

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

(78)

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

(Continuation from 10/08/17)

F. God's Case Against All Men, [Romans 3:9-20](#)

[Romans 3:13-14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹³“THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,” “THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”;

¹⁴“WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS.”

The apostle Paul was well aware of man's disposition to deny his sin. Therefore, from creation, from history; from reason and logic, and from conscience, Paul has already presented powerful testimony of man's sinfulness. Now he presents the ultimate testimony, the testimony of Scripture. Beginning with [verse 10](#) and continuing through [verse 18](#), Paul introduces before the court, as it were, the testimony of God's own Word as revealed in the Old Testament.

[Verses 9-20](#) summarize God's divine and perfect view of man and they continue in a trial motif: the arraignment ([v. 9](#)), the indictment ([vv. 10-17](#)), the motive ([v. 18](#)), and the verdict ([vv. 19-20](#)).

1. **The charge: all men are under sin (v.9).**
2. **The case of a sinful nature (v.10-12).**
3. **The case of a sinful tongue (v.13-14).**
4. **The case of sinful acts (v.15-18).**
5. **The case of the law (v.19-20).**

The **thirteen charges** of the indictment are presented in **three categories**—the first concerning **the character** ([vv. 10-12](#)), the second concerning **the conversation** ([vv. 13-14](#)), and the third concerning **the conduct** ([vv. 15-17](#)) of the accused.

3. ([Romans 3:13-14](#)) **Tongue— Man, Nature: there is the case of a sinful tongue.**

The Conversation of the Accused

[Romans 3:13-14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹³“THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,” “THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS”;

¹⁴“WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS.”

DEEPER STUDY # 1

Matthew 5:33-37 (NASB)

³³“Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.'

³⁴ But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,

³⁵ or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING.

³⁶ Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

³⁷ But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.”

([Matthew 5:33-37](#)) Swearing— Profanity— Oaths: there are at least six types of swearing.

1. There is *swearing by oaths*. Jesus was put upon His oath ([Matthew 26:63](#)), and Paul swore by taking an oath ([2 Corinthians 1:23](#); [Galatians 1:20](#)).

Matthew 26:63 (NASB)

⁶³“But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, “I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.”

2 Corinthians 1:23 (NASB)

²³“But I call God as witness to my soul, that to spare you I did not come again to Corinth.”

Galatians 1:20 (NASB)

²⁰“ (Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying.)”

What then does Christ mean by saying, “Swear not at all”? Simply that a man’s word should be trustworthy in his day to day speech, so trustworthy that no oath is ever necessary. His character should be his guarantee, the only guarantee he needs.

A second explanation is also possible. Men are evil, so untrustworthy in their day to day dealings that worldly men require oaths. Thus, Paul and Christ were required to take oaths. However, as stated above, the believer’s word and character should be his bond.

2. There is *habitual, frivolous swearing*. The unrighteous are said to have “mouths full of cursing and bitterness” ([Romans 3:10, 14](#)).

Romans 3:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“As it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE.”

Romans 3:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS.”

3. There is *hypocritical swearing*. There are some who “bless God” in one breath and turn around and “curse men” in the next breath. “Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing” ([James 3:9-10](#)).

James 3:9-10 (NASB)

⁹“With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

¹⁰**from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing.** My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.”

4. There is *silent, universal swearing*. Every man is charged with secretly cursing others within his heart. “Thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself...hast cursed others” ([Eccles. 7:22](#)).

Ecclesiastes 7:22 (NASB)

²²“For you also have realized that you likewise have many times cursed others.”

5. There is *evasive swearing*. Some do not use words that are foul, dirty, ugly, harsh, or binding. They would never use God’s name in vain. Rather, they choose substitute words—words that are commonly used in everyday conversation, words that would never be considered swearing. Others choose what are thought to be milder curse words. By evading harsh swearing, they feel their word is not so binding. They count themselves less guilty.

6. There is *ego swearing*. Many swear to boost their ego, their manliness around others. They feel an identity with the crowd by crossing over to the forbidden.

DEEPER STUDY # 2

Matthew 5:34 (NASB)

³⁴“But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God.”

([Matthew 5:34](#)) **Swearing**: there were two kinds of swearing to the Jews.

1. *Bound swearing*. These were oaths using God’s name. When God’s name was used, He was considered a partner; therefore, the oath could never be broken.

2. *Unbound swearing*. These were oaths which omitted God’s name but used such sacred phrases as “by heaven,” “by earth,” “by Jerusalem,” “by my head,” or some other statement to emphasize one’s intention or truthfulness. Such oaths were not necessarily binding because God was not considered to be a partner in the oath.

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What man so often fails to see is that God is always present. He sees and is concerned with all that a man says and does, whether by word or action, by statement or oath, by swearing or profanity.

4. (Romans 3:15-18) Man, Nature: there is the case of sinful acts.

