

"The Doctrine of Condemnation"

Romans 1:18-3:20

Part 14

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we were in the conclusion of the Doctrine of Condemnation and we were looking at Paul's reply to anyone who would deny that they fit in the category of either the Rational Sinner, the Reformed Sinner or the Religious Sinner. In this conclusion which we are looking at Paul is showing the depravity of man and how sin has affected every area of our lives. Paul uses several verses from the Old Testament to show that he is not the source of what he is saying BUT GOD IS THE SOURCE. In verse 10 Paul stated, "AS IT IS WRITTEN". Man is corrupt from head to toe because we are all born into sin which means we are all under the principle of sin. Man is not a sinner because he sins but he sins because he is a sinner. It is his nature to sin because he has within him an evil dynamic that controls him. Apart from salvation man cannot free himself from this evil dynamic which rules his life each and every day.

Now last week we looked at how man has absolutely no ability to do anything which is of eternal value.

Notice Romans 3:12

Man has made a choice to turn away from God and he has become "unprofitable" which means "worthless". This verse is taken from Psalm 14.

Psalm 14:1-3

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

² *The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.*

³ **They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy:** *there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

The word "FILTHY" means "SOURD or SPOILED". The idea is that sin has made man worthless regarding any works of righteousness.

Paul also stated in Romans 3:12 that it is impossible for man to do good. In the eyes of God man can do no good works meaning that he can perform nothing which is of any eternal

value. Last week I told you that this verse completely destroys the idea that on the day of judgment God will place man's "good" works on a set of balances along with his sins and if the "good" outweighs the bad he will be granted entrance into heaven. There will be NO GOOD WORKS to place on a set of balances.

Notice Romans 3:13-14

These verses give a very graphic description of sinful man. His throat is an open sepulchre which means that man has within him a dead rotting corpse and the mouth becomes the vent for the stench. The cursing, complaining, deceit, sarcasm, lies, and the boasting are all evidences that man's heart is sinful and corrupt.

Matthew 12:34-35

³⁴ *O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*

³⁵ *A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*

This now brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

I. The Conclusion of the Doctrine of Condemnation

Romans 3:9-20

Part 3

Notice Romans 3:15

Here in this verse Paul is quoting from Isaiah.

Isaiah 59:7-9

⁷ *Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.*

⁸ *The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.*

⁹ *Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness.*

Man is drawn to evil and therefore he is quick to run head first into an evil situation. Man has proved throughout history that he has little respect for human life. The first murder

is seen in the very first family which existed when Cain killed his brother Abel. The next murder recorded in the Bible shows us the how vengeance often drives men to commit murder.

Genesis 4:23

²³ And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man to my hurt.

Statistics show the accuracy of this verse in our world today. As of Tuesday July 17th, in the city of Chicago there have been 296 homicides. There has been a total of 1528 people shot. Some were only wounded and some were killed. There are approximately 126,000 abortions per day in the world. In the United States there are approximately 4000 per day. Innocent blood is shed every day multiple times a day.

Since man is created in the image of God every murder is an affront against God.

Notice Romans 3:15 again.

The word "swift" is very significant here. Notice the statement made by an unknown teacher;

"The word "swift" denotes the readiness and eagerness of men to murder others, which in turn shows the dreadful malice and hatred that is in them."

Barber makes the following statement;

"The vengeance of lost man is incredible. We have seen it in many places, even in the heart of a little child when some other child takes his toy and he looks at him and says, "I hate you. I hate you. You took my toy. I wish you were dead." Where did that come from? Was he taught that in school? Was he taught that at home? No. It came from the fact that he was born depraved as a result of Adam's sin. The vengeance of even a child shows us that man does not have any good in him whatsoever. If you ever think differently, you have missed the point of why the gospel is such good news."

Notice Romans 3:16

This verse reveals that no matter what man touches he eventually brings it to destruction. It also reveals that no matter how good the environment is which man is placed into eventually he will find himself in state of misery because he will eventually ruin that

environment. This destroys the human reasoning that says man needs a new environment. There are many today who believe if people are placed into peaceful, safe and moral environments that man will change his behavior. This human reasoning is far from the truth. If man is placed into a peaceful, safe and moral environment he will take away the peace, make it unsafe and make it immoral. The environment is not the problem! Man's heart is the problem for it is sinful.

