

**"The Doctrine of Condemnation"**

**Romans 1:18-3:20**

**Part 5**

**Introduction:** In our study of Romans we are currently looking at the Doctrine of Condemnation found in 1:18-3:20. To narrow it down a little further we are currently looking at the Rational Sinner. He is listed in Romans 1:18-1:32. He is called the Rational Sinner because he is a person who chooses to suppress the Truth/Light given to him from God. Instead of allowing the Light to lead him toward God he makes the choice to follow Human Reasoning. He or she thinks they are wise and they see themselves as being too intelligent to believe in an unseen God. But because they have made the choice to reject God's Light and to turn from Him He says they are fools.

**Notice Romans 1:22**

Because this individual has suppressed the Light he then collides with the wrath of God which starts this person into a downward spiritual spiral. His rejection of God causes within him a void which he attempts to fill with a life of idolatry. This path combined with the wrath of God takes this individual deeper and deeper into the darkness. Notice what the Psalmist records about those who reject the Light God gives to them.

**Psalm 53:1-3**

*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.*

*<sup>2</sup> God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God.*

*<sup>3</sup> Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

God allows these people to collide with His wrath NOT to damn the individual but to help him or her to see how far their sin will carry them. If they chose to continue to suppress the Truth/Light God will then begin to lift from their lives the moral restraints upon their sinful hearts.

**Notice Romans 1:24**

The lifting of the moral restraints allows the Rational Sinner to continue to sink lower in the spiritual spiral. His or her morals begin to dissolve and they make choices to step into practices which dishonor their own bodies. We see this today all around us in our society.

They begin to worship themselves. They see themselves as their own god.

**Notice Romans 1:25**

The Truth which they reject is that God alone is worthy of worship and praise. They begin to do all they can to please themselves. This does not fill the void and the emptiness. This brings to my mind the words of Solomon.

**Ecclesiastes 2:1-11**

*I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.*

*<sup>2</sup> I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?*

*<sup>3</sup> I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom: and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.*

*<sup>4</sup> I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:*

*<sup>5</sup> I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:*

*<sup>6</sup> I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:*

*<sup>7</sup> I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:*

*<sup>8</sup> I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.*

*<sup>9</sup> So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.*

*<sup>10</sup> And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.*

*<sup>11</sup> Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.*

The Rational Sinner refuses to see his or her need for God and so they continue to spiral downward for God continues to lift the restraints.

**Notice Romans 1:26-27**

Homosexuality is the result of the sinfulness of man's heart as he collides with the wrath of God. It is not a gene disorder and it is not a condition which people are born with. God has made male and female and the homosexual lifestyle is the result of man's choice and it is a manifestation of the sinfulness of man's heart. The answer to getting free from that lifestyle is the Gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the POWER OF GOD unto salvation to EVERYONE that believes. This is how far man will sink when he is left to his own sinful desires. But it does not end there.

**I. The Rational Sinner and the Wrath of God  
Part 5**

**Notice Romans 1:28**

As the Rational Sinner continues the descent into spiritual darkness and they refuse to allow God to have His place within their knowledge God then gives them over to a REPROBATE MIND. A REPROBATE is someone who is exposed to the TRUTH but refuses to appropriate it into their lives but instead turns completely away from the Truth to a life of ungodliness. As the Rational Sinner continues into the darkness refusing to retain God and living as though God does not exist this person will find that God will remove the restraints from their sinful minds. Notice the words of an unknown writer:

*"These men and women were given over to a mind that God tests but finds wanting and is thus rejected by Him as worthless because it does not stand the test. These men had 'tested' God and did not want to believe in Him. The ultimate test of life is usefulness, and the man whose influence is ever towards that which is unclean is of no use to God or to his fellow-men. Instead of helping God's work in the world, he hinders it and uselessness always invites disaster. It speaks of a mind that is so clouded by sin that it is no longer able to make reliable moral judgments. Here we have gone beyond deliberate iniquity to something much more frightening. At this stage man has lost the desire and the ability to think clearly. He has "lost his mind" (morally or spiritually speaking) and doesn't even know it."*

Now there is something here that needs to be pointed out and that is that it is MAN'S CHOICE that has brought all of this upon himself. William Barclay states this clearly:

*"There is hardly any passage which so clearly shows what happens to a man when he leaves God out of the reckoning. It is not so much that God sends a judgment on a man, as that a man brings a judgment on himself when he gives no place to God in his scheme of things. When a man banishes God from his life he becomes a certain kind of man, and in this*

*passage, is one of the most terrible descriptions in literature of the kind of man he becomes."*

I point out this fact that man does this to himself because there are teachers who teach that these are people who have been cast away by God and are sentenced to eternal damnation. That is far from the Truth.

