

Mark 3:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Verily I say unto you All sins shall be forgiven unto sons of men and blasphemies wherewith they blaspheme. Verily amēn truly solemn declaration. All sins pasai hai hamartiai every kind of sin. Shall be forgiven aphethēsetai future passive divine forgiveness. Sons of men huiois tōn anthrōpōn humanity. Blasphemies blasphemai slander evil speaking. Wherewith hosa whatever kind. They blaspheme blasphemēsōsin speak evil against. Sweeping statement of grace amplitude. No sin beyond God forgiveness except one following verse. Murder adultery theft blasphemy all forgivable. Gospel offer unlimited scope. Christ atonement sufficient for all sins. Reformed theology emphasizes particular redemption Christ died for elect but gospel offer is universal. All who come will be forgiven. Grace super-abounds over sin.

Historical Context

Context Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by Satan power (3:22). Jesus warns against blasphemy of Holy Spirit unforgivable sin. This verse establishes God grace first before warning. All sins forgivable emphasizes grace breadth. Pharisees committed terrible sin attributing Holy Spirit work to Satan. Yet even this might be forgiven if they repented. Unforgivable sin is final impenitent rejection attributing obvious divine work to Satan. Augustine argued unforgivable sin is dying in unbelief. Reformed view perseverance of saints means

true believers cannot commit unforgivable sin. Those who worry about having committed it thereby prove they have not. Concern indicates Spirit work.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does all sins forgivable reveal about breadth of God grace and Christ atonement sufficiency?
2. How does amplitude of forgiveness except one sin shape our understanding of gospel offer?

Interlinear Text

Ἄμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι πάντα ἀφεθήσεται τὰ
Verily I say unto you G3754 All shall be forgiven G3588
G281 G3004 G5213 G3956 G863

ἀμαρτήματα τοῖς νιοῖς τῶν ἀνθρώπων καὶ
sins unto the sons of men and G265 G3588 G5207 G444 G2532

βλασφημίαι ὅσας ἀν βλασφημήσωσιν.
blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme G988 G3745 G302 G987

Additional Cross-References

Luke 12:10 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.

1 John 5:16 (Sin): If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

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