

# DEALING WITH CONDEMNATION

---

By: Phillip Hayes

*When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed,  
saying,  
Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them,  
and said unto them,  
With men this is impossible; but with God  
all things are possible.  
[Matthew 19:25-26]*

Satan has a great many weapons in his arsenal of warfare. CONDEMNATION is one of his most effective weapons.

Amazingly many people believe it is God that is condemning them when all along it is the devil using their own conscience to destroy them.

I truly believe that many poor souls will go to a devil's hell for no other reason than condemnation. Condemn or condemnation according to Strong's concordance is to: sentence, damn, condemn, to judge against. In other words it is a "*Sentence to Damnation*". A person that is under condemnation is one that is condemned. These words make me think of "Death Row" in a prison. The men and women that are on death row are there not to be rehabilitated, *but to die*. There is no hope for them, they

are condemned to death!

This is why Satan delights in this weapon; for when one accepts condemnation, they condemn *themselves* to death. They may actually forfeit the salvation Jesus paid for them on the cross!

How is this possible? Simply because we are saved by grace through faith, and if we fall into condemnation, we can no longer believe unto salvation. *"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."* [Hebrews 10:38]

Over the years I have witnessed and have had the honor of ministering to many that have fallen victim to this satanic weapon of condemnation. I remember some thirty years ago I was preaching at a tent revival in Missouri. A dear preacher friend of mine had invited me to come. One night after the service a man came behind the tent and asked if he could talk with me. The man looked to be about forty years old, small in stature but somewhat stocky. He had a dark complexion and coal black hair. He said, "Preacher, I need to talk to you."

Never did I expect to hear what I heard that night. As this man began to tell me about his life, tears flowed down his face. This was my first encounter with someone under such condemnation. He told me that he just couldn't find forgiveness from the Lord because of all the horrible things he had done. I began to tell him how the Blood of Jesus cleansed us from all sin, and that God loved him. You said, "You don't understand, I am a murderer!" I said, "What?" "I am a murderer, I was a hit man for the mob, and I am in a government protection program." At first I thought, this guy is just making this all up. But then, he began to tell me more, and more; tears still streaming down his face. I knew this was all very real. I began to minister

as best I could to his need and I prayed for him. I asked the Lord to reveal His great Grace and Mercy to this man. After all the Apostle Paul was a persecutor and murderer of Christians. God had gloriously saved Paul and gave him a great ministry. If God would do that for Paul, he would do it for this man!

This man was sincerely sorry and was begging for forgiveness. He had a repentant heart. What was the hindrance? Satan had unleashed his great weapon of condemnation, and this man had fallen into it. As I prayed, I asked the Lord to deliver and save him. After praying, I told the man to be at the tent the next morning as we were going to have a baptism. Thank God, the next morning he came with a smile on his face and I baptized him in the name of our Lord Jesus. I believe he got saved that day!

But, there are even more serious situations that I have had to deal with. What about a child of God that has been saved and gloriously filled with the Holy Ghost for years and then becomes a victim to sin? What about the man or woman of God that has fallen into temptation? This is where the enemy really takes advantage!

I am familiar with countless instances that was truly heart breaking; many involving ministers. As a matter of fact, the minister is the primary target of Satan. For if Satan can destroy the minister; he has a better chance of destroying the body of believers that are under his influence.

I realize there are some which profess to be believers in Christ that commit horrible sins with little or no regard to conscience or shame. *"Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children"* [2Peter 2:14] These are they that have never

had a real relationship with the Lord. When a true Christian falls into temptation and sins, it is heart breaking for all involved. First of all, when a child of God falls, there is a tremendous feeling of guilt, unworthiness, and shame. Worse of all is the feeling you may not be able to be saved. I am not talking about the false Christians, but the real. Yes, real Christians; real men and women of God fall!

Sadly, when a man or woman of God falls many that once loved and revered them now look upon them with disdain; as if they have suddenly become unclean and should not be touched. As soon as one hears about a fallen brother or sister in the Lord, the phone calls begin. People love gossip! They love to spread bad news, especially if the bad news is about a Christian! Instead of praying for our brother or sister, most talk about them, and run them down. Many times people feel as if they are doing God a service by spreading the "news" about those that have *failed God*. They want to "expose" them!

