

“NO CONDEMNATION IN CHRIST”

JOHN 3:16-21

INTRO: On several occasions throughout my ministry, I have sat with someone who, because of a committed crime, was sentenced to a jail term. In my opinion this is one of the MOST SOLEMN EVENTS to experience. And yet, for the most part, these sentences relate to this life and generally just a portion of time in this life unless it is a “LIFE SENTENCE” and often even that is reduced in a certain number of years. **BUT ALL OF HUMANITY IS UNDER THE SENTENCE OF CONDEMNATION TO ETERNAL SEPARATION IN THE LAKE OF FIRE DUE TO PERSONAL SIN THAT IS MUCH MORE SOLEMN AND SERIOUS THAN ANY SENTENCE A HUMAN COURT OR JUDGE CAN EVER GIVE.** This is a sentence that **NO ONE WILL ESCAPE** apart from **trusting Christ as personal Savior.** Let's talk about this **SENTENCE OF CONDEMNATION** that every one born on earth is under and cannot escape apart from receiving Christ as personal Savior.

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CONTEXTUAL OBSERVATION:

- 1) John 3:16 – Perhaps the most known verse in the NT with a great message.
- 2) John 3:18 – When Christ came into the world the **FIRST TIME** He did **NOT** come as Judge. He came as **SAVIOR** to save the people of the world. The next time He comes He will come to **JUDGE** the world.

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I. THE REALITY OF CONDEMNATION – JOHN 3:18b

WHOEVER DOES NOT BELIEVE IN CHRIST IS ALREADY CONDEMNED.

A. What is the Condemnation?

1. Condemnation is the **JUDGMENT OF GOD** upon mankind **DUE TO SIN.** Romans 5:18
2. This Judgment of God is **JUSTIFIED** because of mankind's rejection of God. Romans 3:9-12

B. Who is under Condemnation?

ALL WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.

1. The Religious Person who has not trusted Christ. (Text: Nicodemus)
2. The Proud Person who sees **NO NEED** for Christ.
3. The Lost Person who **DOES NOT KNOW** of Christ

QUESTION: COULD ONE OF THE ABOVE BE YOU RIGHT NOW?

OBSERVATION: THE UNBELIEVER DOES NOT HAVE TO WAIT TO DIE TO BE CONDEMNED. HE/SHE IS CONDEMNED NOW! THE VERDICT IS GIVEN!

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE REPRESENTATION OF CONDEMNATION – JOHN 3:19-21

THE CONDEMNATION IS REPRESENTED OR SEEN BY THE FACT THAT MANKIND LOVES DARKNESS (SIN) AND HATES LIGHT (CHRIST)

CONSIDER THE TEXTUAL EXPLANATION

A. The Light Came into the world through Christ – John 1:1-9

B. The Darkness is loved by Humanity – John 3:19-21

1. The Condition of Darkness

- a. Darkness is the sinfulness of the world.
- b. Darkness could put out the light – John 1:5

2. The Condition of Humanity

- a. Humanity loves darkness (sin) and hates the light (Christ) because their lifestyle (deeds) is evil (corrupt).
- b. Humanity's love for darkness prevents many from coming to Christ
-Verse 20
- c. Humanity's love for darkness (sin) demands God's condemnation.

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE REGRET OF CONDEMNATION – JOHN 3:18b, 36

CONDEMNATION BRINGS ETERNAL REGRET TO THOSE WHO EXPERIENCE IT.

A. The Condemnation upon sinners brings the wrath of God – John 3:36

1. A person does not have to **DIE** and go to **HELL** to be **UNDER** the wrath of God....He is under it **NOW.**
2. The verdict of God's wrath is already given to **ALL** unbelievers **BUT THE SENTENCE** has not yet been executed **BECAUSE God continues to call sinners to Repentance – 2 Peter 3:9**

B. The Condemnation upon sinners under the wrath of God will be lived out for ETERNITY in the LAKE OF FIRE that will be GREAT REGRET.

-Revelation 20:11-15

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. THE RELEASE OF CONDEMNATION – JOHN 3:18a

HE THAT BELIEVES ON CHRIST IS NOT CONDEMNED.

A. The Reality of “Belief”

1. To “**BELIEVE**” means more than intellectual assent to the claims of the Gospel – James 2:19
2. To “**BELIEVE**” means **TO TRUST CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND COMMIT TO CHRIST AS LORD.**

B. The Result of “Belief”

1. The Removal from Condemnation – Romans 8:1
2. The Reception of a New Nature – John 3:7
3. The Response of Obedience – John 10:27
4. The Realization of a Relationship – John 10:28-29
 - a. A Living Relationship
-Believers share Christ's very life.
 - b. A Loving Relationship
-Believers become a part of the BRIDE OF CHRIST and He is the Groom.
 - c. A Learning Relationship
-Believers constantly learn from Christ through His Word.

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION/LESSON:

- 1) Make Certain you have “BELIEVED” upon Christ.
- 2) If you have “BELIEVED” rejoice that you are NO LONGER CONDEMNED.