Notice the words of Barber on this verse;

"Look back over human history and what do you have? You have the ruins of cities that have been destroyed by somebody else...Homer sang a song about the city of Troy, "The city of Troy is built on the ruins of an earlier city." Since the time Homer sang that song they have found seven more cities underneath the ruins. Now you say, "I haven't killed anybody. I haven't shot anybody. I am a pretty decent person." No...you have covered it over. It is like putting honey over the top of it, but underneath it is the same vengefulness. One of these days, the Lord Jesus is going to take the church out of this world and this world will for the first time see the hate that has been here, the depravity of man's heart, wickedness like never before. Thank God we are not destined for His wrath. Thank God we have received the Lamb. (The full measure of man's destructiveness) is going to be seen one day. The only thing that is restraining it right now is the presence of the Holy Spirit in this world."

Just to see evidence that man will not be changed by his environment all we need to do is look at the Garden of Eden (an absolutely perfect environment) and the coming Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. In the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve had perfect conditions. But they ruined it all when they sinned. In the Kingdom man will be under the rule of Jesus Christ in a restored environment. Jesus will have His throne in Jerusalem and the saints will rule with Him some of which will have glorified bodies. But even under these conditions many will rebel and follow after Satan.

Revelation 20:4-9

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

⁶ *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

⁷ *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

⁸ *And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

⁹ *And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

Here we see a number of people too great to count who will live in the Millennial Kingdom but will still follow Satan. The point is the environment will not change the sinful heart of man.

Notice Romans 3:17

Man has never found a way to live in peace with his fellow man. The world today cries out for peace but we see just the opposite. Notice the comment from Middletown Bible Commentary;

“Compare man’s awful history of warfare in every age and in every generation (beginning on the day that Cain killed Abel). The Society of International Law at London once gave statistics declaring that for the last 4,000 years of human history there have been but 286 years of peace despite more than 8,000 peace treaties. In the last 300 years there have been 286 major and minor wars in Europe. Man’s history has been a history of war and conditions are not getting better. What wars and conflicts are taking place in the world right now? When man is not at peace with God, then he is at war with his neighbor.”

There are many attempts to find a way of peace in the world today. But the truth is that man has a sinful heart and anytime there is peace today it does not last. The words of Jeremiah ring true even today which he wrote concerning the conditions of his day.

Jeremiah 6:13-14

¹³ *For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.*

¹⁴ *They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.*

Mighty leaders today seek to establish peace and should do so. But when peace is established today it is only a band-aid. It only **COVERS** over the real problem which is sin. The peace established today is not lasting because there are still sinful men and women in the positions of power and control.

Notice Romans 3:18

This verse describes the reason why man acts the very way he does. Notice the words of Stedman;

"To put it in the words of the street today, "man couldn't care less about what God thinks about him" -- and this is the root of all of the problems in human life. There is no concern for God's opinion in man's life."

Man fears many things but he has little or no fear of God. He lives like he will never meet his Creator or will never be held accountable before the God of this universe. Let me show you the importance of the fear of the Lord.

Job 28:28

²⁸ *And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.*

Psalms 111:10

¹⁰ *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Proverbs 8:13

¹³ *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*

Proverbs 14:27

²⁷ *The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.*

Proverbs 16:6

⁶ *By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.*

Man fears many things but has no fear of God. Man, often has a fear of his fellowman which keeps him from doing that which he should do.

Proverbs 29:25

²⁵ *The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*

Notice the words of Haldane on man having no fear of God;

"Mankind has "not that reverential fear of Him which is the beginning of wisdom, which is connected with departing from evil, and honoring and obeying Him, and is often spoken of in Scripture as the sum of all practical religion; on the contrary, they are regardless of His majesty and authority, His precepts and His threatenings. It is astonishing that men, while they acknowledge that there is a God, should act without any fear of His displeasure. Yet this is their character. They fear a worm of the dust like themselves, but disregard the Most-High, Isaiah 51:12, 18. They are more afraid of man than of God—of his anger, his contempt, or ridicule. The fear of man prevents them from doing many things from which they are not restrained by the fear of God. That God will put His fear in the hearts of His people, is one of the distinguishing promises of the new covenant, which shows that proof to this it is not found there."

Conclusion:

As we close this look at the depravity of man we would expect God to say, "ENOUGH, CAST THEM ALL INTO EVERLASTING DAMNATION!" But that is not what we find. We find instead 2 verses that come to my mind that can be written right over this section of Romans.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ *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.*