

**"The Doctrine of Condemnation"**

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

**Part 7**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of the book of Romans we stepped into chapter 2 where we met the Reformed Sinner. This is the man who judges the Rational Sinner and as he does he believes he has earned the favor of God because he does not practice the sins which the Rational Sinner practices.

**Notice Romans 2:1**

This man is very quick to see the sin in another person's life but is very reluctant to see his own sin. We looked at a picture of his attitude from Luke.

**Luke 18:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> *Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.*

<sup>11</sup> *The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.*

While the Reformed Sinner believes he has earned the favor of God, in reality he too is just as guilty as the Rational Sinner. He has condemned himself with his judgement of others for in judging them he has proved that he knows what is right and what is wrong for he can see it in the lives of others. He just refuses to see it in his own life and so this person lives in self-deception. In his mind he believes he will escape the judgment of God. He may not practice the very same sins as the Rational Sinner but he is still guilty of sin. The only difference in the Reformed Sinner and the Rational Sinner is the Reformed Sinner is more refined in the way he practices his sin. Paul makes it very clear in this section that this man will see the judgment of God and he too has collided with the wrath of God.

**Notice Romans 2:2**

Paul reminds the Reformed Sinner that he will be judged according to Truth which means God knows everything about his life and if he dies in his sins they will be exposed on judgment day.

**Job 34:21**

<sup>21</sup> *For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings.*

**Jeremiah 23:24**

<sup>24</sup> Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

**Notice Romans 2:3-4**

The Rational Sinner suppressed the Truth/Light given to him concerning the existence of God and here we see that the Reformed Sinner despises the GOODNESS, FORBEARANCE and the LONGSUFFERING extended to him from God. Let me show you again the words of Newell concerning these three attributes of God toward the Reformed Sinner.

*"Note the degrees or stages, also, of God's kindness during the earth-life of such a man: First, it is God's "goodness," in daily preserving him, providing for him, and protecting him. Second, Divine goodness being despised by him, God's "forbearance" is exercised, God does not smite instantly the proud ingrate, but goes on in goodness toward him, withholding wrath even at times when disease, danger, or death threaten all about him. Third, all God's goodness and forbearance being despised, God's "long-suffering" keeps waiting, even over "vessels of wrath"."*

As this person despises/treats and views lightly these attributes of God shown toward him he then collides with God's wrath. Instead of repenting he meets with the wrath of God.

**Notice Romans 2:5**

As he meets the wrath of God his heart grows hard and cold and every single day he treasures up wrath against the future day of judgment when the righteous judgment of God will be revealed. His heart is "impenitent" which means he refuses to repent. This is where we stopped last week.

I. **The Reformed Sinner**

**Romans 2:1-16**

**Part 2**

Paul will now focus upon the judgment of God in Romans 2:6-16. He will do all he can with his pen to help the Reformed Sinner to see his need to repent and turn to embrace the Gospel.

**Notice Romans 2:6**

This verse can be seen as a heading for what is going to follow, this we shall see. But there are some other thoughts that need to be considered first.

This verse has been misunderstood by many people. There are people who want to pull from this verse that salvation is based upon man's works. There are those who look at this verse

and teach that when man stands before God his good DEEDS and his bad DEEDS will be placed upon a scale and if the good outweighs the bad then they will be granted entrance into heaven. But if the bad tips the scale they will be sentenced to hell. But this teaching is completely contrary to Scripture. That teaching is also completely out of context with this passage. Paul is not describing the basis for salvation here but he is describing the basis for judgment. The way of salvation will not be presented until we step into chapter 3. This passage is all about the judgment that is a result of the wrath of God.

This verse helps us to see that at the Great White Throne Judgment every person will be judged individually. It will be the deeds of the sinner that will determine the judgment handed out to them from God. The verse tells us that God will "RENDER" to every man according to his deeds. The word "RENDER" refers to a "PAY OFF". Let me also point out that it will be the DEEDS as well as their exposure to the Truth that will determine the degrees of suffering in the Lake of Fire.

**Luke 12:46-48**

*<sup>46</sup> The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.*

*<sup>47</sup> And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.*

*<sup>48</sup> But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.*

Now let us get back to the verse again.

**Notice Romans 2:6 again.**

While we are not saved by our good deeds our good deeds are an important part of our salvation.