I am sure Satan is certainly gleeful about all this! Not only has he brought condemnation to the fallen child of God, he is able to further attack them through the brothers and sisters that once spoke well of the one that has fallen. If everyone would only remember the words of the beloved Apostle Paul and bear one another's burdens, we would all be much better off. *"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."* [Galatians 6:1] We should be doing everything in our power to restore a fallen brother considering that all of us are still flesh and could easily fall ourselves.

*"In the spirit of meekness."* I can't stand a self righteous holier than thou spirit! And I don't believe God

can either! The Apostle Paul is very -plain in the fact that he believes that every Christian could be overtaken. Many years ago I remember a minister telling me that he didn't believe in back sliding. I remember him saying, "you can't go in and out of the body of Christ. Either you are saved, or you are not saved." Made sense to me at the time! But, as I grew in the Lord, and the years passed by, I saw more and more believers fall into temptation and be overtaken. Many of them I had confidence in and believed they were truly of God. So, can you back slid or not? Obviously, the Apostle Paul certainly believed one could. Not only did he warn all Christians in his epistle to the Galatians, but the Apostle John let us know that we had someone to help us when we sinned. *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."* [1John 2:1] No Sir! We should not sin, but if we do, there is still hope. Thank God for it!

*"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."* [1John 1:8-10] The Apostle John is writing to the church, *saved* individuals that love God. He tells us that if we will confess our sins that God is just and faithful to forgive us. And He will also cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness. The Bible also tells us, *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."* [Romans 3:10] Sin is a horrible thing! And when a Christian sins it is truly a terrible thing. But, thank God, we have a Savior who gave His precious Blood that we might be cleansed from all sin! I believe His precious Blood is sufficient to cleanse us from past, present, and future

sins. *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."* [1John 1:7]

I realize that there will be some self righteous hypocrite that will read this article and begin to brag about how sinless and righteous they are. I should remind you my dear friend that there are many more sins than the Ten Commandments. As a matter of fact, space in this article would not permit me to mention them all, but I will mention a few. The Bible says, *"All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death."* [1John 5:17] *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."* [1John 3:4] *"But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."* [James 2:9] *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."* [James 4:17] Amazingly, our attitude toward the things we eat or don't eat can result in sin! Read on: *"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."* [Romans 14:23] *"But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ."* [1Corinthians 8:8-12]

Sin is missing the mark! We know that we are not to sin! Practicing or living a sinful life is of the devil! "He

*that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” [1John3:8]* We have just covered some of the ways we can commit sins. However, we find that we are not justified by *not* sinning, but rather, we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ! *“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” [Romans 3:28]* The peace that I have, and that you can have, comes through faith! I believe God has forgiven me! Can you believe? *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” [Romans 5:1]* No one has ever, or will ever be saved by keeping the Law! All of us have failed since becoming a Christian. Yes, all of us! The Bible speaks about a sin unto death and a sin not unto death. Therefore, we can conclude that most sins can be forgiven! But what is a sin unto death, and is there more than one. Let me say without question that blasphemy against the Holy Ghost will never be forgiven, neither in this life or the one to come. Jesus said so! But are there others? I believe they are and surprisingly they are within our scope of power to destroy. In a message titled “One Thing Thou Lackest” I bring out the fact if you cannot forgive others, the Heavenly Father will not forgive you. Therefore your refusal to forgive places you in jeopardy of damnation. Are there others?

Please take heed to what I am saying! You, yes you, hold the key to life and death in your own power. I am convinced that the Lord Jesus has come and has given us eternal life. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God, He died for me, shed His Blood for me, and has saved me. I have eternal life, and you have it, if you are truly committed to Christ and have received His Spirit. But,

can you and I lose our salvation? How can we? We can commit the horrible sins that are sins unto death! First of all: blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. Secondly, and much more deceiving: we can be unforgiving toward others, and thirdly: we can be overcome by CONDEMNATION thereby not believing we are worthy to be saved.

One other area I should cover before proceeding. Do you realize that you can be so self righteous that you feel no need to even ask for forgiveness when you falter in your walk with the Lord?! I believe there are some folks in such denial that they cannot believe that have sinned! They may have never committed murder or adultery, but what about the secret hidden things of the heart; for it is those things that proceed from the heart that defiles the man: Malice, envy, jealousy, strife, hatred, evil thoughts, etc. How about foolish talking? You know to do good but you don't do it. It's all sin! You need get it all under the Blood!

