

Chapter Eleven

The Second Condemnation: Clearing up Difficulties

Defining the Second Condemnation

The Eternal Son of God became flesh; He became the Second Adam, and thereby also became our Substitute and Surety. He died for our sins i.e. all the sins which flowed from Adam's fall, all the transgressions of all mankind for all time. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law. He did this for all mankind. At Calvary's Cross, our Saviour exhausted the penalty for sin.

1 Corinthians 15: 1- 4 KJV
Galatians 3: 13 KJV
Hebrews 2: 9 KJV

Justice demands that sin be not merely pardoned, but the death penalty must be executed. God, in the gift of His only-begotten Son, met both these requirements. By dying in man's stead, Christ exhausted the penalty and provided a pardon. {S.D.A. BC vol. 6}

The penalty for the first condemnation and for all the sins which resulted from Adam's fall, has been exhausted. That fact means at least three (3) things:

- (i) The whole world is legally under the jurisdiction of the Second Adam
- (ii) Therefore, to terminally reject Christ's redemptive work is to incur a second condemnation for which there is no sacrifice
- (iii) No penalty remains to be executed for sins which fall under the jurisdiction of the first or Adamic condemnation.

The first condemnation, and the fall and all human transgressions resulted from Adam's disobedience. The penalty for all of that has been exhausted by our Saviour's suffering the second death and dying the second for us. (Romans 5: 18)

The second condemnation is produced or caused by a final and fixed rejection of Christ by rejecting the Holy Spirit's work of revealing the truth and beauty and glory of the gospel.

Mark 16: 15- 16 KJV
John 3: 17- 19 KJV
John 8: 24 KJV

The penalty for all the sins of the first condemnation has been exhausted so there is no more left to execute upon any such sins. The unsaved will die the second death because of a second condemnation which is caused by rejecting the gospel and thereby blaspheming against the Holy Spirit. This is the sin that is unto death.

1 John 5: 16- 17 KJV
Hebrews 10: 26- 29 KJV
Hebrews 6: 4- 6 KJV
Hebrews 2: 3 KJV

An Important Distinction

Do not confuse the natural consequences of the fall and of sin with the PENALTY FOR SIN. For example, smoking tobacco may cause a person to develop lung cancer, but lung cancer is not the penalty for sin. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by a fiery destruction occasioned by their sins but that was not the penalty for sin. The first death is not the penalty for sin.

Matthew 10: 28 KJV

The penalty for sin is the separation of the soul from God when God completely withdraws from the person. We call it the Second Death. Only one Person, Jesus Christ, has so far died that death, and He died it for all mankind. It was not the physical suffering inflicted on Christ by Satan and man that constituted the penalty for sin. It was the Father's complete withdrawal from Christ's soul.

He was bearing the penalty of transgression for a sinful world. This proceeded not from Satan nor from man. It is best described in the words of the prophet, "Awake, O sword, against my Shepherd, and against the Man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts." Christ was realizing his Father's frown. He was now suffering under divine justice. {S.T. December 2nd, 1897}

Upon Christ as our substitute and surety was laid the iniquity of us all. He was counted a transgressor, that He might redeem us from the condemnation of the law. The guilt of every descendant of Adam was pressing upon His heart. The wrath of God against sin, the terrible manifestation of His displeasure because of iniquity, filled the soul of His Son with consternation. All His life Christ had been publishing to a fallen world the good news of the Father's mercy and pardoning love. Salvation for the chief of sinners was His theme. But now with the terrible weight of guilt He bears, He cannot see the Father's reconciling face. The withdrawal of the divine countenance from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man. So great was this agony that His physical pain was hardly felt. {D.A. page 753}

A Difficult Concept?

The concept of a second condemnation is apparently new to many and seems difficult to understand or accept. Let us consider a quotation which some have difficulty understanding.

