, is of infallible divine authority in all matters upon which it touches: it is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it affirms, obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; embraced, as God's pledge, in all that it promises. **We believe. Amen!**

The Bible: A Confession of Faith

We believe that the Holy Spirit, Scripture's divine Author, both authenticates Scripture to us by His inward witness and opens our minds to understand its meaning. **We believe.**

Amen!

The Bible: A Confession of Faith

We believe that the Bible is indeed sufficient to thoroughly equip for every good work each believer who saturates his mind with its truth and submits his will to its precepts. **We believe. Amen!**



Sharpening Our Focus on Christ!

Five passages each week to help us
“fix our eyes upon Jesus!”



BLOG

Initiative of Grace Church to sharpen our focus on Jesus Christ!

Welcome to *The Essential Jesus* blog. I will be posting things of interest along the way as **TOGETHER** we journey through the life of Christ! All in hopes of sharpening our focus on Jesus so that we might run with endurance the race set before us (Hebrews 12:1-3)!



RETURN TO GRACE CHURCH AT
WILLOW VALLEY SITE

- [Grace Church at Willow Valley](#) ✖

WHAT IS THE ESSENTIAL JESUS?

Our Essential Jesus initiative consists of the following three components:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2012

Rejected by Man ... but not by God!

Reading Day #5: [1 Peter 2:4-10](#)

[1 Peter 2:4-5](#): As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God





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Mark 3:7-35 (Four scenes)

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A Great Crowd (vv. 7-12, 20)

A Pivotal Decision (vv. 13-19)

A Concerned Family (vv. 21; 31-35)

A Vicious Charge (vv. 22-30)

The Unpardonable Sin

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R. Kent
Hughes

“There are few Scriptures so consistently misunderstood as this one, and so misapplied.”

Mark 3:22-30



- A vicious and relentless **accusation**
(v. 22)

A vicious and relentless accusation



Mark 3:22

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by **Beelzebul**,” and “by **the prince of demons** he casts out the demons.”

Mark 3:22-30



- A vicious and relentless **accusation**
(v. 22)
- A calm and reasoned **response**
(vv. 23-27)

A calm and reasoned response



Mark 3:23

And he called them to him and said to them in parables, **“How can Satan cast out Satan?”**

A calm and reasoned response



Mark 3:24-25

If **a kingdom** is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if **a house** is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

A calm and reasoned response



Mark 3:26

And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end.

A calm and reasoned response



Mark 3:27

But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, **unless** he first **binds** the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

Accusation and response



The scribes were saying ...

“Jesus, your power is **FROM** Satan!”

Jesus was saying

“You scribes, my power is **OVER** Satan!”

Mark 3:22-30



- A vicious and relentless **accusation**
(v. 22)
- A calm and reasoned **response**
(vv. 23-27)
- A stern and heavy **warning**
(vv.28-30)

A stern and heavy warning



Mark 3:28-30

“**Truly**, I say to you, **all sins** will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever **blasphemies** they utter, but whoever **blasphemes against the Holy Spirit** never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

A stern and heavy warning



1 John 1:9

If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just **to forgive** us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Mark 1:15

“**Repent** and believe the gospel!”

A stern and heavy warning



Mark 3:28-30

“**Truly**, I say to you, **all sins** will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever **blasphemies** they utter, but whoever **blasphemes against the Holy Spirit** never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

A stern and heavy warning



Blasphemy is the act of insulting or mocking God – of showing contempt and disdain for him – it is an expression of defiant hostility toward him.

It can be **spoken, written**, or it can reside in one's heart as a "silent" **attitude**.

A stern and heavy warning



Mark 3:28-30

“**Truly**, I say to you, **all sins** will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever **blasphemies** they utter, but whoever **blasphemes against the Holy Spirit** never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—for they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

A stern and heavy warning



Mark 3:30

For they were saying, **“He has an unclean spirit.”**

They were attributing the work of the Spirit (being done through Jesus) to the work of Satan, thereby denying the Spirit's work and witness and insulting Him and showing contempt for Him!

UNFORGIVEABLE?

A stern and heavy warning



Which member of the Godhead
(Father, Son, Spirit) is the member
instrumental in convicting a person of
his sin and causing a sinner to be
“born again?”

A stern and heavy warning



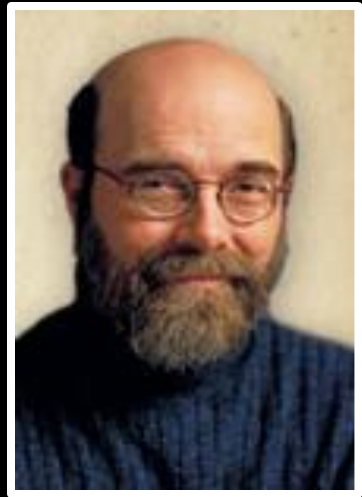
John 16:8

“And when **he** comes, **he** will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”

John 3:5

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the **Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

A stern and heavy warning



Michael
Card

“To blaspheme the Holy Spirit places a person beyond all forgiveness. If a person denies the vehicle of forgiveness (the Holy Spirit), he has cut himself off from the possibility of being forgiven. It is a sin whereby you place yourself beyond pardon.”

Today's Takeaways



1. Are you concerned that you might one day commit this 'unforgiveable sin?' **The fact that you are concerned about this is a sign that you have NOT committed it! Remember, this sin is one in which someone sets himself defiantly against the Spirit of God!**

Today's Takeaways

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R.C.
Sproul

“Worrying about it (committing the unpardonable sin) is one of the clearest evidences that a person has not committed this sin, for those who commit it are so hardened in their hearts they do not care that they commit it.”

Today's Takeaways



2. Have you come to Christ to receive the forgiveness of sin that he offers? Remember, no matter your sin, no matter how many ... “all sins will be forgiven the children of man.” (Jesus’ words, not mine!)

Today's Takeaways



Psalm 32:5

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you **forgave** the iniquity of my sin.

Today's Takeaways



Psalm 32:1-2a

Blessed is the one whose transgression is **forgiven**, whose sin is **covered**.

Blessed is the man against whom the Lord **counts no iniquity** . . .

Today's Takeaways

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Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.