

# Who are the Reprobates?

Genesis 6:1-3

## IS THERE A DEADLINE FOR SALVATION?

- **Death:** If you die in unbelief, you no longer have a chance to be saved (Heb 9:27). You will not go to heaven.
- **Rapture:** When Jesus Christ returns and catches away His Church, if you are left behind, you will have a very slim chance of salvation in the Tribulation. You will most likely die in unbelief and go to hell forever (Rev 6:8, 8:11, 9:15).
- **Second Coming:** When Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation, He is going to personally take vengeance on all His enemies that remain on the Earth (2 Thess 1:8).
- **Sinning away your chance of salvation:** This is the one we will question today. Does the Lord ever get to the point where he revokes any possibility of you ever getting saved during your life because you have too many strikes against you? Does the Lord ever stop trying to draw men to Himself?

## I. THE DRAWING OF THE HOLY GHOST

### A. A Two-Sided Sword –

#### 1. The work of the Holy Ghost

##### a. To convict a man and draw him to Christ (John 16:8-11)

- **The Holy Ghost will reprove the world of sin.** He will prove all men to be sinners.
- **He will reprove the world of righteousness.** He'll show men that they all fail to meet the standard of God. There is none righteous (Rom 3:10).
- **He will reprove the world of judgment to come.** He'll show men what they need to do to escape the judgment that is surely coming. (1 Cor 11:31, Psa 32:5, Jer 31:19, John 5:24)

##### b. To testify of the Son (John 15:26) and glorify Him (John 16:14)

#### 2. The need of fallen man

##### a. The natural man (lost man) cannot understand spiritual things without the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:13-14).

##### b. No man can come to Jesus Christ unless God the Father draws him (John 6:44).

#### 3. The supply of the gracious Saviour – He draws all men to Himself (John 12:32).

##### a. Jesus Christ gives light every man (John 1:9).

### B. The Spirit Who No Longer Strives –

#### 1. Do some men reach a time when the Spirit will no longer draw them? (Gen 6:3)

#### 2. We need to understand the context.

##### a. This refers to the time before the flood.

- **God stopped striving with men in Noah's day when they all died in the flood.**

### C. Resisting the Holy Ghost

1. **The men who stoned Stephen resisted the Holy Ghost (Acts 7:51).** The Holy Ghost was still working with them, otherwise they wouldn't have needed to resist.

a. Saul of Tarsus was one there who was resisting the Holy Ghost. He became the apostle, Paul.

### D. The Deadline God Emphasizes

1. **Death (Heb 9:27)**

2. **The return of the Lord.**

### E. The Spirit of the Grace Age Witness

a. **It is God's will that all men repent and turn to Him (2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:4).** If He stopped dealing with men because of their sinful lives, it would go against His own will to save them.

b. **God's forbearance and longsuffering leads people to repentance (Romans 2:4).**

## II. THE IDENTITY OF THE REPROBATES

### A. Two Theological Uses of the Term

1. Reprobate: *"one who is condemned to eternal punishment because he is not one of the elect."*

- This is a doctrine promoted by John Calvin, which is unbiblical, and which we reject.

2. Reprobate: *"those who have been condemned to hell by the decision of God to no longer allow His Spirit to convict them."*

### B. Biblical Use of the Term

1. Reprobate (or reprobates) is used seven times in the Bible: **Jeremiah 6:30; Romans 1:28; 2Corinthians 13:5, 6, 7; 2Timothy 3:8; Titus 1:16.**

**Jeremiah 6:30:** A reprobate is one who claims to be something, but when they are tested, they are discovered to be false, and are therefore rejected by the Lord.

**2Cor 13:5, 6, 7:** We are told to examine ourselves (prove ourselves) and make sure we are really in the faith, and not reprobate.

**Titus 1:16:** Reprobates claim to know the Lord, though they do not.

**Those Who Are Given Up (Romans 1:21-28):** When men and women continually refuse to glorify God, He removes the restraints that normally prevent them from going too far into uncleanness, vile affections, and reprobate thinking. He doesn't give up on them or stop drawing them.

- **1 Cor 6:9-11** We see here that God saved some of the people described in Romans 1.

Never assume that a certain person has been abandoned by God. God never stops working to try and draw men and women to Jesus Christ for salvation. We need to do our part to tell them about Jesus.

***"Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."*** (Luke 14:23)