This passage before us is here to show us what happens when man refuses to bow before the Almighty God. This is what happens when man refuses to see himself accountable to God. The Rational Sinner worships his or her own self by bowing down to whatever the sinful heart desires. This person lives to exalt "SELF". They don't want God in their lives but instead they want to live as though they are gods. This was the root of the very first sin in the Garden of Eden.

**Genesis 3:1-5**

*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

*<sup>2</sup> And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:*

*<sup>3</sup> But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

*<sup>4</sup> And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

*<sup>5</sup> For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

The list of sins in the passage before us is here to bring the Rational Sinner to repentance. It is here to open his eyes as to how far he has fallen when he reads this passage. This is not a passage about a man who has went beyond GRACE. The remedy for this person who has descended this far is the GOSPEL!

What is recorded in the passage before us is the primary problem in our society today. Man has made the choice to reject God and so God has rejected them. Many in our society have descended to the place where the restraints have been removed from the mind and people do things which are not "convenient". This refers to things that are forbidden and shameful. Let us now consider the list that Paul records here.

**Notice Romans 1:29-31**

The words "being filled" means "to be controlled by". When man sinks to this level he is then controlled by the reprobate/worthless mind and his sinful heart.

1. **Unrighteousness** - This word is the opposite of "justice". This is the sin that robs both man and God of their rights. It is the sin that elevates self and oppresses everyone else. It is seen today in many who will stand for "their" rights but will not allow the opposition to stand for their rights. It would be those who believe in free speech if the free speech aligns with what they believe.
2. **Fornication** - This refers to sexual relations outside the bonds of marriage. When we look around today we can see this sin is clearly controlling many people today. It is this sin that has caused so much pain within families today. It is this sin that has caused the pornography industry to expand to where it is today.
3. **Wickedness** - Let me show you the words of Barclay on this word:

*"In Greek this word (**poneria**) means more than badness. There is a kind of badness which, in the main, hurts only the person concerned. It is not essentially an outgoing badness. When it hurts others, as all badness must, the hurt is not deliberate. It may be thoughtlessly cruel, but it is not callously cruel. But the Greeks defined **poneria** as the desire of doing harm. It is the active, deliberate will to corrupt and to inflict injury. When the Greeks described a woman as **ponēra** they meant that she deliberately seduced the innocent from their innocence. In Greek one of the commonest titles of Satan is **ho poneros**, the evil one, the one who deliberately attacks and aims to destroy the goodness of men. **Poneros** describes the man who is not only bad but wants to make everyone as bad as himself. **Poneria** is destructive badness."*

4. **Covetousness** - When we think of "covetousness" we tend to think of the desire for material possessions. That desire fits this sin but the sin goes beyond the desire for the material things of this world. Notice the words of an unknown writer:

*"The basic idea of covetousness is the desire for that which a man has no right to have. It is, therefore, a sin with a very wide range. If it is the desire for money, it leads to theft. If it is the desire for prestige, it leads to evil ambition. If it is the desire for power, it leads to sadistic tyranny. If it is the desire for a person, it leads to sexual sin."*

5. **Maliciousness** - This is the desire to do harm to others or to see harm done to others. Notice the following definition.

*"It is often translated in a narrow sense for malice, describing a deep-seated feelings against a person that includes hatred that lasts on and on. It is an intense and long-lasting bitterness against a person. It is actually wishing that something bad would happen to a*

*person. Malice means wickedness, a deliberate intention to harm (actively plotting revenge; passively mad when they are blessed and happy when they have misfortune)."*

6. **Full of envy** - Envy and jealousy are often considered to be the same but they are not. To be jealous of someone is to desire to have the good fortune which has come upon them. But when envy comes in it is not only the desire to have what they have but it is the desire to see them stripped of whatever has brought the joy into their lives. Notice Barclay's words:

*It is called "the greatest of all diseases among men". The essence of it is that it does not describe the spirit which desires to have what someone else has; it describes the spirit which grudges the fact that the other person has these things at all. It does not so much want the things for itself; it merely wants to take them from the other.*

7. **Murder** - This is exactly what it says. It is the killing of other human beings who have been created in the image of God.
8. **Debate** - This is the sin of strife. It is manifest in quarrels, disputes and controversy.
9. **Deceit** - This has the idea of baiting a hook. It is the act of deliberately enticing people to mislead, trick or snare them. It carries the idea of a baited trap. Barclay defines the word very well.