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

*<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*<sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

*<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Hebert Lockyer in his fascinating book "Last Words of Saints and Sinners " records that

*"Robert Barnes was the faithful minister of the Gospel who was burned at Smithfield, England, in 1540, and who, as he was committed to the flames, addressed the onlookers with these farewell words: "I trust in no good works that ever I did, but only in the death of Christ. I do not doubt but through Him to inherit the kingdom of heaven. But imagine not that I speak against good works, for they are to be done, and verily they that do them not shall never enter into the kingdom of God."*

We are not saved by our deeds but our deeds prove that we are saved.

### **James 2:14-18**

*<sup>14</sup> What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

*<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,*

*<sup>16</sup> And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

*<sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

*<sup>18</sup> Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

### **Notice Romans 2:7**

As Paul steps into this thought he begins by pointing to the deeds of the person who has embraced the Gospel or the person who is saved. This is not the MEANS of salvation but it is the evidence of salvation. Let us look closely at what is said about the true believer.

Paul tells us that in the life of the believer there will be a patient continuance in well doing. This is not a reference to a perfect life for none of us live perfect lives. Let me show you the words of an unnamed Bible teacher.

*"Patience Continuance is that spirit which bears things not simply by resigning to them, but bears them with living hope. It is knowing that all things work together for good to those who love God. In other words, if something happens in your life that is hard and painful and frustrating and disappointing, and, by grace, your faith looks to Christ and to His power and His sufficiency and His fellowship and His wisdom and His love, and you don't*

*give in to bitterness and resentment and complaining, then your faith endures and perseveres."*

Now as you look back over your life this past week or month you can most likely admit that you did not do very well in "patience continuance". Maybe you have slipped backwards. Don't be discouraged. God has not cast you away. Let me point you to some verses of encouragement.

**Psalm 46:1**

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

**Psalm 37:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*

<sup>24</sup> *Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.*

**Jude 1:24**

<sup>24</sup> *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.*

**Philippians 1:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Getting back to the verse I again remind you that we are not perfect but within every believer will be the desire to persevere in well doing. You may stumble and fall but within your heart there is the desire to pick up the pieces and press forward. This reminds me of David. He made many mistakes in his life but let me remind you what the Bible says concerning David.

**Acts 13:21-22**

<sup>21</sup> *And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.*

<sup>22</sup> *And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.*

Notice Romans 2:7 again.

The believer seeks for glory, honour and immortality.

**Glory** - The believer seeks GLORY in two ways:

1. The believer seeks the glory of God as he or she lives their lives here on this earth.

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

<sup>31</sup> *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

2. The believer lives looking ahead to a day he will be glorified in the presence of the Lord.

**Romans 8:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

<sup>17</sup> *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

<sup>18</sup> *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

**Honour** - The true believer will seek to live their life in a way that honors God. The person who is saved longs to hear the words of our Lord spoken in Matthew 25:

**Matthew 25:21**

<sup>21</sup> *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

**Immortality** - The believe longs for the day when we shall drop this robe of flesh and receive our glorified bodies for then we will be perfect not just in position but practice.

These three desires of the believer are the opposite of what the unsaved world seeks after. They seek personal glory; personal honor and it is their desire to live forever in these body of flesh.

Notice Romans 2:7 again.

The reward for the believer is Eternal Life.

**Notice Romans 2:8**

Here the believer is contrast with the unbeliever. The unbeliever is:

1. **Contentious** - This refers to a person who seeks popularity by any means. Whether it be by deception or trickery it is their desire to win the applause of their fellow man. They live for personal glory in this life.
2. **Disobedient to the Truth** - The Truth of God's Word means nothing to this individual. They will not allow the Gospel to penetrate their hearts because they have made their hearts hard.
3. **Obedient to unrighteousness** - These people follow the lusts of the heart. They are slaves to the sin nature and to sin itself.

**Notice Romans 2:8 again.**

At the end of the verse we see the eternal reward for this individual.

1. **Indignation** - This has the idea of "BOILING UP".
2. **Wrath** - This word has the idea of "SWELLING AND THEN BURSTING".

Combining these two words helps us to see at the Great White Throne the wrath of God will burst forth and be like a boiling liquid poured upon the unsaved.

**Notice Romans 2:9**

The next two words describe the inward effects of having the boiling wrath poured upon them.

3. **Tribulation** - This refers to an INWARD PRESSURE that will be inescapable.
4. **Anguish** - This refers to EXTREME AFFLICTION.

**Notice Romans 2:10-11**

In contrast to the tribulation and anguish the believer will experience glory honour and peace. God is no respecter of persons. The sinner who is not forgiven will suffer in the lake of fire whether Jew or Gentile. The sinner who accepts Jesus Christ will enjoy eternal bliss whether Jew or Gentile.

**Conclusion:**

**2 Corinthians 13:5**

*<sup>5</sup> Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*