

## -CONDEMNATION-

It is the law of God that condemns the sinner. That is not only the law that was given to Israel, but there was law before Sinai.

This law cannot condemn one who is in Christ Jesus. When a person is in Christ and has put on Christ, then the Father sees only His Son when He looks at that person. The Father cannot condemn His own Son. Therefore the sinner is safe in the Son. What a comfort!

The law of God that condemns is the law of sin and death. The sinner who has put on Christ and is in Christ has in him the law of the Spirit of life. This law frees the sinner and protects him from the law of sin and death.

There was a weakness of the flesh which made it impossible for any to escape the penalty for sin. That made it imperative that God should make some provision for this weakness of the flesh, or all mankind would perish from the earth.

So God sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. The flesh was judged and the wrath of God was poured out on Him Who took your place and mine. By identification with Him in His death we can put off the old man with his deeds and live after the Spirit. This was all necessary in order that the righteous demands of the law might be met.

There are two walks in this world. A man can take either as his choice. He may walk after the flesh. If he does, he will reap corruption (death). He may choose to walk after the Spirit. If so, he will have life and peace. The majority of mankind treads the path of carnality, the flesh. They are in Adam, therefore they die. A few walk after the Spirit. To walk after the Spirit is to be in Christ and all such shall be made alive.

A man cannot walk after the flesh without being an enemy of God. Sin is rebellion and enmity. Such a carnal mind cannot be subject to the law of God.

Therefore, they that walk after the flesh cannot please God.

## -THE FATHER'S WILL-

1. There is a revelation of a time of choice for the man who has by faith accepted the calling God offers today. All such were chosen in Christ from before the overthrow of the world. Those who were in the calling of the Kingdom had a choice from since the overthrow of the world. If this point alone were recognized, it would solve many problems and end much confusion.

2. The object of this choice of us in Christ is that we should be blameless and holy before Him. For the place which this select group is to occupy in the heavenlies, purity and holiness are essential.

3. There is a motive here on the part of God. A motive is a moving power that causes one to act. The thing that caused God to act was LOVE. God so loved the whole world that He gave His only begotten Son. This was for the salvation of all who would believe. But this choice of us for the BODY was above and beyond what we find in Jno. 3:16.

4. There is also a predestination involved here. This term means that a destiny has been predetermined. Predestination has to do only with believers. All who are in Christ are predestined to be made alive. But here in this case there is something more. There is something special for those who have accepted by faith the calling offered.

5. The object in view in this predestination is that these faithful ones may be placed as sons thru adoption. Now sonship thru adoption was more secure and certain than sonship thru begetting. The Roman law made it impossible for an adopted son to be cast off or in any way disinherited. But a natural son might.

These five things are done for the believer according to the good pleasure of the Father's will. It is not because of any covenant or any obligation. Neither Jew nor Gentile have any covenant relationship with God today. Every act of God today is an act of grace.

### -THE WORK OF THE SON-

The Son had a task to perform while here on the earth. He was to be about His Father's business. He did nothing of Himself, but always acted according to the will of His Father. This work, this business was finished as He hung on the tree on Calvary. There He said, "It is finished."

What was finished? Our redemption. Redemption means TO BUY BACK something for a price. The price paid for our redemption was the precious blood of Christ. It is also revealed to us today that in this redemption was included the forgiveness of sins. This forgiveness of sins gives us access. It is sin that stands between a person and God.

This forgiveness comes from the great bounty and the riches of His grace. The riches of His grace are inexhaustible. All sins are included. The blood is powerful enough to cleanse from all sin.

In looking at this wonderful provision for us helpless sinners, we are struck by the great manifestation of the wisdom of God. Who else could have worked out a plan like this to save ruined mankind? It is also an exhibition of the prudence of God. No fault or flaw can be found in His purpose or workmanship. All is perfect.

