

**"The Doctrine of Condemnation"****Romans 1:18-3:20****Part 15**

In our study of Romans, we have been looking at the Doctrine of Condemnation for many weeks. Paul has presented to us 3 different sinners. They were the Rational Sinner, the Reformed Sinner and the Religious Sinner and with each of these he gave us a detailed description of their sin and their guilt. Each of these sinners meet with the wrath of God in their lives and if they die in their sins they will meet the ultimate wrath of the Almighty God when they stand before Him on Judgment Day. Paul knew there would be those who would deny that they fit into either of these 3 categories so in the conclusion he set out to show that every person is under the principle of sin and is guilty. Each person is depraved, and this is seen in each facet of every person's life. Paul used many verses from the Old Testament to make his point and he used these verses to show that his words were not from him, but they were from God's Word. In Romans 3:12-18 we find God's detailed description of the depravity of man. Tonight, in our study of the Doctrine of Condemnation we have come to the last 2 verses and in these verses, Paul will show us that no matter how "good" man thinks he is, he is guilty before God.

I. **The Doctrine of Condemnation****"The Conclusion"****Notice Romans 3:19**

Paul addresses all who are under the Law in this verse. Now, we must understand that he is not just referring to the Jews here but instead he is referring to all of mankind. Let me show you how we know this is true.

**Romans 2:14-18**

<sup>14</sup> *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

<sup>15</sup> *Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*

<sup>16</sup> *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

<sup>17</sup> *Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retestest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,*

*<sup>18</sup> And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;*

Here in these verses we see that the Gentiles have the Law written within their hearts and the Jews have been given the Law of God. The point is that every person whether they be Jew or Gentile, have a Law that they are accountable to. We know this to be true because this verse tells us that ALL the world becomes guilty before God.

When man looks into the Law and allows the Holy Spirit to do His work then man's mouth is stopped for he has absolutely no defense against the Law.

Notice the words of Stedman on this verse;

*"You can always tell someone is close to becoming a Christian when they shut up and stop arguing back. Self-righteous people are always saying, "But -- but this -- but I -- yes, but I do this -- and I do that." They are always arguing. But when they see the true meaning of the Law, their mouth is shut. When you read a statement like this, there is really nothing left to say, is there?"*

Let me show you the words of Wiersbe;

*"When human achievement is measured against what God requires, there is no place for pride or boasting but only for silence that lends consent to the verdict of guilty. In the various biblical scenes of judgment, the silence of those who are being judged is a notable feature."*

When I read this verse, I am reminded of the Great White Throne Judgment and how those who are summoned to this Judgment will not be able to argue their case against the Lord.

### **Revelation 20:11-15**

*<sup>11</sup> 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.*

*<sup>12</sup> 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.*

*<sup>13</sup> 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.*

*<sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

<sup>15</sup> *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

As we look closely at this judgment we see there are no replies from those who are being judged. There will be silence which will certainly manifest the guilt which they will sense as they are faced with the God's moral Law.

Let me show you what Paul wrote concerning the Law when he wrote to the Corinthians who were being pulled by the Judaizers back under the Law.

### **2 Corinthians 3:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of **the letter** [The LAW], but of the spirit: for **the letter** [LAW] killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

<sup>7</sup> *But if **the ministration of death** [The LAW], written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:*

<sup>8</sup> *How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?*

<sup>9</sup> *For if **the ministration of condemnation** [The LAW] be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.*

The Law is the greatest mass murderer that has ever existed because it slays everyone who is confronted with it. It is the LAW OF DEATH, the LAW OF CONDEMNATION, and it KILLS its victims.

Notice the words of J. Vernon McGee:

*"Man cannot attain righteousness by the Mosaic Law. It is as if mankind in desperation grabbed for the Law as the proverbial straw when drowning. The Law won't lift him up. Actually, it does the opposite. To hold onto the Law is like a man jumping out of an airplane, and instead of taking a parachute, he takes a sack of cement with him. Well, believe me, the Law will pull you down. It condemns man. It's a ministration of death."*

**Notice Romans 3:19 again.**

There are several points to see in the second part of this verse.

#### **1. All the world is guilty before God.**

This statement sweeps across the globe and finds every person guilty before God. There are no exceptions for there is not one person who is not under sin in the sense that they are enslaved to sin. This is what Paul just recorded in the previous verses.

### **Romans 3:9-12**

<sup>9</sup> *What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that **they are all under sin:***

<sup>10</sup> *As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one:***

<sup>11</sup> *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

<sup>12</sup> ***They are all gone out of the way,** they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

**2. Man will one day be held accountable to God for their sins.**

It is one thing to stand before a magistrate or before a local judge, they are sinful men just as we are. But it is much more serious to think about standing before God for He is perfect, righteous and holy. I am reminded of the Apostle John's response when he came face to face with Jesus Christ in all His glory.

