

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

(79)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

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

(Continuation from 10/15/17)

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.

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.”

The Conduct of the Accused

10-22-17

Series: The Book of Romans

Romans 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁵“THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD.”

The last three charges in Paul’s indictment relate to the conduct of the natural man. The **eleventh charge** is that the ungodly are innately murderous: **their feet are swift to shed blood.**

The cannibalism that still exists in a few primitive tribes and the mass executions of innocent civilians that have taken place in numerous “developed” countries in modern times are but extreme manifestations of the basically destructive disposition of fallen mankind.

The nineteenth-century Scottish evangelist **Robert Haldane** wrote, “The most savage animals do not destroy so many of their own species to appease their hunger, as man destroys of his fellows’, to satiate his ambition, his revenge, or his cupidity [greed]” (*An Exposition of the Epistle to the Romans* [MacDill AFB, Fla.: MacDonald, 1958], p. 120).

Even in the United States, with its Christian heritage, since the turn of the twentieth century twice as many of its citizens have been slain in private acts of murder than have been killed in all the wars of its entire history. According to researcher Arnold Barnett of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a child born today in any one of the fifty largest cities in the United States has the chance of one in fifty of being murdered. Dr. Barnett estimated that a baby born in the 1980s is more likely to be murdered than an American soldier in World War II was of being killed in combat.

Whether in peace or in war, man kills man. The mass exterminations by Nazis and Marxists in the twentieth century have their counterparts in past history. The notorious terrorist Chang Hsien-chung in seventeenth-century China killed practically all the people in the Szechwan province. During that same century in Hungary, a certain countess systematically tortured and murdered more than six hundred young girls.

Countess Elizabeth Báthory de Ecsed (Báthory Erzsébet in Hungarian) is recorded as being one of the most prolific serial killers in history, as documented by her entry in the Guinness Book of Records, and is estimated to have brutally tortured and killed between 80 and 650 young women between 1585 and 1610. She was known as the Blood Countess.

Obviously, most people are far from possessing such extreme brutality. But Scripture makes clear that the seed of murder is one of a multitude of evil seeds that are universally found in the human heart and that, to some degree, inevitably grow and bear fruit.

Romans 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS.”

The **twelfth charge** in the overall indictment, and the second one that is manifested in man’s conduct, is that of general destructiveness. **Destruction and misery are in their paths.** *Suntrimma* (**destruction**) is a compound word that denotes breaking in pieces and completely shattering, causing total devastation.

10-22-17

Series: The Book of Romans

The manifestation of wanton **destruction** is becoming more and more evident in much of modern society. Victims are often robbed or raped and then beaten or murdered for no reason other than sheer brutality. The terms “**abused children**” and “**abused wives**” have become common in contemporary vocabularies. Special divisions of many police departments and social service agencies are devoted specifically to dealing with the crimes and victims that those terms relate to.

Misery is a general term that denotes the resulting harm that is always in the wake of man’s acts of destruction against his fellow man. His destructiveness inevitably leaves a trail of pain and despair.

Romans 3:17 (NASB)

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

The **thirteenth and last of the charges** in Paul’s indictment of condemned man is that of his peacelessness: **And the path of peace have they not known**. The apostle is not speaking of the lack of inner peace—although that is certainly a characteristic of the ungodly person—**but of man’s essential inclination away from peace**. This charge is therefore something of a counterpart to the previous one.

Peace has never been more highly extolled than in our own day. But few would argue that peace, whether personal or international, actually characterizes our times. Nevertheless, as in Jeremiah’s day, many modern leaders are trying to heal the brokenness of their people superficially crying, “**Peace; peace,**” when obviously there is no peace (see [Jeremiah 6:14](#)).

Jeremiah 6:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“**They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ But there is no peace.**”

God’s Word gives much counsel as to what makes for peace, and those individuals and societies who have chosen to follow His guidance have experienced relative times of peacefulness. But Scripture makes clear that peace will never dominate human society until the Prince of Peace returns to establish His kingdom on earth.

Note this gripping description of sin:

It is a debt, a burden, a thief, a sickness, a leprosy; a plague, poison, a serpent, a sting; everything that man hates it is; a load of curses, and calamities beneath whose crushing most intolerable pressure, the whole creation groaneth....

Who is the hoary sexton that digs man a grave?

Who is the painted temptress that steals his virtue?

Who is the murderess that destroys his life?

10-22-17

Series: The Book of Romans

Who is this sorceress that first deceives, and then damns his soul? —Sin.

Who with icy breath, blights the fair blossoms of youth?

Who breaks the hearts of parents? Who brings old men's grey hairs with sorrow to the grave? —Sin.

Who, by a more hideous metamorphosis than Ovid even fancied, changes gentle children into vipers, tender mothers into monsters and their fathers into worse than Herods, the murderers of their own innocents?—Sin.

Who casts the apple of discord on household hearts?

Who lights the torch of war, and bears it blazing over trembling lands?

Who by divisions in the church, rends Christ's seamless robe? —Sin.

Who is this Delilah that sings the Nazirite asleep and delivers up the strength of God into the hands of the uncircumcised?

Who with winning smiles on her face, honey flattery on her tongue, stands in the door to offer the sacred rites of hospitality and when suspicion sleeps, treacherously pierces our temples with a nail?

What fair siren is this who seated on a rock by the deadly pool smiles to deceive, sings to lure, kisses to betray, and flings her arm around our neck to leap with us into perdition?—Sin.

Who turns the soft and gentlest heart to stone? Who hurls reason from her lofty throne, and impels sinners, mad as Gadarene swine, down the precipice, into a lake of fire?—Sin. (Cited in **Elon Foster's *New Cyclopaedia of Prose Illustrations*** [New York: T. Y. Crowell, 1877], p.696)