God had a secret part of His will which had not been disclosed to other ages and generations. This secret thing was that when the fulness of times comes, all things will be gathered up in Christ. This includes all things in heaven as well as on the earth. This is another view of the great truth that God will be all and in all, which was revealed in a former dispensation. It was His good pleasure to reveal this secret to us. There was no promise or obligation on His part to do so.

Since we have been adopted as sons in Christ who is the first-born (HEIR) of all creation, we have an inheritance in Him. Not only have we been blest with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies with Christ, but we are also made heirs with Him. We who trust in Christ bring praise to the glory of the Father. We faint not.

### -THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT-

This is not the PROMISED Spirit. The POWER of the Holy Spirit was promised to Israel, but not to the Gentiles. It might better read, THE HOLY PROMISSORY SPIRIT. The fact that the Holy Spirit is present with and teaching the Gentiles is an indication that God has blessing for them.

That we have been blest with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies is a part of God's Word to us. We further have a witness of the Spirit. The fact that we can understand and enjoy the gospel of the calling of this dispensation is a witness of the truth. It is an earnest (pledge) or I might say, a foretaste of what is to come. We can revel in unspeakable joy at the truth of being the hope of glory, (Christ being in us). We can walk with our heads in the clouds at times when we realize that we are a part of a new man created in Christ Jesus and already seated in the heavenlies with Him. But this is just a token payment, a little pledge, which insures that which is to come. Our hope cannot fail. We are sealed. The seal of a king in olden times could not be broken or the contents of what was sealed tampered with. Satan does not dare to touch what God has sealed.

Many cannot understand all this. They are carnal. They look for evidences in the flesh. They do not walk by faith. That is why this great truth has been overlooked in the centuries past.

So we have a sample of our inheritance here and now. Full redemption will be accomplished when we put on incorruption and be not only out from under the power of sin, but from the presence of it.

Again we might ask, "Why does God do all this?" The only reason given is that God does all according to the good pleasure of His will and to the praise of His glory.

Can we comprehend all this? But one thing we do know; God has a purpose for the ages, He loves us, He has undertaken for us, and He will finish that which He has started. In Him we can fully trust. To all this the Spirit has given witness. We are confident.

-CHOSEN-

It is hard to know just how much to make this word mean. This much we do know; that men are not chosen to death or to life in some dim distant past. In that each man has a choice. God can foreknow that choice if He cares to. He can also choose not to know.

Our Lord once said that no one could come to Him except the Father draws him. He further said that He came only to the lost sheep (not wolves) of the house of Israel. He also said that His sheep would hear His voice and would follow Him. That was very evident. He went about and called the 12. Each one quit what he was doing and followed the Lord. They were His sheep, with one exception, and the Lord knew what He was doing when He chose Judas Iscariot.

Each one responded when called. We hardly dare think what would have happened if one had hesitated or taken time to think it over. The times of decision seem to be short. In the case of Esau, we find a very short space in which a decision was made. He was hungry. His birthright seemed unimportant in the presence of the hunger of the moment. He decided. Not long after there was no place found for repentance, that is, there was no further offer of the inheritance. It was gone forever. The decision had been made, and that place could never be called back.

The members of the BODY have been chosen from before the overthrow of the world. Who they are, I have no way of knowing. God knows those who will respond when the gospel is presented to them. I have noticed this fact in general, that when the truth is presented to a saved person, and he sees that there is an outcalling from among the saved ones to make up the BODY, the response is immediate. He either quickly receives it for himself or he rejects the truth. I will not be dogmatic about this yet, as I do not believe my observations have been wide enough to warrant it. It may be that my readers may have some facts to add which may give some help on this subject. Write me a line about this.

