

John 3:17-18, "For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through him might be saved." Verse 18, "He that believeth on HIM IS NOT CONDEMNED, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the Name of the only begotten son of God."

What a powerful and wonderful word that is in verse eighteen. Notice the text; it does not say that on the Day of Judgment we will not be condemned. It does not say, "He that believeth SHALL NOT be condemned, but it says, "**He that believeth IS NOT condemned!**" He that believeth is not condemned NOW! From the moment we first believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, we were NO LONGER CONDEMNED! If we should live 100 years believing in God's plan of salvation, we would still not be condemned! God's word is not limited by time as man counts time, His word is eternal.

To believe in the Cross and the sacrifice made there, is to be out from under condemnation in the Eyes of our God. Past sins, present sins and future sins are gone. We stand before God as though we were without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

QUOTE: INVISIBLE UNION, PAGE 17, "This is my message to the church now as we go off the air in just a minute. You are standing, if you're standing own God's word, and with God's word, every Amen, every jot, every tittle, where are you standing? I am trying to tell you. Pull away from those shucks, and get out here in the wheat where you can get ripe before the sun. I hear the coming of the combine. You are standing complete, justified like you never did it in the first place. Halle-

"HE THAT BELIEVETH ON HIM IS NOT CONDEMNED"

By C. W. Wood

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lujah. Talk about a Thanksgiving.....I am more thankful for that than anything I know of. You are the pure, virtuous, sinless Bride of the Son of The Living God. Every man and woman that is born of the Spirit of God, washed in the Blood of Jesus Christ, and believes every word of God, stands as though you never sinned in the first place. You are perfect. The Blood of Jesus Christ." (Made you so) (End quote)

But you say, "I still sin!" Yes, that's true, but our sins are not laid to our charge. Rom. 4: 8, "**Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute (Charge) Sin.**" Our sins were laid to the charge of Jesus Christ. Does the Bible say they were? "**For He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew No Sin, that we might be the righteousness of God in Him.**" (II Cor. 5: 21) NOW, in the present tense, "**He that believeth on him is not condemned.**" God would never lay our sins on the Lord Jesus, then turn around and charge them to us also.

In our worldly courts of law a verdict of "Not Guilty" means the prisoner is at once released and the charge is removed from the records. This is exactly what the gospel teaches about the court of Heaven! It says, "**He that believeth on him is not condemned.**" The moment we believe on Him, the *not guilty verdict* is handed down, and we are free from condemnation. Of course we understand that, "A pardon is not a pardon unless it be accepted as a Pardon." A verdict of "not guilty" is held out to every Believer.

A Prophet said the Lord Jesus Christ became our Judge, our Attorney, and our Jury, and asked, "How can we lose the case?" He watches for those who believe in the plan of the Cross and the shed Blood, and pronounces them, "NOT GUILTY!"

In Lev.16: 5-10, we read the story of how God commanded the priest to bring two goats, and one of them was to be a scapegoat. The high priest laid his hands on the scapegoats head and confessed the sins of the people. The sins were then gone from the people and laid on the head of the goat. The goat was turned loose into the wilderness, to be seen no more. What a glorious type this is of our sins being laid on the Lord Jesus Christ! Were there then any sins left on the people?

Do we believe this was the plan of God for the Old Testament Saints? Do we believe it only typed the New Testament plan of our sins being laid on the Lord Jesus? Do we believe that before the foundation of the world, God saw every sin we would ever commit and laid them all on Jesus Christ? It's true friends, that is the word of God. Our sins were all transferred to Christ and then God drew his great sword of of justice and slew that Holy Thing that was born of Mary. Though He was innocent in His Holy Person, He had agreed to have our sins laid on His precious head. The Father then punished Him as though He were the guilty one.

He's suffered for six, long, terrible hours, one second at a time, until every sin of all his Elect had been legally paid for. Only then did He cry

out, "It is finished." He's suffered until every stain of sin had been paid for. Now, it is a fact that our sins could not have been laid on Him, and yet remain on us also. They cannot be in two places at the same time! Our sins could not have been carried to the Cross and yet remain on us.

As soon as a man believes on the Lord Jesus Christ he sins are gone from him forever. They are blotted out forever. This does not mean we no longer have to repent; a Born-Again Believer walks daily with a repentant heart. He cries out for forgiveness when convicted. (Notice, the word here is *convicted* not *condemned*.) **"He that believeth on him is not condemned."**

What if a man had owed ten thousand dollars and a representative had come from the business to collect. But, the man who had owed the bill produced a receipt showing the bill had been paid. The receipt had been signed by a co-owner of the business, and was legal in all respects. Then it would be evident that there had been a mistake made on the books of that business, or else they had set out purposely to cheat. Is not this exactly what the enemy tries to do to a Born-Again Christian? He well knows that our sin-debt has been paid, yet he brings us a bill for them in the form of condemnation. This is a deliberate attempt to try and cheat the Believer out of his justification.

