

THE GOOD NEWS OF A SECOND CHANCE

By Keith Greer

When I was a little boy back in Indiana my favorite past time in the summer was baseball. My brother and I played on the same Little League team. He played first base and my position was second base. Many times I came up to bat with runners in scoring position. When I failed to drive in the run, all I wanted was a "**second chance**".

Yes, we all know about "second chances". A husband who's anger has caused problems in their marriage. What does he want? Another chance. When we fail at that opportunity at work, all we want is another "chance. All will be well, we believe many times, if we just have that "second chance". Graves are full of folks who just wanted a "second chance"!

What happens when a child of God falls away? One becomes entangled again with the devil and the world.

"For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit, "and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire." {2 Peter 2:20-22}

Does God just cast us off when we stumble?

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." {1 John 1:9}

Yes, if man will repent, confess his sin and turn away from them, God will forgive him. While this indeed is wonderful news, let me tell you the other side of this story. Let's discuss the "**POINT OF NO RETURN**". Does it exist?

"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come." {Matthew 12:31,32}

What will be the result if man rejects the Holy Spirit? This is willful spiritual blindness and could place one at the "point of no return". What can draw men back to God if they ignore or reject His pleas contained in the sacred word?

"If they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. "{Hebrews 6:6} What if one rejects the only sacrifice for sins?

"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins," {Hebrews 10:26}

"If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. "{1 John 5:16} A sin leading to death, no prayer of repentance for one after death can take care of that sin!

"...speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron... "{1 Timothy 4:2} Yes, God will give "**second chances**". Still never forget the risk one takes when one goes back into the world. One can wait "too long!" Death steals that chance!!" ***