**Revelation 1:12-17a**

<sup>12</sup> *And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;*

<sup>13</sup> *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

<sup>14</sup> *His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;*

<sup>15</sup> *And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.*

<sup>16</sup> *And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.*

<sup>17</sup> ***And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.***

John became paralyzed with fear when he saw Jesus in all His glory and let us keep in mind John was the disciple whom Jesus loved. John was closer to the Lord than all the others. So, how much more frightening will it be on the day of Judgment when the unsaved are brought before God?

Many do not understand that sin has offended God and because He has been offended He is the One who determines how the offense will be satisfied. Let me show you a conversation between Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah as Abraham prepared to offer his son as a burnt offering.

**Genesis 22:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

<sup>7</sup> And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

<sup>8</sup> And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Isaac asked where the lamb was for the offering and Abraham's answer is far deeper than many realize. He told Isaac that God would provide HIMSELF a lamb.

You see, God had determined in eternity past that sin must be paid for by death and it would only be through DEATH that the wrath of God could be stayed.

**Genesis 2:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

<sup>17</sup> But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

When Adam sinned, he sinned against God and he came under the sentence of death.

**Romans 6:23a**

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death;

But that day in the Garden of Eden God extended grace to Adam and Eve and He permitted a substitute to die in their place.

**Genesis 3:21**

<sup>21</sup> Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

The death/blood of the innocent animals here in the Garden of Eden was an atonement for the sins of Adam and Eve. The point to see is that the death of the innocent animals was for the purpose of staying the wrath of God. These innocent animals would stay His wrath until Jesus would die upon the cross and He would completely satisfy the wrath of God. I show you this to help you to see that because God is the One who has been offended it is He who determines the means by which He will be satisfied. Many people today have their own ideas as to how they can satisfy God on behalf of their sin. They do not

understand that the guilty party does not get to determine the sentence or the penalty which is to be paid. God has already determined the sentence and the price that must be paid. Unpaid sin will bring eternal judgment and separation from God in the Lake of Fire [THE SECOND DEATH] where the unsaved will suffer for all eternity. The ONLY way in which sin can be paid for is by the BLOOD OF THE LAMB OF GOD, Jesus Christ who died as our Substitute. Just like the innocent animals in the Garden died for the sin of Adam and Eve so Jesus Christ died as our Substitute to set us free from the wrath of God.

So, getting back to Romans, all of mankind is guilty before God and can only be justified by the means which God has chosen and that is through faith in Jesus Christ.

**John 14:6**

*<sup>6</sup> Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

**Notice Romans 3:20**

The Law was never given as a means to save anyone from the wrath of God. The Law was never given as a means of justification which means, "to be declared righteous". But the Law was given so that man could see just how sinful he really is so that he would understand his need of a Savior.

Notice the words of an unknown commentator:

*"Keeping the law is a totally unacceptable means of salvation because the root of sinfulness is in the fallenness of man's heart, not his actions. The law served as a mirror to reveal sin, not a cure for it. The law condemned to death those who failed to obey it perfectly. This brought the curse on all, because all have broken its holy precepts."*

This verse makes it very clear that through the Law man sees his true sinful condition.

**Galatians 2:16**

*<sup>16</sup> Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: **for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.***

**Romans 7:5-7**

*<sup>5</sup> For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.*

<sup>6</sup> But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

<sup>7</sup> What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, **I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.**

There are many people today who are living in deception by believing that keeping the Law will save them from the wrath of God. They are unable to see that it is impossible to keep the Law. They hold onto certain parts of the Law which they believe they can keep, thinking that what they hold to will satisfy God.

There is something which they are missing, and James made it very clear.

### **James 2:10**

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

Let me give you an example of what goes on today. There are churches today that believe you must keep the Sabbath in order to be saved. They worship on Saturday and they refuse to do any work at all on Saturday. By this "keeping of the Sabbath" they believe they are satisfying God. But they do not stop to consider they are guilty of breaking all the other Commandments. They do not understand that there is not one person who can keep the Law and to worship on Saturday will not save anyone. To take the thought even further, the Sabbath was a picture of the rest we have in Jesus Christ and was never a Command given to the church. The early church gathered on the first day of the week because that was the day Jesus came out of the grave.

### **Conclusion:**

The entire point of the Doctrine of Condemnation is to show all of mankind that he or she is guilty of sin, unable to save themselves, is under the wrath of God, and if they die in their sins they will stand in Judgment before a righteous and a Holy God who will judge even their secrets by Jesus Christ.

### **Romans 2:16**

<sup>16</sup> In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

## **Man needs a Savior!**