The wicked receive their recompense in the earth. Proverbs 11:31. They "shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts." Malachi 4:1. Some are destroyed as in a

moment, while others suffer many days. All are punished "according to their deeds." The sins of the righteous having been transferred to Satan, he is made to suffer not only for his own rebellion, but for all the sins which he has caused God's people to commit. His punishment is to be far greater than that of those whom he has deceived. After all have perished who fell by his deceptions, he is still to live and suffer on. In the cleansing flames the wicked are at last destroyed, root and branch--Satan the root, his followers the branches. The full penalty of the law has been visited; the demands of justice have been met; and heaven and earth, beholding, declare the righteousness of Jehovah. {G.C. page 673}

Come Let Us Reason Together

In order to correctly understand the above passage we need to understand some important gospel principles. For easy assimilation, let's list ten (10) important principles:-

1. Man cannot, by any good works, merit salvation. It is wholly of God's grace, received by man as a sinner because he believes in and receives Jesus.
2. It was the faith of Jesus that won our salvation.
3. Eternal life is a free gift in Christ. It is not the reward for our good works.
 - **Romans 4: 4- 5 KJV**
 - **1 John 5: 11- 12 KJV**
 - **Ephesians 2: 8- 12 KJV**
4. Yet the Bible informs us that all shall be judged according to their works, all will be rewarded according to works.
 - **Revelation 20: 12- 13 KJV**
 - **Revelation 22: 12 KJV**
5. Notice that it says: judged or rewarded according to works, not for works!
6. Faith works by love (Galatians 5: 6), so it is not faith and works but faith which works!
7. Since faith works, we conclude that good works are directly proportional to faith and evil works (sins) are directly proportional to unbelief.
8. Therefore we are saved by grace through faith but rewarded according to good works. The reward according to good works is distinct from the gift of salvation and eternal life.
9. Similarly, unbelievers are damned into a second condemnation by unbelief (Mark 16: 16) but suffer according to their evil works. The second death will be the penalty for unbelief. This is distinct from suffering according to works.
10. The Son of God speaking under the personification of Eternal Wisdom summarizes it beautifully in Proverbs 8: 36. And the apostle Paul reiterates it! (Hebrews 2: 3 – first part). The justice of God stands fully vindicated when He withdraws completely from those who reject His Son and His Son's redemptive

work and choose Satan's government of sin.

Why some will Burn Longer than Others

The quantity of suffering is the product of the intensity of suffering and the length of time the suffering lasts for.

The quantity of suffering is directly proportional to the degree of guilt; the greater the guilt, the greater the quantity of suffering.

The degree of guilt is directly proportional to the amount of light rejected. In other words, the more light and evidence rejected, the greater the guilt and the greater the punishment.

And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not [himself], neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many [stripes]. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few [stripes]. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.
{Luke 12: 47- 48} KJV

To put it in even more clearly, the greater the light, the greater the unbelief and stubbornness required to reject that light. And the greater the unbelief and stubbornness, the greater the guilt and the greater the punishment!

That is why some of the unsaved will suffer longer than others.

Satan, of course, will suffer the longest because He deliberately developed unbelief in the full light of God's glory and became the first creature to completely reject the Son of God and blaspheme against the Holy Spirit.

But even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan. Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God's glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God's love. Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more that God could do to save him. But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan's sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God's love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God. {D.A. page 761}

We see therefore that the wrath will be according to the degree of hardness of heart which will be directly proportional to the depth of unbelief! And the depth of unbelief would have produced the evil deeds! Hence, "suffering according to evil deeds" means suffering for the stubborn, unbelieving heart in rejecting Christ and His salvation.

The New Covenant Definition of Sin

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. {1 John 3: 4} KJV

This oft quoted text is not completely understood by most who quote it. It says that whosoever commits sin also transgresses the law. This means that law transgression is an addition to, and flows from a more basic transgression. In fact this text tells us that sin is the transgression of two (2) things

and second thing is the law. What then is the first? A careful study of scripture gives us the answer. Let us examine some texts:

1. ...whatsoever is not of faith is sin {**Romans 14: 23**} KJV
2. Read Romans 3: 26- 28

These passages of scripture introduce us to the law of faith and clearly teach that sin is, fundamentally, a transgression of the principle or law of faith!

3. Read Romans 3: 31

Since faith establishes the law, if faith is lost, there can be no establishing of the law in a person's character. Therefore the first principle that is transgressed is the principle or law of faith and once faith collapses, law transgression is inevitable!

We can now more fully understand and appreciate the definition of sin Jesus gave in describing the primary functions of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit reproves the world of sin because they believe not on Him!

John 16: 8- 9 KJV

So we can now understand the meaning of 1 John 3: 4. This is what it means:-

"Whoever breaks the law of faith will also break the moral law of ten commandments."

The sins of law transgression are recorded as evidence of unbelief but it is the unbelief which, if not remedied, will send us into the second condemnation and the second death.

