

## The Three Eternal Destinies #149 *This is the Condemnation*

The Ten Commandments are ten of the most important things a person can obey. Men are to obey the commandments; both the Holy and the natural man are held accountable (Rom 2:12-15).

This is the condemnation, that “men loved darkness rather than light.” Jn 3:19 is used to prove *total depravity*. But Jn 3:18 speaks of only those who believe or *who do not believe* when confronted with the gospel of salvation in the Messiah. Verse 19 says *this is the condemnation*, that men loved darkness rather than the light. This means that the ones who rejected the light of the gospel are condemned. They rejected because they loved their lives and their evil deeds more than Messiah (Mt 10:37-38).

But what Jn 3:18-19 does *not* say is that all do *not* hear the gospel (either to accept or reject it) are condemned. So, the question must be asked, what about them? Jn 3:16 says that whoever believes in Him has eternal life. That means whoever believes in Him who has *heard*. All those who have never heard are condemned as well if they did not do the deeds that justify them before God at the second resurrection in Rev 20:12-15.

The reason the ones who reject Him are condemned is because they loved darkness rather the light. Nothing can excuse men who refuse to believe after having heard the gospel (Jn 5:24-25; Rom 10:14-17; Jn 3:36). But if one has never heard the gospel, then Jn 5:28-29 will be his judge, whether he will go to the second death or the second life (Mt 25:46). So it is according to one’s deeds as Rev 20:12 says.

Jn 5:28-29 are those who have never heard the gospel and died the first death (Heb 9:27). And then at the resurrection they must stand before the judgment to determine their eternal destinies, as Rev 22:11-12 says. Nothing can excuse a man who deliberately refuses to obey Messiah and nothing can excuse a man who deliberately refuses his own conscience. If one refuses Messiah he is judged already. If one refuses his conscience he will be judged after his first death sentence (Heb 9:27; Rev 20:11).

Jn 3:36 and Acts 5:32 is the refusal to obey Messiah after having been presented with the good news. The problem people have in understanding this is that they have been deluded into believing that there are only two eternal destinies. But for those who have never heard of Messiah, it is the moral choices they make which determine their destinies (Rom 1:19-25; 26-32; 2:6-11; 14-16; Acts 10:35).

1 Sam 24:5 — This speaks of conscience and the Law. Conscience is Gen 3:22, the knowledge of good and evil. By this knowledge men can obey Gen 3:16-19 and not become totally depraved. As Rom 1:24,26, and 28 says, men become depraved because they would not obey their conscience. Men will be judged on the highest standard that they retain at the judgment of men who never rejected the Gospel.

Conscience is the built-in power of our minds to pass moral judgment on ourselves, approving or disapproving our actions, thoughts, and plans. It tells us whether what we are going to do or have done already is right or wrong, good or evil (Gen 3:22). Rom 1:32 pronounces the judgment of death upon us – which we will likely hear at the judgment – for doing such deeds as Rev 21:8 or Rom 1:28-31. At the judgment in Rom 2:16 and Rev 20:12, men will be judged on the highest standard that they know. Before a person is turned over – as Rom 1:28 says – he had ample time over and over again to restrain his evil deeds. Paul said that God has written certain knowledge of His Law on every human heart (Rom 2:14-15), which approves or disapproves of their actions and thoughts.

A person’s mind or intellect can be misinformed by higher learning, but all his higher learning will not erase the natural law in his heart. The only thing that will do that is repeated disregard. This disregard conditions the mind and intellect and finally the conscience is seared and dulled through repeated sins. A person’s conscience can only be freed from accusation and guilt by either accepting Messiah’s death for him or in some cases by his own first death (Rom 6:23), which is determined by the judgment (Rom 2:14-16; Heb 9:27; Rev 20:12). But this is true only for a man who never had the opportunity to accept or to reject Messiah, and who lived a just life in this world according to his conscience (as Gen 3:16-19 and 9:1-7 summarize what God has written on every man’s heart). He will, by his own first death sentence in Heb 9:27, be able to pay for the sins that he did commit. That is, he did not go against this Everlasting Covenant of Conscience, which God has given to all men (Isa 24:5-6). But at the judgment, the man who has committed the kinds of sins that Rev 21:8 or Rom 1:28-31

describe will not only die (or experience death) once, but twice, and this second time is eternal, forever and ever. Forever and ever means to die twice. To die once is forever in an age and to die twice is forever in the eternal age (Rev 20:15; 21:8; Rev 14:10-11; Mt 25:41,46).

Mt 25:46 is the absolute proof, as well as Jn 5:29, of the Three Eternal Destinies of Man. Mt 25:46 presents two destinies of the people in the nations during the present age (or the world), and there is a second death and a second life for these people of the world. Those who go to everlasting life were those who never had the opportunity to reject the gospel, but lived according to their conscience. For them is the reward of Mt 25:34. *Everlasting* is everlasting or age-lasting for the eternal age.

The *cursed* in Mt 25:41 go into the place prepared for Satan (Rev 20:10). The righteous go to the place prepared for them in Mt 25:34, as Rev 22:11-12 says, and Rev 20:12-15. The cursed are those who continue to sin and sin and sin, according to Rom 1:29-31 and Rev 21:8, etc., and are finally turned over to a depraved mind (Rom 1:24,26,28). Rev 21:8 — The second death is the result of the judgment of the nations in Mt 25:32. Rev 21:24 – These are the natural but righteous nations – those who are saved from the second death by the determination of the judgment of the nations (Rev 20:11-15). The righteous of Mt 25:37,46 have eternal life in the saved or healed nations of Rev 22:2.