

"The Doctrine of Condemnation"

Romans 1:18-3:20

Part 8

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Romans we are once again stepping into Romans 2 where we are looking at the Reformed Sinner. In the section we are currently in Paul is focused upon the judgment of God to help the Reformed Sinner see that they will not escape the judgment of God. The Reformed Sinner may not be as open with his or her sin like the Rational Sinner but they are still guilty of sin and the Bible is very clear that all sin must be paid for.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word "wages" means "payment" and the idea is there will be a PAY DAY for those who die in their sin.

Notice Romans 2:6

This verse is clear that EVERY MAN who dies in his sin will receive the PAYMENT for his sin.

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Notice Romans 2:7

When the saved are judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ our reward will be ETERNAL LIFE.

In contrast to the believer will be the judgment of the unbeliever which is recorded in Revelation 20.

Notice Romans 2:8-9

There are 4 words which we looked at here last week which are very alarming.

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.

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

Here is a description of the eternal bliss of those who are saved.

Notice Romans 2:11

God is no respecter of persons which means there will be no favoritism at the judgment of the lost and at the judgment of the saved. Everyone will stand on level ground. Let me show you again what John recorded concerning the Great White Throne Judgment.

Revelation 20:11-12

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

The small and the great will all stand together. The slave will be on the same level as the highest-ranking politician. The king of the greatest kingdom will stand level with the lowest servant.

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

I. The Reformed Sinner

Romans 2:1-16

Part 3

Notice Romans 2:12a

The first part of this verse points to the Gentiles who were not given the Mosaic Law. Even though a man never had access to the Bible he will still perish. The word "perish" here is often misunderstood by many. It does not refer to annihilation. Once a person is conceived the soul of each person will live forever in one of two places, either heaven or the Lake of Fire. Man is not like the animal world which simply ceases to exist when they die. The word death means "separation". When we die physically it means that our body is separated from the soul. The body goes in the ground but the soul passes on into eternity where it will either suffer for eternity or experience eternal bliss for all eternity. Now let me show you something that is alarming concerning the unsaved soul.

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

This rich man died and went straight to hell. In hell he could SEE, HEAR, TASTE, FEEL, REMEMBER and REASON. I show this to help us see that man does not cease to exist after he dies. There is no annihilation.

Notice Romans 2:12a again.

The word "perish" means "to become useless". Jesus used the same word when speaking to His disciples about putting new wine in old wineskins. The old skins would burst and therefore become useless. In the same way all men and women are created by God for fellowship with Him and for His glory but when they individually refuse to come to Him for salvation they lose their opportunity for redemption and for becoming what God originally created them for. Their lives are wasted and useless (eternally)! They are fit only for everlasting condemnation and destruction away from the presence and the glory of the Father. This is the awful picture of what it means to "perish". This is not the desire of God for as Peter writes, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Notice Romans 2:12b

The Jew who has been given the Law will be judged by the Law. This verse makes it very clear that sinners will be judged based upon the amount of Light which they were given. Notice the words of Barclay:

"A man will be judged by what he had the opportunity to know. If he knew the Law, he will be judged as one who knew the Law. If he did not know the Law, he will be judged as one who did not know the Law. God is fair."

Romans 2:12 is an answer to the Reformed Sinner who stands back and condemns the Rational Sinner for his sins while standing in his own self-righteousness. He therefore has condemned himself because by judging he has proven he has Light and he clearly knows right from wrong. But he fails to do what is right. Thus, he is guilty before God.

Notice Romans 2:13

In verses 13-16 we see that EVERYONE is accountable to a LAW.

Here in verse 13 we see the Jew brought to the front of the court room. He has been given the Law but it is not enough that he knows the Law but in order to be justified by the Law he must keep the Law perfectly. But it is impossible for the Jew or anyone to keep the Law perfectly.