But, thanks be to God, the Word of Promise remained steadfast, **"He that believeth on Him is not condemned."** A word of warning at this point, we do not say that we will not FEEL the *fiery darts of condemnation*. The Lord allows them to be fired at us, but we are told not to believe the feeling of condemnation when it comes.

I John 3: 19-21, **"And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us (And,**

it often will when the enemy comes), **God is greater than our hearts, and knoweth all things."** Saying God is greater than the feeling of condemnation that the Devil brings, and that we must ignore it, for **He that believeth on him is not condemned."**

Though we still commit sin, our debt was paid before we were ever born and our receipt was signed in blood by the Lord Jesus Christ. He reached into his spear-torn side; got some blood and wrote, "Pardoned" by our name in his book. The scripture says God has cast all sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7: 19) If they are in the depths of the sea, they can't be here on us too. Isa. 38:17, **"For thou hast cast all my sin behind Thy back."** Jerm. 31: 34, **"I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more."**

If God says He will not remember our sin, that means they are gone for eternity. Ps.103:17, **"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him and his righteousness unto children's children."** Again He says, **"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."** (Ps. 103: 12) So we see that when we believe in the plan, and the Blood of the Cross, we are no more sinners in the eyes of the Lord.

We are accepted as if we ourselves had kept all the Law. We are still sinners within ourselves, but we are washed in the Blood of God. The promise of righteousness is not just for a period of time, it is for eternity. There is not one single sin in God's book against those that **"Believe on Him."** Eternal, or everlasting redemption, has been obtained for us. Heb. 9:12, **"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood he entered in ONCE into the Holy Place, having obtained ETERNAL REDEMPTION for**

us." God's blood never loses its power. Once we believe on him, and continue to do so; we never have to accept condemnation again.

Do we suppose that this holy state of being out from under condemnation is for those who are able to keep the law constantly? Or, perhaps it is only for those who are able to do so to a very high degree? Not so at all, in fact, just the opposite is true. The provision of the Blood was made because God knew that no man But Christ could ever keep His Holy Law, and so He declared, **"If righteousness come by (keeping) the law, then Christ is dead in vain."** (Eph. 2: 21) Righteousness comes by faith only!

We are still sinners within ourselves, but we are washed in the Blood of God! Only the Lord knows how long are days will be, but our justification will last unto our last day, and then on into Eternity. If we could live as long as Methuselah, it would still be written in the Word, **"He that believeth upon him is not condemned."** Our Prophet said, "We will come up the same way we went down." One meaning of this is that all who died without condemnation will come up without condemnation, and all who died under condemnation will come up still under condemnation.

Only those who died without condemnation will appear in the Resurrection we are now waiting for. Those who died under condemnation will not come up until the Second Resurrection, and will have to appeal their case to the White Throne Judgment. We cannot be half condemned and half accepted. There are no white- blackbirds, no drunk-sober men, and there are no half-saved sinners! When we believe on him we are totally righteous. God's Word is either true or false. Not only does God say our sins are gone, they are gone!

How can the Judge, who came down Himself and paid such a terrible debt, ever look upon us as un-forgiven? How can God not save those whom He has *justified*? (Rom. 8: 33) He tries and tests faith, but it is not judgment, it is the precious gift of chastening. Although the scripture says, "**He that believeth upon him is not condemned,**" it does not say he will not be chastened. The *chastening rod* is proof of our election, and His undying love for us. What a sad state we would end up in if our God chose not to chasten us! God never gives faith without intending to try it, and it's true that chastening is a trial of our faith. When a marksman puts up a target, it is with the intention of shooting at it, and when God gives us faith, it is with the intention of allowing the enemy to shoot some fiery darts at us. God will see how long, and how much we will trust Him.

When we ask for more faith, I wonder if we realize we are asking for more tests of the same. If we have been given an abundance of faith, we will need every ounce of it before the Lord is finished with us. We will not have an ounce of it to spare. God does not give us faith so it can lay up and rust. But, when our faith is exercised by hard trials, that does not mean we are under condemnation. We will have many hard trials, but the Word remains constant, "**He that believeth upon Him is not condemned.**"

We will be buffeted daily but we are not under the curse of the Law. We mean by this, that we are not cursed when we fail in the Law. We are delivered from the curse of not being able to keep all the Law. Rom. 6: 14, "**For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the Law but under GRACE.**" Our being, "**Accepted in the Beloved can never be changed.**" Eph.1:6, "**To the praise**

of the glory of his grace wherein He has made us accepted in the Beloved." We are guilty but declared innocent!

When we speak of being without condemnation, we are actually giving the definition of true Bible faith. I John 3: 20-21, "**For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.**" (Our heart will condemn us, God will allow the enemy to fire his darts of condemnation at us, but He says He is greater than any feeling of condemnation that can come to us. His word is still true no matter what our emotions are telling us.

