

# Sin and Condemnation: The World's need to get right with God

(50)

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[Romans 1:18-3:20](#)

(Continuation from 10/23/16)

## C. God's Case Against the Moralist: Judgment, [Romans 2:1-16](#)

[Romans 2:1-16 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>1</sup>“Therefore you have no excuse, every one of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

<sup>2</sup> And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.

<sup>3</sup> But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same *yourself*, that you will escape the judgment of God?

<sup>4</sup> Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

<sup>5</sup> But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

[\(Romans 2:1-16\) Introduction](#): this is one of the passages that covers several subjects and can be studied from the viewpoint of any one of them. It is an excellent study on [judging, criticizing others, the judgment of God, self-righteousness, the moralist, and the legalist](#). It also deals with the judgment of the heathen, and answers the question so often asked: “What will happen to the heathen, to the person who never hears about Jesus Christ?” ([Romans 2:11-15](#)). The present study is entitled: “God’s Case Against the Moralist.”

1. [The moralist \(v.1\).](#)
2. [The judgment of God is according to truth: perfect justice \(v.2-5\).](#)
3. [The judgment of God is according to deeds: eternal reward or punishment \(v.6-10\).](#)
4. [The judgment of God is without respect of persons: absolute impartiality \(v.11-15\).](#)
5. [The judgment of God is to be executed by Jesus Christ and His gospel \(v.16\).](#)

### 1. [\(Romans 2:1\) Moralist— Judging Others— Criticism: the moralist.](#)

[Romans 2:1 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>1</sup>“Therefore you have no excuse, every one of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, **you condemn yourself**; for you who judge practice the same things.”

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The topic of condemnation surfaces in this verse so I decided to pull over and park and see what the Bible says about the topic of “**condemnation.**” 1) What actually condemns us? 2) What are the meanings of condemnation or condemn? 3) How do we escape condemnation? We will provide some answers in this study.

## A BIBLE LIST OF WHAT CONDEMNS PEOPLE

### 1. A Spirit of Condemnation

**Romans 2:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“Therefore you have no excuse, every one of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, **you condemn yourself**; for you who judge practice the same things.”

We will first look at this verse in [Romans 2](#). God says we condemn ourselves when we have a judgmental spirit. The word “**condemn**” is from the Greek word *katakrino* which means “*to give judgment against; to judge worthy of punishment.*” This word also means “*to condemn by one’s good example to render another’s wickedness the more evident and censurable.*”

The righteousness of Jesus Christ condemns us. He was spotless, pure, and perfect, and we are all sinners that come short of His glory and perfection. Paul says we condemn ourselves when we judge others because we are guilty of the same type of sins. Don’t be surprised to find yourself with the same weaknesses as those whom you criticize and denounce.

If you can judge the sin in others, then you know the difference between what is right and wrong. If you commit the same type of sin you see in other people, you are without excuse. Yes, we should take a stand against sin, but if we speak out against sin, it is vital we do it in a spirit of humility, considering our own faults. For example, are you angry with someone who is selfish? Are you selfish? Are you angry with someone who is boastful and proud? Are you this way too? God says we are to examine ourselves for our own weaknesses.

### 2. Our Speech or Words Can Condemn Us.

**Job 9:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup>“Though I am righteous, my mouth will condemn me; Though I am guiltless, He will declare me guilty.”

**Job 9:20 (KJV)**

<sup>20</sup>“If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: *if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.*”

**Job 15:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup>“Your own mouth condemns you, and not I; And your own lips testify against you.”

**Matthew 12:37 (NASB)**

<sup>37</sup>“For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

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We better beware of our words and what we say. If we go around claiming perfection and blaming everyone else, our own words will condemn us. The word “condemn” in [Job 9:20](#) and [Job 15:6](#), is from the Hebrew word *rasha*. This word not only means “condemn,” it also means “to trouble, to vex.” Our little tongue can create huge problems for ourselves and tremendous emotional strain when people react to what we say. Have you been in that boat? Our words condemn us because they reveal what is in our hearts. We are accountable for what we say. When we are careless with our words, it will lead to a loss of reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

### 3. The Sovereign God of the Universe Can Condemn Us.

[Job 10:2 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> “I will say to God, ‘Do not condemn me; Let me know why You contend with me.’”

God is holy and righteous and can do as He pleases. It is our sin that gets us into trouble with Him. God the Father’s solution was to send His Son to remedy our sin problem. When Jesus came to earth, it was not His purpose to condemn us, but to save us from our sins.

[John 3:17 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>17</sup> “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

### 4. Scorners and Critics Can Condemn Us.

[Job 40:8 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> “Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified?”