Romans 3:15-18 (NASB)

¹⁵“THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,
¹⁶DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,
¹⁷AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.”
¹⁸“THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”

1. Sinful acts are murderous acts (**Romans 3:15**; cp. **Isaiah 59:7**): “Their feet are swift to shed blood.”

Romans 3:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“THEIR FEET ARE **SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD.**”

Isaiah 59:7 (NASB)

⁷“**Their feet run to evil.** And they hasten to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, Devastation and destruction are in their highways.”

Note the word “**swift.**” Men jump to kill; they are ready to spill and pour out blood...

- 1) out of hurt and shame.
- 2) to have their own way.
- 3) to get what they want.

Men are cruel; they have natures that are prideful and selfish and greedy. They seek and seek to possess, even if it means turning against others and inflicting...

- 1) pain and suffering
- 2) grief and injury
- 3) teasing and tormenting
- 4) killing and slaughtering
- 5) mutilating and mangling

God’s case against man is that he is a murderer. His feet are “**swift to shed blood.**”

Exodus 20:13 (NASB)

¹³“**You shall not murder.**”

Matthew 19:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“*Then* he said to Him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “**YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER; YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY; YOU SHALL NOT STEAL; YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS.**”

1 Peter 4:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“**Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler.**”

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1 John 3:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

Proverbs 1:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“For their feet run to evil And they hasten to shed blood”

2. Sinful acts are oppressive acts that destroy and cause misery (**Romans 3:16**; cp. **Isaiah 59:7**): “Destruction and misery are in their ways.”

Romans 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS.”

Isaiah 59:7 (NASB)

⁷“Their feet run to evil, And they hasten to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, Devastation and destruction are in their highways.”

Man is oppressive; he destroys and causes misery wherever he goes. Because of his pride, selfishness, and greed, man destroys...

- 1) the land (pollution)
- 2) the shops
- 3) the houses
- 4) the cities
- 5) the nations
- 6) the country
- 7) the government
- 8) the people
- 9) the property

He destroys and causes misery wherever he goes, even within his own family, neighborhood, and city. Whether by simple argument within his own family or by war, he is so destructive and full of misery that he brings destruction and misery wherever he goes.

3. Sinful acts are restless, disturbing and warring acts (**Romans 3:17**; cp. **Isaiah 59:8**): “And the way of peace have they not known.”

Romans 3:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN.”

Isaiah 59:8 (NASB)

⁸“They do not know the way of peace, And there is no justice in their tracks; They have made their paths crooked, Whoever treads on them does not know peace.”

The idea is that men do not experience peace. They do not possess peace within themselves nor among others. They do not know peaceful ways, do not know....

- 1) how to secure peace.
- 2) how to keep peace.

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Men are not peaceful within; they are restless. Their own soul is a civil war that experiences constant conflict. Therefore, men fail to secure peace not only within themselves, but among others. Wherever men are, they disturb and bring faction and war to others. This is God's case against men.

Deuteronomy 28:67 (NASB)

⁶⁷“In the morning you shall say, ‘Would that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Would that it were morning!’ because of the dread of your heart which you dread, and for the sight of your eyes which you will see.”

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23 (NASB)

²²“For what does a man get in all his labor and in his striving with which he labors under the sun?

²³ Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is vanity.”

Isaiah 48:22 (NASB)

²²“There is no peace for the wicked,” says the LORD.”

Isaiah 57:20 (NASB)

²⁰“But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud.”

Isaiah 59:8 (NASB)

⁸“They do not know the way of peace, And there is no justice in their tracks; They have made their paths crooked, Whoever treads on them does not know peace.”

Lamentations 5:5 (NASB)

⁵“Our pursuers are at our necks; We are worn out, there is no rest for us.”

Ezekiel 7:25 (NASB)

²⁵“When anguish comes, they will seek peace, but there will be none.”

4. Sinful acts are godless, irreverent, disrespectful acts ([Romans 3:18](#); cp. [Psalm 36:1](#)):
“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Romans 3:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.”

Psalm 36:1 (NASB)

¹“Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; **There is no fear of God before his eyes.**”

Their eyes and their attention are focused upon other things. They ignore and neglect God, living as though there is no God. They sense little if any responsibility toward God. They do not fear God; they do not fear His anger or wrath or judgment against them. They sense little desire or need to worship God or to study His Word and will. They seldom if ever praise and honor Him or do as He commands. The fear of God is not before their eyes; therefore, this is God's case against men.

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Romans 1:28 (NASB)

²⁸“And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.”

Romans 2:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves.”

Job 34:9 (NASB)

⁹“For he has said, ‘It profits a man nothing When he is pleased with God.’”

Job 35:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“But no one says, ‘Where is God my Maker, Who gives songs in the night.’”

Psalm 10:4 (NASB)

⁴“The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek *Him*. All his thoughts are, “There is no God.”

Psalm 36:1 (NASB)

¹“Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes.”

Proverbs 1:30 (NASB)

³⁰“They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof.”