James 2:10

¹⁰ For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Romans 3:23

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

This verse then is declaring that all who have the Law are guilty. To know the Law and use it to measure others will not save the Reformed Sinner. Because he or she knows the Law they are accountable to the Law. The Reformed Sinner uses the Law to condemn others but refuses to use it to measure his or her own righteousness. Therefore, they are guilty of not allowing the Law to do its work within their lives. Just like the Rational Sinner was guilty of suppressing the Truth so is the Reformed Sinner. Let me show you what the Law is supposed to do in the Reformed Sinner's life.

Romans 3:20

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Galatians 3:24

²⁴ Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

The Law is designed to bring the Reformed Sinner and the Religious Sinner face to face with their sin. It is to lead them to the Savior.

Now the question comes up about the Gentiles, "Do they have a Law?" The answer is, "YES."

Notice Romans 2:14-15

The Gentiles have a MORAL LAW written within their hearts and know the importance of living a moral life. This is seen in how the Gentiles who have never been exposed to the Bible have an inward knowledge of what a moral life is. Notice the illustration:

Marilyn Laszlo dedicated her life to giving the Hauna people of New Guinea the Bible in their own language. As she worked on the translation, she came to the word for "sin." When Marilyn asked the people what they thought sin was, they told her, "It's when you lie." "It's when you steal." "It's when you kill." "It's when you take another man's wife." Marilyn was astounded. They were giving her God's standards as spelled out in the Ten Commandments. "God's law is written on the heart of man," she later commented, underscoring the truth found in Romans 2:14-15.

Notice the words of Stedman on these verses:

"Now, men are continually charging God with injustice because, they say, He condemns men to hell who have never heard of Jesus Christ. This is the most frequently voiced charge against the Christian gospel. We are always hearing somebody say, "Well, what about the heathen who never hear about Christ? How can a just God condemn them to hell without their hearing about Christ?" But, you see, God never condemns anybody on that basis. As we are told right here... That is, if you disobey the truth that you have, even though you have never heard of Moses or of Christ, you perish, not because you didn't hear of Moses or of Christ, but because you have disobeyed truth that you already know -- that is the whole point. If you know of Moses and of Christ, and you still disobey the truth, you perish also, because your condemnation is even greater -- because of the greater light involved. But, as it says here, even pagans have a form of basic law written on their hearts, and this is the basis of God's just condemnation of man. It is because they are not what they themselves know they ought to be. In other words, God judges you, not by some artificial standard of His, but by your own standard."

Notice Romans 2:12, 16

This verse picks up the thought on the judgment of God. On that day God will judge the secrets of men's hearts. This verse is meant to convict the heart of the Reformed Sinner. Let us remember that he or she is quick to judge the Rational Sinner whose sin is displayed in the open. The Reformed however is more refined and more discreet with his or her sin so for that reason they feel as though no one knows of their secret sins. This verse exposes their self-deception. God knows the secrets of men's hearts and on the Day of Judgment the secrets will no longer be secrets.

Conclusion:

The point of all of this is that we are all guilty. We all have a Law to which we shall be held accountable. The more Truth/Light we have the greater the accountability.

Let me leave you with the words of Pritchard:

*"Since judgment is according to light, religious people have the most to fear. We who know so much stand in much greater danger than the heathen who know so little. Forget about the heathen! What about you? If you are trusting in your good works and your basic nice-guy morality to get you to heaven, you will be sadly disappointed. You're not as good as you think you are. You're not as nice as you pretend to be. You don't live up to your own standards. The day is coming when you will be condemned by your own words. **Your alternatives are very simple. Either face Jesus Christ now... or face Him later. Today He is your Savior; tomorrow He will be your Judge. Today you can be forgiven; tomorrow you will only be condemned. Today your record can be wiped clean; tomorrow your record will be used against you. Run to the cross! Run and do not walk. Run, make haste to the bleeding cross of Jesus Christ. Don't just stand there looking religious. Religion can only damn you! If you are Mr. I.M. Okay, then drop everything and run to Jesus. Drop your morality, drop your pretense, drop your hypocrisy, drop your excuses, drop it all and run to the Son of God. The good news is this: Jesus is ready to meet you. When Mr. I.M. Okay finally comes to the cross, there he encounters the power that will transform him into Mr. I.M. Forgiven."***