

Sin against the Holy Ghost is a sin against all Gods in the Godhead. The only sin man can commit “against God” is the sin against the Holy Ghost. After you ‘know Gods power and been partakes thereof’ (D&C 76).

31 Thus saith the Lord concerning all those *who know my power, and have been made partakers thereof*, and suffered themselves through the power of the devil to be overcome, and *to deny the truth and defy my power—*

32 They are *they who are the sons of perdition*, of whom I say that it had been better for them never to have been born;

33 For they are vessels of wrath, doomed to suffer the wrath of God, with the devil and his angels in eternity;

34 Concerning whom I have said *there is no forgiveness in this world nor in the world to come—*

35 *Having denied the Holy Spirit after having received it, and having denied the Only Begotten Son of the Father, having crucified him unto themselves and put him to an open shame.*

36 These are they who shall go away into the lake of fire and brimstone, with the devil and his angels—

37 And ***the only ones*** on whom the second death shall have any power,

38 Yea, verily, *the only ones who shall not be redeemed in the due time of the Lord*, after the sufferings of his wrath.

39 *For all the rest shall be brought forth by the resurrection of the dead*, through the triumph and the glory of the Lamb, who was slain, who was in the bosom of the Father before the worlds were made.

When you read the word sin in scriptures you should read, in your minds eye “to Miss the mark”. There are two targets or marks for which we should strive. Minor and Major. The “minor” marks are obedience to the commandments which are given as aids to hit the ‘major’ mark of the celestial kingdom. The “Major mark” is the presence of God and receiving the same glory as God”. The *minor marks or targets* are the commandments that help us develop the character to obtain the *major*

mark. It is like telling your children ‘when you eat your cauliflower you can have a piece of cake; the choice is theirs. The major goal is the cake, the minor goal that makes one worthy to receive the cake, is devouring the cauliflower. But they can choose for themselves without any wrath, anger, or judgement from the loving parent. A person that may choose to miss the mark of the cake, knowing and understanding full well the consequences of their choice, has chosen to reap the reward of their choice. Knowing the rules, and consequences beforehand makes the outcome just. The real mark is to get the cake and eat it too. Joseph Smith was questioned about the obedience of members and stated: we “teach them the correct principles and they govern themselves”. Missing the mark, is a freedom of choice guaranteed to us by God (nevertheless thou may choose for thyself, for it is given to thee” ‘but if you want to stay here don’t eat the fruit’. Its our choice. Because our character is our choice “every sin will be forgiven” (Mark 3:28-29)

All sins shall be forgiven, except the sin against the Holy Ghost; for Jesus will save all except the sons of perdition. What must a man do to commit the unpardonable sin? He must receive the Holy Ghost, have the heavens opened unto him, and know God, and then sin against Him. (TPJS p. 358)

To sin is to “miss the mark” by choice or transgress by ignorance. Missing the mark is not a dyre sin as the judgmental Zoramites, Pharisees, and active LDS would like to define it, but a choice using agency. ‘Without agency there is no existence’ (D&C 93). Christ did not and could not condemn the woman taken in adultery because it was her choice. Should God condemn one who uses the agency he guaranteed to mankind? The war in heaven was about agency and the individual rewards of choice. A third was cast out of the presence of God who sought to take away our ‘ability’ to choose to eat the cauliflower, and seek to attain the cake too. A loving God has prepared a happy place for everyone, a kingdom of glory for every choice of character that is created by agency just as ‘one star differs from another star in glory’. Agency reigns supreme! Exaltation in the celestial kingdom is a choice,

as are the celestial or terrestrial kingdoms. each kingdom of glory is a chosen glory for which we have prepared. D&C 88 states that “we will receive that which we are willing to receive because we would not receive that which we might have received.” God cannot condemn a person for using their agency to choose the kingdom they desire. The love of God is to prepare the whole meal, every thing we need to receive and eat the cake, be introduced into his presence, receive not only his glory, but ‘all that he hath.’ A loving God has provided the roadmap or manual in the scriptures, provided prophetic teachers and councilors. God has given us targets or ‘marks’ to help us set goals which we call commandments. These commandments are the minor marks of which we aim by our obedience, like eating the cauliflower, that help us along in the ‘major’ quest of celestial cake (angel food). Despite all that God has provided, the choice is all ours. God provides all things necessary to receive the cake that we cannot provide for ourselves by choice. We cannot redeem ourselves from the fall so God provides a gift of salvation we call ‘grace’. The resurrection of our physical body we cannot do, but He has provided a resurrection by Grace. Having our confidence wax strong in the presence of God requires an advocate that provides a Protection (atonement and mercy) from the demands of justice or Glory of God until we become like God. The only way to receive that protection is by choice. Choosing to exercise faith in the Savior, faith in the advocate to such an extent that we choose to become like him through the process of character change which is what the word repentance means; to “take aim again”, a continual effort in trying to ‘hit the marks’. Those who are trying to hit the mark and ‘take aim again’ will be protected from the demands of justice until they are able to hit the bull’s eye, to hit the major mark by their agency, never missing again, become like God. Those who chose not to hit the mark, are not required to do so. Thus, we don’t sin against God, we sin against ourselves, against our exaltation, against being with an eternal family, against becoming like God, against a fullness of joy, but not against God. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the way back and many will choose not to be in the presence of God unable to endure his glory. Therefore, all of the marks that are missed will be forgiven by God and agency will be

understood by the individual. The Judgment of God just because our agency will not be compromised by God, and we will choose our kingdom of glory, our happy place for eternity. However, to be with Him, we must become like Him.