*"Deceit describes the quality of the man who has a tortuous and a twisted mind, who cannot act in a straightforward way, who stoops to devious and underhand methods to get his own way, who never does anything except with some kind of ulterior motive. It describes the crafty cunning of the plotting intriguer who is found in every community and every society."*

10. **Malignity** - This word describes the sin of supposing the worst in other people. It would be looking at the actions of someone else and interpreting them in the most negative way while at the same time not really knowing why they are doing what they are doing. Their motives may be innocent but the person full of **MALIGNITY** will not even consider this possibility but instead imagines the very worse concerning the individual's actions.
11. **Whisperers** - This word refers to the secret slanderer. This person may not openly say anything to destroy another's reputation but when they can gain a listener's ear in a private corner they will shred another person's reputation to pieces. This person is far worse than the slanderer because this person will not openly speak out so that the one being slandered can defend their selves. Another word to describe this sin would be **GOSSIP**.

12. **Backbiters** - This word describes the slanderer. They will wait until their victim is not close by and they will use words that are focused upon destroying their victim's reputation.
13. **Haters of God** - This is the person who hates God because they see God as the One who stands between them and the pleasures they desire to indulge in. They despise the Word of God because it convicts and it brings guilt which hinders their life of forbidden pleasures.
14. **Dispitiful** - This refers to the person who drips with arrogance, pride, and self-confidence. This individual is so confident in their wealth, power and strength they believe they can live their lives completely independent of all others and especially of God. With this sin comes a self-exaltation over others who do not have the power, wealth and strength which they possess.
15. **Proud** - This refers to arrogance. This sin has a certain contempt for all others.
16. **Boasters** - This refers to the person who boasts of their own accomplishments to elevate themselves to a prominent position in the minds of others. I found a very interesting statement about this word.

*Plutarch, uses this word to describe a quack doctor. It was the word for these quacks and cheapjacks who travelled the country and set up their stalls wherever crowds gathered, to sell their patent pills and potions, and to boast that they could cure anything.*

17. **Inventors of evil things** - This describes the person who is not content with the normal ways of sinning and so they invent new ways to indulge in sin.
18. **Disobedient to parents** - This is a lack of respect for authority.
19. **Without understanding** - This describes the man who is a fool, who cannot learn the lesson of experience, who will not use the mind and brain that God has given to him. This person is without insight or understanding and is descriptive of unredeemed man's heart.
20. **Covenantbreakers** - This refers to those who are not true to their promises.
21. **Without natural affection** - This refers to UNLOVING and especially to unloving toward the family. Notice the words of Barclay on this word:

*"The age of the Roman Empire was "an age in which family love was dying. Never was the life of the child so precarious as at this time. Children were considered a misfortune. When a child was born, it was taken and laid at the father's feet. If the father lifted it up that meant that he acknowledged it. If he turned away and left it, the child was literally thrown out. There was never a night when there were not thirty or forty abandoned children left in the Roman forum. Even Seneca, great soul as he was, could write: "We kill a mad dog; we slaughter a fierce ox; we plunge the knife into sickly cattle lest they taint the*

*herb; children who are born weakly and deformed we drown." The natural bonds of human affection had been destroyed."*

22. **Implacable** - This refers to people who are unwilling to make commitments.

23. **Unmerciful** - This person has little compassion for others.

This all a picture of the human race without God and His restraints. It is a picture of the depraved heart of man.

**Notice Romans 1:32**

When a person reaches this state, they know what they practice is sin but they are under the power of the sinful heart and they continue to descend into the spiritual darkness finding pleasure in others who practice these sins.

This is the path of the Rational Sinner. It is only the Gospel that can rescue him or her from this pit of corruption.