The Record and Blotting Out of Sins

The sinner who believes the Good News of all that God has already accomplished for us in Christ, gives to Christ all that He bought, i.e. self and sins. Faith works by love to purify the soul. When sin is pointed out, the believer says I would rather have Christ than that sin. The sin is removed (aphiemi) from the soul. Christ bore it. Its record in the Sanctuary is to give evidence of faith in Christ. When the believer's mind becomes ultimately fixed in Christ, the sins will undergo another removal from Christ and the Sanctuary onto Satan the Scapegoat. Why? The sins were the result of unbelief and the unbelief of God's people has been changed to belief. Therefore, Satan, the originator of unbelief must carry ultimate blame for the unbelief which caused those sins.

For the unsaved the matter is different; they deliberately rejected Christ and endorsed Satan's original unbelief. Therefore they are accountable for their own disbelief. The record of sins which stands against them, is evidence of their disbelief. They die the second death not for the sins recorded but for the unbelief, the rejection of Christ and His redemptive work.

Remember we are in a great controversy. Satan had laid a number of changes against God and His government. At the Cross Christ vindicated God's character and government and defeated Satan. Christ also exhausted the penalty for all the sins which flowed from the Adamic condemnation. Therefore clinging to sin is evidence of unbelief.

God is on trial in the great controversy, He must present clear evidence to the universe. Unbelief in the mind is not a tangible entity that can be read by other creatures but the evidence of unbelief is CHERISHING sin.

Therefore, the whole matter of judgement, the record of sins, sins either returning upon one's head or blotted out and put on the scapegoat, all of that has to do with the evidence for and consequences of belief or unbelief.

Evidences from the Two Resurrections

For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. {1 Corinthians 15: 21- 22} KJV

Adam's disobedience condemned humanity to eternal death. If there was no plan of salvation there would have been only one death – eternal death with no resurrection. But thanks be to God, He had a plan of redemption from all eternity past and He implemented it the moment Adam sinned. The efficacy of Christ's sacrifice extended backward and forward in time to cover the entire period of human history.

Christ died the death that humanity should have died and therefore rescued all mankind from the Adamic condemnation and the eternal death which that condemnation caused. Because Christ died for all the death which Adam (and all humanity) would have died if there was no plan of salvation, all humans will be resurrected. Therefore an incontrovertible proof that all mankind received legal pardon (charizomai) and legal justification by Christ's sacrifice is the fact that all will be resurrected from the death caused by Adam's disobedience. Those who reject Christ and His salvation will then die an eternal death, not because of Adam's sin or their sins but because of unbelief in or rejection of Jesus Christ. That is why there are now two deaths: the first and the second deaths.

When the saved will be resurrected from the first death at Christ's second coming they will receive the glorified immortal body and enter the kingdom of glory.

When the unsaved will be resurrected from the first death at Christ's third coming they will be clearly shown their rejection of the salvation which was given to them in Christ. They will then enter eternal death which we call the second death because they rejected CHRIST.

The Cross Establishes Faith

When Jesus died on the Cross, He took away the sins of the world and fully revealed God's agape love.

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. {John 1: 29} KJV

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. {Romans 5: 8} KJV

This agape love of God produces faith and faith produces hope. God's love revealed at the Cross is the goodness that leads us to repentance – Romans 2: 4. We clearly see then that

the death of Jesus, through revealing God's love, gives faith and repentance. To reject this faith is to reject Christ's redemptive work. Therefore, to fix one's mind in unbelief is the greatest sin, it is the sin which incurs a second condemnation.

Mark 16: 16 KJV

The Beautiful Truth of 2 Corinthians 5: 19

Do we really believe 2 Corinthians 5: 19? God did not impute our trespasses unto us. He imputed all our trespasses unto Christ who died for them. Therefore no one will die the second death for any of these trespasses because they are not imputed unto us. It is terminal unbelief, neglect or rejection of Christ and His salvation which will incur a second condemnation for which there is no sacrifice.

A Deeper Look at the Second Condemnation

Adam's one act of disobedience caused the condemnation of all mankind. That was the first condemnation.

Jesus, the Christ, the Second Adam, by His righteousness and infinite sacrifice on the Cross produced acquittal, corporate legal justification, pardon (charizomai) for all mankind thereby cancelling the first condemnation. He exhausted the penalty for all the sins of all mankind for all time, which flowed from the first condemnation.

