

**"The Doctrine of Condemnation"**

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

**Part 12**

**Introduction:** In our study of the Doctrine of Condemnation we have looked at three different sinners of which all of us find ourselves in one or more of the descriptions. We have looked at:

**1. The Rational Sinner**

This is a person who suppresses the Light which God has given to them and chooses to rely upon human reasoning. This person is what the Bible calls a FOOL for they deny the existence of God. This person collides with the wrath of God and descends into a downward spiritual spiral falling deeper and deeper into spiritual darkness.

**2. The Reformed Sinner**

This person believes he will escape the judgment of God because he does not outwardly practice the sins of the Rational Sinner. This person is guilty of sin but their sinful practices are more refined than those of the Rational Sinner. This person collides with the wrath of God which hardens his or her heart. This individual will NOT escape the judgment of God for God's Law has been placed within his heart and he not lived up to the Law. The fact that he judges others condemns this Reformed Sinner because their judgment of others proves they know right from wrong.

**3. The Religious Sinner**

This person rests in their "religious activity". They see themselves as better than others because they hold church membership or because they attend church on a regular basis or they practice some ceremony or rite within the church. They have an outward practice of religion but they have never been transformed in the heart by the Holy Spirit. This person collides with the wrath of God and experiences spiritual blindness. They may know the stories of the Bible but they are blinded to their True spiritual condition. They can see sin in the lives of others but not in their own life.

Now as we come to where we stopped last week we must keep in mind there would be people who would deny that they fit in either of these descriptions. Even after Paul's warnings to these three sinners they would still believe that they would never have to face the judgment of God. This thought then brings us to where we are tonight.

I. The Conclusion of the Doctrine of Condemnation

Romans 3:9-20

Part 1

Notice Romans 3:9

As we read this verse the first thing we need to consider is who Paul means when he says, "WE". I believe the Holy Spirit has placed the word WE here and it refers to anyone who reads this passage. It applies to anyone who is reading the book of Romans. "WE" are no better than any of those whom Paul has just pointed out. "WE" are all sinners and "WE" are all guilty before God. It makes no difference if the reader is Jew or Gentile "WE" are all guilty and that is exactly what Paul pointed out starting in Romans 1:18 and going through 3:8.

The next point we need to notice in this verse is the word "SIN". The word is used 37 times in the book of Romans and this is the first time it is used in the letter. The word means "to miss the mark" and everyone in Paul's day would have understood exactly what it meant. In Paul's day every little boy learned to shoot a bow early in his childhood. They were trained in close shooting and as they improved the target was moved further away and over time it continued to be placed further and further away. The people of Paul's day knew what it was to "miss the mark" or to have an arrow fall short of the target.

This is the exact picture of sin. God has set a mark and the mark is perfection and every one of us has "missed the mark". Now some may have the tendency to complain that God has set the "MARK" so far out of reach and that is cruel but the opposite is actually true. I want you to notice the words of Barnhouse on this thought;

*"If God set tasks that man could perform, He would be stooping to human level and men would become proud- the winners would, at least-they that were able to meet the demands of God. Heaven would be filled with strutting roosters, proud of their attainments. And any man who, for any reason, did not have the strength to compete would be lost because of some special inferiority on his own part. But God has not been so cruel. He has placed the target out of reach, His own perfection, and says, "If you will admit that you cannot reach the mark, I will carry you all the way. If you will not admit it, you must be banished forever."*

Notice Romans 3:9 again.

This verse tells us that all are under SIN. It is very important to notice that the verse does not say, "We are under SINS." Let me show you what the Preachers Commentary say concerning this thought;

*"There is a major difference between "sin" and "sins," so we must be careful not to confuse "doing things that are not right" with the fact that we are dominated by a fundamentally evil dynamic. The difference is not unlike that which exists between the symptoms of a disease and the disease itself. When this is understood it becomes obvious that the human predicament is not so much that we have done things wrongly but that we are "in the Christless state under the command, under the authority, under the control of sin and helpless to escape from it." Accordingly, any solution to the human problem that fails to deal with the root cause of "sin" is no more a solution than cold compresses on a fevered brow are a cure for the infection causing the fever."*

Let me explain what this means. The SINS we commit are not the problem. They are the symptoms of the problem. The problem is that we are dominated by the principle of sin. Man is under the authority of sin. That is what Paul is saying in this verse. Man cannot stop sinning because he is under the power and the control of the principle of sin. Man cannot help but to sin. We are not sinners because we sin we sin because we are sinners meaning we are under the power of the principle of sin. I believe we can see this clearly back in the book of Genesis.

### **Genesis 4:3-8**

*<sup>3</sup> And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.*

*<sup>4</sup> And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:*

*<sup>5</sup> But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.*

*<sup>6</sup> And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?*

*<sup>7</sup> If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*

*<sup>8</sup> And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*

Let me show you how the Amplified Bible translates Genesis 4:7.

**Genesis 4:7**

*<sup>7</sup> If you do well [believing Me and doing what is acceptable and pleasing to Me], will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well [but ignore My instruction], sin crouches at your door; its desire is for you [to overpower you], but you must master it."*

When speaking with Cain God likened sin to a crouching lion waiting at Cain's door. Sin's desire was to rule over Cain and completely overpower him. Cain was at a crossroads and if he chose to come to God trusting in God's provision he would be victorious over sin but if not the principle of sin would dominate Cain. Her rejected God's provision and the next thing we read was he killed his brother Abel. He was under the power and the authority of the principle of sin. There is only one way to escape the power of the principle of sin and that is the cross.