Now, I want to go back to the Gospels and look at the teachings of Jesus before I close. Please remember, in the Gospels Jesus was teaching people that were under the Law, not Grace. When John the Baptist and Jesus came on the scene it had been over four hundred years since a prophet of God had come to Israel. The Kingdom of God was being ushered in and John the Baptist began to prepare the people for the Christ. John's preaching was hard and stern. His preaching was so hard, he lost his head over it!

The teaching of Jesus was even more radical! As a matter of fact when you read His teachings in Matthew chapters five through seven you must wonder as those during His time did, "*They were astonished at His sayings.*" Why were they astonished? Well, they had heard many before Christ preach the Law to them but they had never



heard a man say, "*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*" [Matthew 5:27-28] It wasn't just the sin of adultery that Jesus was seemingly changing, it was the entire Law! Marrying a divorced woman is adultery!? Fornication as the only reason for divorce?! Let a man smite you and then give him the other cheek?! Love you enemies?! Bless them that curse you?! Pray for those that despitely use you and persecute you?!

They must have thought, "This is *not* what the Law said".

Remember, the Law never said anything about breaking the Law in the heart! It simply said, "Thou shall not commit . . ." What was this Jesus teaching? Everyone knew the law said, "*When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.*" [Deuteronomy 24:1-2]

Just what was our Lord teaching? Let me say it this way. Every Word we find that was uttered by Jesus or wrote by the Apostles literally screams at the innermost part of every man's soul! "Without Jesus, you are lost!" Their words literally scream, "YOU NEED JESUS, you are a vile sinner worthy only of death!" "*There is none righteous, no not one! Your righteousness is nothing but filthy rags!*"

Jesus was teaching us that without His Supreme Blood sacrifice, mankind was lost. Man could simply not keep God's Commandments! Man *NEEDED* a Savior!

Laws, rules, regulations, all devised to control carnal beastly man! Just like today we find churches with all kinds of rules and standards they impose on their flocks. Don't do that, Don't do this. We don't do that. Dress this way, Wear your hair this way, that way, and so on. All meant to control man. But the heart was what would have to be changed! If the heart could be changed, man could be saved.

Thank God, there is only One that can fix a broken heart! Thank God there is only One that can clean a vile heart, and that One is our God through the Cross of Christ.

Jesus said, "Love your enemies!" My friend, do you really love your enemy? I mean really! Well, if you have really had an enemy, you know the difficulty one has. Simply put, mankind does not have the ability to love an enemy! Just imagine some man breaking into your home. He ties the husband up and then before the husbands eyes, this vile man engages in horrible sexual atrocities against the man's wife and little girl. Afterward, he kills the man's wife, but lets the little daughter live to remind the husband what he did to them. Sir, you are that man, can you really love this enemy? Jesus said to love this person, but deep down we know that we hate this man! Yes we do, we would kill him ourselves if we had the opportunity! Now, condemnation can enter because we find that we cannot do what Jesus said for us to do! Sir, you need Jesus! We know we can't do it! We need the Grace of God to save us.

Christians make mistakes every day. Some mistakes are small, some huge. God doesn't condemn you, He's ready to forgive you! You know what most folks problem is when they fail God? They can't forgive themselves! And you know why? Condemnation!

Because we fail in obeying the commandments,

condemnation has a way of entering our lives. And when it does, we find ourselves depressed, confused, and living day by day in unbelief. We find that it is hard to face our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our families. After all, we have let them down. We have failed!

Sadly, those close to you will hurt you the most. You prayed, you asked God to forgive you, but you didn't *feel* any assurance that you had been forgiven. You wonder; did God hear you? Has He forgiven you? Your loved ones don't call anymore. Your brothers and sisters in Christ don't call or come around. You hear about what they are saying about you and you know most of it is true. You are sorry it happened. You wish you could turn the clock back and you would do differently, but you can't. You feel condemned, you are condemned because you have not accepted God's forgiveness, and you will not forgive yourself! You have been overcome by Satan.

