

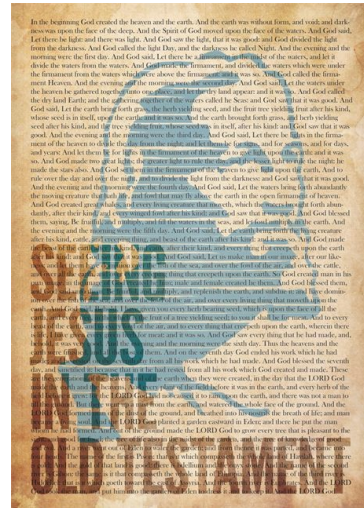


CONCORDIA  
BIBLE INSTITUTE  
*Christ in Every Word*

# CBI e-Bulletin December 2016

Welcome to this month's edition of the Concordia Bible Institute (CBI) e-Bulletin.

CBI exists to provide Christ-centered Bible instruction through distinguished experts who teach "Christ in Every Word" of the Old and New Testaments. Under the direction of Dr. Brian German and in cooperation with the Department of Theology at Concordia University Wisconsin, CBI offers podcasts, face-to-face seminars, and other special events to strengthen faith and spread belief in the one true God.



"For the whole Christ is in every word and wholly in each individual word. When He is denied, therefore, in one word, He is totally denied, for He is in every word."

-Martin Luther (*Luther's Works*, 25:238).

**Subscribe To "Christ In Every Word" Podcast**

Click the button above to sign up for a weekly email update on newly published "Christ in Every Word" podcasts.

## Merry Christmas!



Greetings in Christ! As we enter another Christmas season, I'm drawn especially to the opening words of Mary's Magnificat: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47). God's coming in the flesh goes right to the core—to the soul—providing rest for our deepest restlessness. The Most High would become the Most Low in order to get at the root of his broken humanity.

While our flesh may be bogged down with the many tasks of this busy season, the spirit, in the midst of it all, will certainly be rejoicing. God has entered his own story because of how much we mean to him. He's taken the entire Old Testament and funneled into the womb of Mary to give us the gift we need the most. So come, let us magnify the Lord together once again this Christmas season.

Let us rejoice in God our Savior!

Peace in Christ,  
Dr. Brian German


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Want more on Mary's Magnificat? Click [here](#) to listen to a recent podcast devoted to it!

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# Advent

In need of daily Scripture readings for the season of Advent? Consider using the calendar below:



The table is a 5x7 grid representing the days of Advent. The columns are labeled Sunday through Saturday. The rows contain the day number and the corresponding Scripture reading. The table is decorated with a red dotted border and a festive holly and berry border at the bottom.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 John 1:1-5	2 Isaiah 9:2-7	3 Isaiah 11:1-10
4 Jeremiah 33:14-16	5 Luke 1:5-10	6 Luke 1:11-17	7 Luke 1:18-25	8 Luke 1:26-38	9 Matt. 1:18-21	10 Matt. 1:22-26
11 Luke 1: 39-45	12 Luke 1:46-56	13 Luke 2:1-5	14 Luke 2:6-7	15 Luke 2:8-12	16 Luke 2:13-14	17 Luke 2:15-18
18 Luke 2:19-20	19 Micah 5:2-5	20 Matthew 2:1-2	21 Matthew 2:3-6	22 Matthew 2:7-8	23 Matt. 2:9-12	24 John 1:14
25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30	31

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## Website

Visit our website at [concordiabible.org](http://concordiabible.org) to learn more about CBI.

## Podcasts

CBI offers thirty to forty-minute long podcasts on biblical passages and religious issues that you can listen to any time through the CBI website:

<http://www.concordiabible.org/category/podcasts/>

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## Ask Dr. Saleska

To ask Dr. Saleska a question, please visit the ["Ask Dr. Saleska"](#) page on CBI's website and he will get back to you.

### Question:

I have an anxiety disorder and on one occasion I was frightened and thought I had committed the sin against the Holy Spirit, the unpardonable sin, by a bad thought that came to my heart. I thought back to what we learned in a Bible study about blasphemy of the Holy Spirit and we learned it was to deny a miracle that God did. I thought I did that (deny a miracle I saw) and I said in my heart, about that miracle, "that wasn't God." Is this speaking against the Holy Spirit? Please explain to me thoroughly so I can be set free.

### Answer:

The answer to your anxiety about possibly having committed the sin against the Holy Ghost rests in an understanding of what God is really like. He does not want you or anyone else to be lost. The sin against the Holy Spirit, also called blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, is described in Matthew 12:32 and Mark 3:28-30. Christ spoke these words to the Scribes and Pharisees, his bitter opponents, actually his enemies. In spite of what they had done and intended to do, Christ still loved them; he did not want them to be lost. His intent was to bring them to see that in opposing him they were opposing God and to continue to do that would remove the possibility of forgiveness forever.

In Matthew 12:32, Jesus says that a person may speak a word against the Son of man and it will be forgiven. In fact, it says that all sin and blasphemy (except against the Holy Spirit) will be forgiven. The sin against the Holy Spirit, or sinning against the Holy Spirit, is not an occasional sin. Since we are by nature sinful it is impossible for us not to sin. A very clear example of this is the behavior of Peter when at Christ's trial he was asked about his relationship to Jesus. He not only denied that he knew Christ, but cursed and swore to underscore his denial. Because of our sinful condition we all sin daily in thought, word, and deed. And hard as we might try, we can't stop. But Christ has paid the perfect price for every single sin for everyone. John 1:29 says, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Commenting on that verse Luther says, "If they (the sins) are on him then they are not on me." Or you. One more passage: "...the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin." If a person persistently and continuously sins against this Truth, knowing it to be the Truth, it is apparent that the Holy Spirit can't work forgiveness in that person.

Another passage which will give further insight into this question is found in Acts 7:51 where Stephen is speaking, "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do you." We know that all the people who heard those words had not committed the unpardonable sin since the apostle Paul himself was present.

Why is the sin against the Holy Spirit the unpardonable sin? Because when the “Good News” of the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed the Holy Spirit creates saving faith through this message. St. Paul confirms this in Romans 10:17: “So faith comes from hearing the message and the message that is heard is what Christ spoke.” If a person continues to resist the Holy Spirit, it is evident that saving faith will not be worked in such a person. In the Bible verses on this subject (Mark 3:28-30) the Scribes and Pharisees said that Christ’s Spirit was an unclean spirit. The word in Greek says, in effect, that they “kept on saying” he had an unclean (evil) spirit. The sin against the Holy Spirit is like a fight. One prominent theologian has said correctly that “Judas fought his way into hell.” The sin against the Holy Spirit is committed when the Gospel of our Lord Jesus has been presented and the person knowing the truth of that same Gospel still utters blasphemies against it and stubbornly resists it.

In view of the above let me assure you that the thought in your heart denying that apparent “miracle” which you observed was not the sin against the Holy Ghost. In fact, a person who has committed the sin against the Holy Ghost is not going to be troubled by anything he or she may have thought, said or done in opposition to God or the Scriptures. The sin against the Holy Spirit is a persistent denial of the Truth.

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## Contribute

If you find value in this e-Bulletin and other CBI offerings and would like to support our mutual desire to spread God's Word to wide audiences, please consider writing a check to Concordia University Wisconsin with CBI e-Bulletin and A913 on the memo line, or follow the link to contribute online: [Support Concordia Bible Institute](#).

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*"Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament" photo courtesy of <http://www.prayercollege.org/tag/messiah>*

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