Verse 21, "**Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, THEN HAVE WE CONFIDENCE TOWARD GOD.**" This is one of God's definitions of faith. It is to be standing before Him, trusting in the verdict that He, Himself, has handed down to us from the high courts of Heaven, "**He that believeth on Him is not condemned.**" If we are not condemned, it is because He has given us the faith to believe we are not guilty in His eyes! We always see ourselves as being guilty, and we fall on our knees and repent, and this is what we should do. But, in the midst of our guilt, God's plan for our justification never falters or fails.

Our Christian faith can get very low at times, but the Lord never looks at us except as He sees us "**In Christ.**" Rom. 8: 1, "**There is therefore now no Condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, Who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**" (Believing the Word)

If we are not condemned, it is because we have been declared not guilty, and if we are not guilty in God's eyes, we are no longer in line for punishment. Punishment follows judgment and is for the unrepentant and lost sinner. Judgment is the end of grace for those who hardened their

hearts and will not come to our lovely Lord. To receive punishment is to feel the wrath of God, and this can be terrible indeed. But, for the Christian who is Born-Again, and believes on Him, he is therefore not guilty, he is to understand the difference between judgment and chastening. Chastening is given in love, with the thought of correcting the Family of God.

Pharaoh, after many warnings and having an abundance of grace offered him, yet hardened his heart, and was destroyed in the Red Sea. A minister friend recently shared a startling thought with me, when he declared that Judas had heard every sermon that the Lord Jesus preached. As I thought on that I knew it was true, yet he sold his Lord for money. Judgment and punishment is for the Pharaohs and Judases, while chastisement is for God's Elect who are walking with repentant hearts. Their sin debt is paid!

We cannot make the Word lie. If our sins are forgiven and done away with, and if God has cast them into the sea, and if He remember them against us no more because He laid them on Jesus and punished him, then He would deny His own words should He punish us also. Thank God He will always correct His Own, with much love, but punishment is reserved for the hard, unrepentant hearts. The *chastening rod* is as much a gift of Grace as the Blood of the Cross that saves us from condemnation.

What kind of people should we be who have the revelation that we are not condemned? Should we be grumblers and complainers? Should we be cast down with long faces? Should we be without joy, robbed of it by Satan? He can make us feel that we are being mistreated. A favorite trick of Satan is to cause Christians to see God's chastening as punishment for sins that were long ago paid for.

If he can convince us that our Father is angry with us, then we fall back under condemnation.

What if a man over in the Arkansas State Prison at Tucker, who had been sitting in his cell on death row, were to suddenly have his cell door swung open the day before his execution, and the guard handed him a pardon signed by the governor? Let's suppose he knew he was guilty of the crime as charged, but the governor, believing he was a changed man, was giving him another chance. Would the man sit in his cell with a long face lamenting some things he had lost by being imprisoned, or would he jump from his cell with a heart full of joy and go his way?

And, is this not exactly what has happened in the lives of God's Bride? We were sitting in the prison house of condemnation, condemned over the charges that we knew in our hearts we were guilty of. Then God sent His Messenger who taught the word in such a way as to show us that, "**He that believeth on him is not condemned.**" the door of the prison has swung open, why do we sit there as though we are still guilty? Why do we refuse to look upon the Brass Serpent that was raised on a

pole? Can we see that the serpent on the pole was a type of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? The serpent represented sin, and when God laid our sins upon Christ, He became sin for our sake. So, the serpent on the pole represented our Christ, who was raised up on the cross, showing that He was being judged for our sin.

In Numbers Chapter 21: 5-9, the people of Israel had spoken against God and against Moses. The Lord sent fiery serpents, and they bit the people, and much people of Israel died. But, did you notice that when the people repented, God gave Moses the remedy for their deadly snake bites. Moses made the Serpent of Brass and raised it on a pole, saying to the people, "**It shall come to pass that everyone that is bitten, when he looks upon it, shall live.**" This is still God's invitation to us sinners!

Friends, there is not one of us who has not been bitten by sin, but with repentant hearts we look to our Christ on the Cross, and all who look in such a manner shall live! In what way shall we live? Is it that only the soul shall live, or is the whole man included in God's promise of life? We ask again, how shall God punish those whose sin He has already

borne? How shall He not hear our prayers of repentance and save our physical bodies, just as He did the Israelites so long ago?

Certainly there comes God's time for each of His Chosen Ones to depart this life. When this time came for Aaron, he climbed Mount Hor with Moses, and his priestly garments were taken off and placed on his son, Eleazar. And scripture says Aaron died there in the top of the mount. (Num. 20: 24-28) Very apparently Aaron was not sick, having just climbed a mountain. God took his breath and he slept with his Fathers.

When the time came for Moses to depart, he climbed Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, and died there according to the Word of the Lord. He was 120 years old and his eyes had not dimmed, nor his natural strength abated. (Deut. 34: 1-7) God took his breath and he slept with his Fathers.

May God grant us the revelation that, "**He that believeth on Him is not condemned**" and then show us every privilege that this blessing entitles us to. We ask it in Jesus name, Amen!

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