Before the fall, humanity was under the representation of the First Representative Man, Adam. And he sold out the entire human race!

Since the fall, by virtue of the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice, humanity has been and is, under the representation of the Second Representative Man, Christ Jesus our Saviour and Lord. And He has bought back or legally redeemed the entire human race!

Therefore the crucial and critical issue now is acceptance by faith or rejection by unbelief of Christ Jesus as Saviour and Lord. To IRREVERSIBLY neglect or reject Christ and His redemptive work (after light has shone into the heart by the Holy Spirit) is to incur a second condemnation for which there is no more sacrifice.

This brings us now to a very important truth. Since Christ was our Last Representative Man (the Last Adam), the way the Jews treated Him was representative of how all mankind would have treated Him! The Jewish rejection (mankind's rejection) of Jesus was motivated by two things. Firstly, ignorance of whom He was and secondly by an unconscious enmity against the Son of God which had been injected into mankind's mind by Satan. Let us now read the scripture proof.

1 Corinthians 2: 6- 8 KJV

John 8: 44 KJV

Luke 23: 33- 34 KJV

The whole world was guilty of the sin of the crucifixion and rejection of the Son of God. But because it was a sin of ignorance and also because it had an unconscious Satanic motivation of hatred and murder of God's Son, Jesus prayed for forgiveness for all mankind. Only the Holy Spirit can remove the ignorance by showing mankind who Christ really is. And only the Holy Spirit can shine the light of God's love, revealed at Calvary, into the innermost recesses of the soul to expose the deep seated

enmity against God. When the Holy Spirit does this work, the sinner is convinced and convicted. If repentance occurs the believer is covered by the prayer of Jesus. If the sinner rejects this convincing, convicting work of the Holy Spirit, he rejects the forgiveness for which Jesus prayed and thereby incurs the second condemnation.

The world was stirred by the enmity of Satan, and when asked to choose between the Son of God and the criminal Barabbas, they chose a robber rather than Jesus. The ignorant multitudes were led, by the deceptive reasonings of those in high position, to reject the Son of God, and choose a robber and murderer in His stead. Let us all remember that we are still in a world where Jesus, the Son of God, was rejected and crucified, where the guilt of despising Christ and preferring a robber rather than the spotless Lamb of God still rests. Unless we individually repent toward God because of transgression of His law, and exercise faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, whom the world has rejected, we shall lie under the full condemnation that the action of choosing Barabbas instead of Christ merited. The whole world stands charged today with the deliberate rejection and murder of the Son of God. The word bears record that Jews and Gentiles, kings, governors, ministers, priests, and people--all classes and sects who reveal the same spirit of envy, hatred, prejudice, and unbelief manifested by those who put to death the Son of God--would act the same part, were the opportunity granted, as did the Jews and people of the time of Christ. They would be partakers of the same spirit that demanded the death of the Son of God. {T.M. page 38}

The Saviour made no murmur of complaint. His face remained calm and serene, but great drops of sweat stood upon His brow. There was no pitying hand to wipe the death dew from His face, nor words of sympathy and unchanging fidelity to stay His human heart. While the soldiers were doing their fearful work, Jesus prayed for His enemies, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." His mind passed from His own suffering to the sin of His persecutors, and the terrible retribution that would be theirs. No curses were called down upon the soldiers who were handling Him so roughly. No vengeance was invoked upon the priests and rulers, who were gloating over the accomplishment of their purpose. Christ pitied them in their ignorance and guilt. He breathed only a plea for their forgiveness,--"for they know not what they do."

Had they known that they were putting to torture One who had come to save the sinful race from eternal ruin, they would have been seized with remorse and horror. But their ignorance did not remove their guilt; for it was their privilege to know and accept Jesus as their Saviour. Some of them would yet see their sin, and repent, and be converted. Some by their impenitence would make it an impossibility for the prayer of Christ to be answered for them. Yet, just the same, God's purpose was reaching its fulfillment. Jesus was earning the right to become the advocate of men in the Father's presence.

That prayer of Christ for His enemies embraced the world. It took in every sinner that had lived or should live, from the beginning of the world to the end of time. Upon all rests the guilt of crucifying the Son of God. To all, forgiveness is freely offered. "Whosoever will" may have peace with God, and inherit eternal life. {D.A. page 744- 745}

Your Servant in Christ

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