Deliverance! You need deliverance! Where can you go? Who can you see to pray the prayer of faith for you? You certainly can't go to your family or your friends in church. Most times they are the very ones that stir up the condemnation in you. You see, most of them will not forgive you and that is *their* problem, not yours. Don't seek their forgiveness unless you have committed a sin against them. Seek God's forgiveness. How do you obtain the deliverance you desire? Simply believe God's Word! Remember, "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" [1John 1:9] You might say, "Brother, you don't know what I have done." I don't care what you have done! Are you really sorry for what you have done? God will forgive you!

I began this message with a scripture found in

Matthew chapter 19, verses 25 and 26: *"When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."* During that chapter nineteen the Lord Jesus had taught, *"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."* [Matthew 19:9] This surprised the disciples as they had heard what the Law had said. *"His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry."* [Matthew 19:10] After this Jesus encountered the rich young ruler. You remember the story. Jesus loved this young man and told him in verse twenty one to go and sell what he had, and give to the poor. You remember how the young man walked away for he had great possessions. After this is when the disciples asked, *"Who then can be saved"?*

It sure looked like it would be impossible for anyone to be saved! And you know what? With men, it is impossible to be saved! But Jesus said, *"With God all things are possible."*

The divorce and remarriage issue has been the cause of much condemnation among Christians. It is a fact that it does not matter when you divorced and remarried, according to Jesus if it were not for fornication, you are an adulterer. Also, you are an adulterer if you have ever looked upon a woman to lust after her. Or, if you are a woman, and if you have ever looked upon a man to lust after, you are an adulteress. Yes you are, that is what Jesus taught! You committed adultery! You are a sinner! If you hate your enemy, you are a murderer. You are a sinner! If you are guilty of foolish talking, you are a sinner!

There you are sitting in church with your heart full of lust and all the time condemning the poor brother or sister to hell that has suffered through a divorce and remarriage. You hypocrite! You haven't a clue what that brother and sister has been through!

My heart goes out to everyone that has suffered through the tragedy of divorce, but especially to the ministers. Being in a marriage with someone the enemy can so easily manipulate and use is torture for a man of God. He can never know what to expect. You seek God until your heart is broken, but can find no deliverance. Crying out to God for your spouse to love and care for you but to no avail. Instead of your situation getting better, it gets worse. It is hard for the minister of God to reconcile how God will bring deliverance to so many as he prays for them, but it seems he cannot touch God for his own dilemma! Finally, divorce becomes a reality, because you cannot take it any longer! And then someone comes into your life so very special that truly loves and adores you. Very few ever find such a precious woman.

The minister struggles with the letter of the Word to find God's will concerning what he should do. He fasts, he prays, he travails, not really knowing what God's will is for the rest of his life. And then he makes his decision. He remarries!

Seemingly overnight the minister is bombarded with all manner of attacks. No longer is he the man of God, now he is "living in adultery." No longer is he respected, he is now looked down upon. No longer is he supported, he is dismissed. Once they were friends, now they are his enemy. Their tongues continually lash out, and their fingers point, all the time living in sin themselves. You see, unknowingly they are being used by Satan himself to bring

condemnation to this person. Folks, when will we ever learn to walk in forgiveness! Why cannot people understand that marriage *is not* an unpardonable sin. It *is not* a sin unto death! Jesus will forgive you, if you ask Him! I know He has forgiven me for all my sins! But will you forgive yourself and put this thing called condemnation to flight? I cannot change yesterday and neither can you. What has been done, is done. It is over! Yesterday is gone. Today is the day of salvation. This is your day of deliverance, your time to put your enemy to flight and be free to worship and praise our God.

Our Lord called the peoples attention to the fact that they were not righteous, no, not one. They were all guilty, and they were all condemned. He came to give us life, and life more abundantly. His message was, without Him you could not be saved! *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."* [Romans 8:1-2]

*Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Romans 8:33* Always remember it is God that has *predestinated us*, it is God that has *called us*, it is God that has *justified us*, and it is God that has *glorified us!*

Don't be an instrument in the devils hand to bring condemnation! When you see your brother or sister in a fault or sin, pray for them! Don't run them down! Consider the fact that whatever has happened to them could very well happen to you. Believe me; the poor saint that has stumbled in their walk with God has suffered enough condemnation. Remember, if you have mercy, you will obtain mercy, forgive and you will be forgiven.