

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

A WORLD-WIDE BROADCAST

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Proclaims to the World the
Good News of THE WORLD TOMORROW

Publishing

The PLAIN TRUTH

a Magazine of UNDERSTANDING

Miss N. Stanley,
3, Mildred Ave.,
Hornsley, N.S.W.

B. C. M. AMBASSADOR
LONDON, W. C. 1, ENGLAND

23 Sept. 1958

Dear Miss Stanley:

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your recent letter to Mr. Armstrong. Because he receives many letters each week from around the world, it is impossible for him to answer them all personally. For that reason, your letter has been referred to me, a graduate of Ambassador College, for answering. I am thankful to be of service to you.

I have sent you a number of articles and booklets explaining some of the questions you were wondering about. However, I would like to give you a brief answer to your query about the sin against the Holy Spirit.

This sin is one that warrants no forgiveness (Matt. 12:31). What type of sin is this? First, it is the kind of sin the Pharisees had in Matthew 12:22-37. Here it says that these Pharisees deliberately rejected the workings of the Holy Spirit even though they knew it was the work of God. We read in John 3:1,2 where Nicodemus, representing the Pharisees, said they knew He was a man from God. Yes, the Jewish leaders knew He was the Messiah, but they called His works those of the devil. By doing this they completely rejected Christ and the Holy Spirit and once that is done their minds are closed and will not repent. Only by repentance can one be saved (Acts 2:38). These Pharisees may have not entirely committed the unpardonable sin -- it all depends upon their attitudes to repent. If they can repent and do it, they have not committed this sin.


Secondly, you read in Hebrews 6:4-6 another way to commit the unpardonable sin. In essence, it is the same thing as the crime of the Pharisees. You will notice that Paul, in Hebrews, says that those Christians who are thoroughly converted and then after knowing the complete truth of the Gospel then thoroughly reject it, it then becomes impossible for them to come back to the truth (2 Pet. 2:20-22). The key to knowing if a person has committed the unpardonable sin is this: does he have the potential in him to repent? If he does, no matter what sins have been committed, he has not done the sin that is unforgiveable. Unforgivableness on God's part is only reckoned when a person willingly and knowingly refuses to repent of his sin or returns to it without remorse or care in any way (Heb. 10:26). I hope that this explanation

will help you in understanding the subject.

In regard to tithing, the law of God says that the tithe should go to those who can see that it is used for the spreading of the Gospel. Literally speaking, helping your neighbor by giving him eggs is good if the neighbor needs them, but that could not be considered tithe. If at all possible, it would be better to sell the eggs (over a period of time) and then take the money and send it to the authorities in the Church of God. There are no direct representatives in Australia, but radio station 2CH will apply any tithe given to account for the furtherance of the Gospel in Australia. If it is impossible to sell the eggs, what I would do is compensate for them by setting aside 10% of what they are worth and use that as tithe.

Again I want to thank you for your letter. If we can be of help to you in any way, do not hesitate to write Mr. Armstrong. May God's blessings be with you in your endeavour to serve Him.

Sincerely, in Christ's service,


Ernest L. Martin,
Asst. to Mr. Armstrong.