

17. Should Christians be concerned about the sin against the Holy Ghost? Why or why not? (pg 398 bottom)

18. What is the comforting truth we can share with Christians “who are distressed because they think they have committed the sin against the Holy Ghost”? (pg 399 top)

19. Walther states that a person “who has committed the sin against the Holy Ghost is condemned not so much on account of this sin as rather on account of...” *what?* And what is the Calvinist doctrine on this? (pg 400 middle)

20. What was the name of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Protestant jurist in Italy whose case was commonly discussed in connection with the sin against the Holy Ghost? (pg 400 bottom)

## The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel

by CFW Walther

# The Thirty-Eighth Evening Lecture

1. Walther laments the fact that some pastors are satisfied simply to rouse their hearers from carnal security with the Law. But what does Walther say is the “matter of chief importance” for any sinner? (pg 391 top)

2. If you strip it down to its basics, “preaching the Gospel means nothing else than...” (*complete the sentence*) (pg 391 middle)

3. When you read the New Testament, how did the apostles *never* treat the members of their congregations? (pg 392 middle)

4. What is the reason why so many — even among Lutheran churches — live in uncertainty about their being true Christians? (pg 392 bottom)

5. From which sins does the Gospel absolve the sinner? (pg 393 top)

6. List the five passages discussed on pages 393–396 which bear on the teaching of “the sin against the Holy Ghost.”
7. What is the reasoning behind Walther’s assertion that Matthew 12:30-32 cannot be referring to blasphemy against the person of the Holy Spirit? Against what *is* it directed?(pg 393 bottom)
8. In this regard, Walther introduces an interesting analogy. How is the mind of a believer like “sitting in a beautiful room with the windows open”? (pg 394 middle)
9. In what way did the Pharisees “blaspheme against the Holy Ghost” in Mark 3:28-30? (pg 394 bottom)
10. Why is it “not a jesting matter” to reject the Holy Spirit? (pg 395 middle)
11. Walther has an extended discussion on Hebrews 6:4-8. What is the most frightening characteristic of the sin against the Holy Ghost? (pg 396 top)

12. Are we able to tell, this side of the grave, whether another person has committed the sin against the Holy Ghost? Walther says no. Yet, in 1 John 5:16, the Apostle admonishes his brethren not to pray for those who had committed the “*sin unto death*.” What is Walther’s explanation of this? (pg 396 middle)
13. Why is Hebrews 6:4-8 a great comfort to a Christian who is tormented by the thought that he may have committed the sin against the Holy Ghost? (pg 396 bottom)
14. In fact, what will usually be the minister’s aim when preaching on this subject? (pg 397 middle)
15. What is definitely not the reason why the sin against the Holy Ghost is unpardonable? (pg 397 bottom)
16. Is the sin against the Holy Ghost identical with *final impenitence*, i.e., remaining impenitent until death? Why or why not? (pg 398 middle)