-SEARCH (RANSACK) AND SEE-

1. What is the scope of the theme of the Bible? Gen. 2:4.
  2. Was sin confined to earth and man? Job 15:15. Rev. 12:8. Eph. 6:12.
  3. What happened to the first heavens and earth that were created? Gen. 1:2. 2 Pet. 3:6.
  4. What will happen to the present heavens and earth? 2 Pet. 3:7. Rev. 20:11; 21:1.
  5. What is the crowning work in God's program for the earth? Rev. 20:6. It is the theme of Matt. 13.
  6. Is the CHURCH of Eph. and Col. part of an earthly purpose or a heavenly purpose? Eph. 1:3; 2:6; 3:10. Col. 1:5; 3:1-4.
  7. Must the things of heaven and earth always be separated? Eph. 1:10. Rev. 21:2,3.
  8. What is the final goal or purpose of the ages? 1 Cor. 15:28.
  9. Which of the apostles was the first to preach to Gentiles? Acts 15:7,14.
  10. Was water baptism in the commission to the 12? Matt. 28:19.
  11. Was Paul commissioned to baptize with water? 1 Cor. 1:17.
  12. To whom was Christ sent to minister? Matt. 15:24. Rom. 15:8.
  13. To whom were the 12 sent? Jno. 20:21.
  14. To whom was Paul sent? Acts 9:15.
  15. What was the position of a Gentile in relation to the Jew after Acts 10? Rom. 11:17-24.
  16. What was the position of the Gentile before Acts 10? Acts 10:28. Mark 7:27.
  17. What is the position of the Gentile in relation to the Jew since Acts 28:28? Eph. 2:11-22; 3:6.
  18. During Acts, did Jewish Christians cease to observe the law? Acts 21:20.
  19. Did the apostle to the Gentiles cease to observe the law during Acts? Acts 18:18; 21:26; 22:17; 24:18; 25:8; 26:5; 28:17.
  20. Were grafted-in Gentiles required to keep the law? Acts 15:19,29; 21:25.
  21. Could Gentiles have any part in the service of the Lord during Acts? Rom. 9:4.
- If you like questions, let me know.

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

TRUTH FOR TODAY Bible Class is still meeting each Tue. night at 7:45 at my house. Now don't be so backward about coming over. We won't bite you and I am sure you will enjoy the Bible study.

TRUTH FOR TODAY Radio Bible Class is heard each Tue. at 7 P.M. over the FM station WRSW. If you enjoy the program, why don't you drop a line to the station saying so? It will help keep us going.

TRUTH FOR TODAY is the name of this little paper. I try to get it out each month. I am cutting it down to 4 pages because of present circumstances. It may remain that size for a few months. It is free and I am glad to send it to you or to any of your friends that you would like to have it. If you need several copies each month to distribute to a class, let me know how many you need.

We have been mud, ice, and snow bound this month. The class here has missed a few sessions because our lane became impassible. That is one reason that we are looking for a place for our meetings.

If you would like to write the answers to the questions on page 3 and send them to me, I will check them for you. Just put down the number of the question and write after it the answer.

Receipts for January are; A26 \$1., A27 \$5., A28 \$3., A29 \$2.  
Thank for the lift.

I wish to thank the two donors who prefer to remain anonymous for their gifts this month. The receipts will be listed in the next issue.

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Are you down in the dumps? Do things seem to go wrong? Do you have doubts and fears? Would you like to have somebody pray for you? Why not look me up or write to me? I shall be glad to do anything for you I can. All of you who receive this paper or listen to my radio program belong to my "Parish." I am at your service. Send me your Bible questions too. They give me ideas for the articles and radio programs.

This paper is my personal letter to you. Just how much will I have to beg and entreat to get you to reply? Make it a postal card, and hurry before the rates go up.

A friend of this ministry has a special request for prayer. Will you please join with us in praying for this brother?

I live back a snow-drifted lane off the Harrison Center road, 4 miles south of Atwood and 6 miles west of Warsaw. Tel. Atwood 394. Address mail to; Oscar W. Baker, R 2, Warsaw, Ind. (Our calling, Eph. 2:6. Our hope, Phil. 3:20)

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