Some folks may condemn you and cut you down in order to elevate themselves in their own eyes. Scorners looked for every flaw they could in the Lord Jesus Christ.

[Mark 3:2 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> “They were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.”

The condemnation of scorners and critics can be very painful sometimes. How do we deal with the hurt from their condemnation? The answer is keep our focus on the Lord and His will for our lives.

[Isaiah 26:3 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> “The steadfast of mind You will keep in **perfect peace**, Because he trusts in You.”

[Isaiah 26:3 \(NKJV\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> “You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You*, Because he trusts in You.”

The words “perfect peace” in the Hebrew language are rendered *shalom shalom* or “peace, peace.” God gives perfect peace, double peace, even in times of turmoil, trials, trepidation, or tribulation. His peace is beyond human comprehension. He gives stability in the midst of instability to those whose mind is “**stayed**” or “**steadfast**” upon the Lord.

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The word “**stayed**” or “**steadfast**” is the Hebrew word *samak* which means “*to lean upon; rest your weight upon; to support oneself.*” When a person truly does trust the Lord, he will totally lean upon Him and be sustained and supported by Him. God gives perfect peace to those who lean upon the Lord and trust in Him. The word “**trusts**” is from the Hebrew word *batach* which not only means confidence in something, but it carries the idea of a “*careless security that comes from confidence. It means to be totally at ease.*”

Two artists each painted a picture to illustrate his idea of “**rest.**” The first man chose for his picture a still, isolated lake among the far-off mountains. The second man painted on his canvas a thundering, majestic waterfall, with a fragile birch tree bending over the foam and foggy mist. At the fork of this branch was a robin sitting on her nest. The first picture was one of *stagnation*, but the second one was a picture of *rest*.

In rest, there are basically two types of elements, tranquility and energy; silence and turbulence; creation and destruction; fearlessness and fearfulness. This is the victory of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is easy to “rest” when all is quiet, calm, and peaceful; but to rest in the midst of troubles, trials, and tribulations is perfect peace, beyond our comprehension and ability to muster it up on our own. It comes only from the Lord. We can know the peace that passes understanding by putting our trust in our Lord and surrendering our lives to Him. Surrender is giving the Lord a blank sheet of paper, signing your name at the bottom, and letting the Lord fill in the details on that paper.

## 5. Sinful and Sinister Devices and Deeds Condemn Us.

**John 3:19 (NASB)**

**<sup>19</sup>“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.”**

The verdict is clear; we love the sin which condemns us.

**Proverbs 12:2 (NASB)**

**<sup>2</sup>“A good man will obtain favor from the LORD, But He will condemn a man who devises evil.”**

What does it mean to devise evil? They are sinful, mischievous, evil plans, thoughts, and intentions. Many times, bad actions are preceded by bad attitudes and plans. Bob Jones Sr. said, “Behind every human tragedy, there is a process of wicked thinking.”

## 6. Sinners that have Repented bring Condemnation.

**Matthew 12:41 (NASB)**

**<sup>41</sup>“The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.”**

Ninevah was extremely wicked, yet they repented from their sin and put their faith in the Lord. The Jews were very religious, yet, they would not believe the message of one who was greater than Jonah, Jesus Christ.

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The repentance and faith of pagans will condemn the religious deeds of the unrepentant who will not come to Christ. Our righteousness is of no avail with the Lord.

**Isaiah 64:6 (NASB)**

**<sup>6</sup>“For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.”**

## **7. The Sentiments of our Heart Can Condemn Us.**

**1 John 3:20-21 (NASB)**

**<sup>20</sup>“In whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.**

**<sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God.”**

Sometimes Christians feel defeated and like a failure. Their hearts condemn them to the point of discouragement and depression. This is not what the Lord wants of us. If we feel guilty about our past, we should remind ourselves that God knows our hearts and actions completely. If we have confessed and forsaken our sin to the Lord, we can have confidence that we have been forgiven if we have asked for His forgiveness. God knows our hearts, attitudes, and actions. If we have done what is right, His assurance is stronger than our conscience. We are to rest in His love and forgiveness. If there are matters in our lives that need to be corrected with the Lord and others, there is no fooling God. He knows all about it.

## **8. Skepticism and Stubborn Unbelief Condemns Us.**

**John 5:24 (NASB)**

**<sup>24</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”**

**John 3:18 (NASB)**

**<sup>18</sup>“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”**

We trust in God by recognizing the fruitlessness of our own efforts to gain salvation and that He is the ONLY source of salvation. What does a person have to do to go to Hell? The answer is “Nothing.” We are condemned already because of our sinfulness.