**Romans 6:6-13**

*<sup>6</sup> Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

*<sup>7</sup> For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

*<sup>8</sup> Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

*<sup>9</sup> Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*

*<sup>10</sup> For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

*<sup>11</sup> Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*<sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

*<sup>13</sup> Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

When we come to Jesus Christ we are crucified with Him and it is the cross that renders the sin nature powerless. As believers we were once under the control of the principle of

sin but now we no longer need to allow sin to reign in our bodies because we have been crucified with Christ.

Now as we move on in the Conclusion of the Doctrine of Condemnation Paul is going to use a mix of Old Testament verses to show the depravity of man. The verses that remain in this chapter actually show the TOTAL DEPRAVITY of man. But we must be very careful when we use the term TOTAL DEPRAVITY. There are those who use the term and teach that man is not a free moral agent. That is not true for God has given man a conscience and He has written His Law within our hearts and it is our responsibility to act upon the Light which God has given to us. It is our responsibility to repent and turn to Jesus Christ for salvation. Let me show you what Ryrie says concerning Total Depravity.

*Dr Charles Ryrie offers these thoughts on total depravity...*

*"The scriptural evidence provides the basis for what has been commonly called total depravity. The English word "depravity" means perverted or crooked. It is not used in the translation of the King James Version, but some modern translations do use it to translate adokimos in Romans 1:28 . This word (adokimos) means "not standing the test" and gives us a clue as to how to define the concept of depravity. Depravity means that man fails the test of pleasing God. This failure is **total** in that (a) it affects all aspects of man's being and (b) it affects all people.*

***Negatively**, the concept of total depravity does not mean (a) that every person has exhibited his depravity as thoroughly as he or she could; (b) that sinners do not have a conscience or a "native induction" concerning God (c) that sinners will indulge in every form of sin; or (d) that depraved people do not perform actions that are good in the sight of others and even in the sight of God.*

***Positively**, total depravity means (a) that corruption extends to every facet of man's nature and faculties; and (b) that there is nothing in anyone that can commend him to a righteous God."*

As we work our way through 3:10-20 we shall see that sin has affected man in every area of his life.

### **Notice Romans 3:10**

The first thing we need to notice here are the words "AS IT IS WRITTEN". Paul knew there would be those who would desire to dispute the Truth that he has presented on the Doctrine of Condemnation so here in this verse he let everyone of his readers know that what he has just stated had already been stated by God in the Old Testament.

Here in this verse Paul makes it very clear that there is not one person who is righteous and he adds "NO NOT ONE". He adds this statement at the end because Paul knows there would somewhere be a man or a woman who would claim to be an exception.

### Notice Romans 3:11

Here in this verse Paul makes two very interesting statements.

1. **There is none that understands.**

There is a verse in 1 Corinthians 2 that pictures this Truth perfectly.

### 1 Corinthians 2:14

*<sup>14</sup> But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

There are unsaved people today who claim to understand God and His ways but let me just say they are completely wrong. It is impossible for the unsaved people to understand God. Man lives in a physical world and he can only perceive things that are physical. It is like we are born and placed in a box and the only thing we can understand is what is in the box. God is outside the box and unless He lifts the lid and makes Himself known it is IMPOSSIBLE for any unsaved person to know Him. They can know about Him but they do not know Him.

Notice the words from an unknown author:

*"The natural man is **hardened** in his heart and **darkened** in his mind. He not only does not understand God but has no inclination to do so. If you have shared the Gospel with others to any extent, you know that this last statement is true. You could see it on their face as you began to unfold the **bad news** that precedes the **good news**. And the more you talked with them, the more hardened they became until soon the conversation was over. Why? Because they did not even want to know."*

2. **There is none who seek after God.**

This Truth is seen in the Garden of Eden after Adam sinned.

### Genesis 3:7-8

*<sup>7</sup> And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

<sup>8</sup> *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

I happened across a story that really describes the true state of man.

*"In November, 1971, in a Toronto park a duck named "Ringo" made headlines in the local newspaper for several days. The duck who made her home at the park lake, one day accidentally poked her bill through the ring of a pull tab from a pop can and was not able to extricate herself. She was unable to eat and starvation was certain. When her plight was noticed by some park visitors, she became something of a celebrity. Park personnel and animal experts tried numerous ways to catch Ringo so she could be helped. They even called in a champion duck caller. People tried luring her with food. The frightened Ringo mistook all the efforts to help her as threats. What happened to poor Ringo? She disappeared before anyone could come to her rescue. Every man ever born is just like Ringo, trapped in sin and destined to die, temporally and eternally. And just like Ringo sinful man sees the call of the gospel as a threat to his life-style rather than as the eternal blessing it is. And thus they make every effort to escape the only "news" that can ever provide rescue."*

**Conclusion:**

Man will not seek God on his own and therefore we need to pray for God to work in the hearts of our unsaved friends and family.

**John 6:44**

<sup>44</sup> *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:* and I will raise him up at the last day.