Men cannot be forced to trust Christ, for their profession would not be genuine. One of David Livingstone’s first converts was an African chief, Sechale, who thought he could make his tribesmen believe by force. So, he suggested one day to Livingstone, “I shall call my head man, and with our whips of rhinoceros hide, we will soon make them all believe together.” He did not realize that the natural man is dead spiritually and that a whip cannot make a man believe; only the Holy Spirit can penetrate his heart. If he rejects God’s offer of salvation, he is condemned if he dies without Christ.

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## 9. When the Supper of the Lord is Abused, it Condemns Us.

**1 Corinthians 11:34 (NASB)**

<sup>34</sup> **“If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.”**

The Lord’s Supper is not a common meal, but some in Corinth were treating it this way. Some were coming to the supper with a careless flippancy and wrong, frivolous attitudes. Their disregard for the importance of the supper led to condemnation. We are to come to the Lord’s Supper with introspection, confession of sin to the Lord, and making things right with others if this needs to be done.

## 10. Self-conceit, Smugness, or Pride Condemns Us.

**1 Timothy 3:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> **“And not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.”**

Churches desperate for workers will sometimes put new believers in positions of leadership when they are not ready or qualified. They need time to mature and grow in faith and the knowledge of the Lord. When an immature believer is given leadership responsibility, it can lead to pride and destructive consequences. The condemnation of the devil is the judgment that fell upon Satan because of his pride. He sought a high position he was unqualified for and was brought low. Pride brings judgment.

**Proverbs 16:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> **“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.”**

The word “**destruction**” is the Hebrew word *sheber* which also means “*a crash, a shattering to pieces, a collapse or breakdown.*” This is what happens to us when we get proud.

**Proverbs 29:23 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> **“A man’s pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor.”**

## 11. Supervisory Leadership Leads to Greater Condemnation.

**James 3:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> **“Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.”**

The responsibility and judgment of a teacher is greater because his words, example, and life affect the lives of those under his ministry and teaching. The teacher is accountable to God and is to put into practice the truths of Scripture. If the teacher is soft on sinful living, he opens the door for Satan to corrupt his students. The greater the responsibility you have in the Lord’s work, the greater the judgment will be.



## 12. The Swearing of Empty Oaths Can Lead to Condemnation.

**James 5:12 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup>“But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.”

The Christian should not have to take an oath about anything for his “Yes” or “No” should be rock-solid honest. We are to always be honest and truthful so that others will believe our simple “Yes” and “No.” Lies and half-truths lead to judgment. If words are a test of character, then oaths would indicate a need for improvement in character.

## 13. Savagery and Severe Cruelty to Others Leads to Condemnation.

**Psalm 109:2-7 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup>“For they have opened the wicked and deceitful mouth against me; They have spoken against me with a lying tongue.

<sup>3</sup>They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, And fought against me without cause.

<sup>4</sup>In return for my love they act as my accusers; But I am *in* prayer.

<sup>5</sup>Thus they have repaid me evil for good And hatred for my love.

<sup>6</sup>Appoint a wicked man over him, And let an accuser stand at his right hand.

<sup>7</sup>When he is judged, let him come forth guilty [condemned], And let his prayer become sin.”

We reap what we sow. If we are cruel to others, we will reap cruelty.

## 14. Spite or Grudges Leads to Condemnation.

**James 5:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup>“Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged [condemned]; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.”

The word “complain” is from the Greek word *stenazo* which means “to moan, bitterly and strongly complain, groan, mutter, grumble.” It is the same word in [Hebrews 13:17](#) translated “with grief.”

**Hebrews 13:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup>“Obey your leaders and submit to *them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

Resentment is not to take root in the hearts of Christians. We are not to be griping, belly-aching, blaming, complaining, and grumbling about one another. There are more important things for us to talk and think about than a bunch of trash about other people which does nothing but get us angry, bitter, and depressed. When the judge enters a courtroom, a reverent hush blankets the audience. Our Judge, Jesus Christ, is at the door, and should quiet

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our tongues of griping. If you have conflicts with others, take responsibility for your wrongs, seek forgiveness, and leave the rest up to the Lord. He is the ultimate Judge in all matters.

Paul tells us what we should be thinking.

**Philippians 4:8 (NASB)**

**<sup>8</sup>“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”**

One thing we can think about is the wonderful blessing we have in Jesus Christ. We have looked at a list of what condemns us, but through Christ we are not condemned, we are forgiven when we seek His forgiveness and repent of our sin.

**Romans 8:1 (NASB)**

**<sup>1</sup>“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”**

**John 8:11 (NASB)**

**<sup>11</sup>“She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.”]**