

Ruined, Guilty, Condemned!

Evangelistic Message

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Listen to me, friends, this may be the most important message of your life because chances are many of you have never heard the real Gospel before. What you have for religion is a band-aid that won't cure your problem. No sir, it won't get the job done.

Now stay with me, friends, and let me tell you a story about a man who was in the hospital dying and he only had a few days left to live. It seems this man was dying from a poison in his blood. He was too far gone as there was no medical cure for this poison in his blood. This man eventually died. I'm here to tell you this evening, friends, that you too have a poison in your blood and it's a matter of life and death and if you stay with me through this message, I will give you a remedy for your sickness.

I'm going to state three things about your life that you will be able to relate to about these three things because they're part of your human condition, and I'm going to explain it so a little child may understand it as well as a PhD. I have an earned PhD so for you eggheads out there, I can stand on your level but I'm going to bring it down so you kids can understand it too. These three things are: ruined, guilty, condemned. That's all you need to know for now. I will open up each one of these three terms for you this evening.

The title of my message is "Ruined, Guilty, Condemned!" Listen to me, young man, listen to me, young lady, listen to me as I need your undivided attention because you will have to face each one of these three things as they pertain to you personally. Before we proceed, I want you to take a pen out, I want you to write your name down on a piece of paper. You can write your first name down in the margin of your Bible or you kids out there can write it on your cellphone in your notes, but I want you to write your first name and after you've written your first name, there are two words I want you to put after that, those two words are: is ruined. Joe is ruined. Judy is ruined. My name is Ernest, so I would write, "Ernest is ruined." Are you with me?

The reason you are ruined is because man is born with a poison in his blood. This poison, which is the fallen nature, leaves a stain upon him because of sin. My Bible has this to say about sin,

All we like sheep have gone astray; each one has turned to his own way.

Listen, friend, sin is going your way when you know it isn't God's way. Some of younger people here know when you're disobeying your parents. God is your Father and to go

against his will for you is sin. Ernest is ruined because man comes into this world with a fallen nature and a bent toward sin.

You enter this world, friend, with a poison in your blood because of the fall of Adam in the garden when he disobeyed God by sin. Now stay with me, for when Adam sinned and disobeyed God, he died spiritually and he passes on to all men this spiritual poison in the blood. I say you have a poison in your blood. My father passed it to me by giving me a fleshly natural condition, and his father gave it to him on down all the way back to Adam. This is clearly seen in God's word in Romans 5:12 which says,

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

What this means, friends, in plain English is you're not a sinner because you sin, rather you sin because you are a big sinner. Look at what you wrote with your name: Ernest is ruined. Read your name and say that about yourself. Go on, you can go ahead and say it. It's true, friend, you are ruined because your natural condition as a man or a woman you have a poison in your blood and you are stained by sin.

Hear me now. I pray that the Holy Spirit will take this message this evening and apply it to some heart. You must be dealing with these three issues at some point in your life, friend, you might as well deal with them now instead of stand in eternity and deal with them then. Listen to me, sin gives a moral and real defilement. It fixes on the very soul a personal stain that every time you sin that stain goes deeper and it's harder to come out.

Years ago, I was preaching in a church down South in Mississippi one Sunday morning and it was customary down South after the service was over to have a big smorgasbord for the visiting preacher. Well, we all went into the Fellowship Hall where picnic tables were ready and a long table of buffet food was sitting there. Well, I like hot dogs so I loaded my plate up with a few hot dogs and I like mustard on my hot dogs, some of you kids might like mustard on your hot dogs as well, so I lathered them up from a jar of mustard on the table before me. I sat down with a deacon and his wife and I wondered why they were staring at me so until I realized I had smeared yellow mustard all over the front of my new blue suit. The old deacon shook his head and said, "Well, at least we know now you are human."

Well, I took that suit to the cleaners but that mustard stain never came out of that blue suit, it always had a green hue, and that's what sin does to you, friend, it stains you and it won't come off you. You can try to whitewash sin by calling it other names but that won't work. A fib is still a lie. Fooling around is still adultery. Taking something that doesn't belong to you is still stealing. You can't whitewash sin by renaming it. Now listen to me: sin is still sin and it leaves a stain on you morally that you can't wash out by even church membership. My blue suit had that mustard stain and it's still there. This stain from sin cannot be dealt with on human terms. Like that dying man in the hospital who had blood poisoning, he had no remedy to save him from a human standpoint so he died. So, too, all men will die and face an eternal death.

My Bible declares in Hebrews 9:27,

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

That brings us to the next thing, friends, of importance to you personally. Secondly, I want you to write beside your name, give your name a new space there on your piece of paper and beside it, friend, write two words, write: is guilty. Joe is guilty. Judy is guilty. Ernest is guilty. Every mother's son and daughter will one day be arraigned at a trial before a judge. Have you ever been to a courtroom, friend? A judge will stand, you will stand before that judge whom the Bible says, "Ye will by no means clear the guilty." You'll stand there guilty as charged and a penalty must be paid.

Let me share a story with you, friends. When I was a young person, like some of you I was 16 years old and I ran a stop sign and a police officer saw me and pulled me over and wrote me a ticket. Well, I went home and showed it to my mother and she said, "Don't worry about it. We'll fight it." And the day came for my appearance in court. When it was my turn, my name was publicly called and I had to stand before a judge who sat in a black robe, a black robe that signified his power and authority. Well, my mother had told me what to do, that when I was called up there, I was to lie to that judge and tell him I didn't do it, that way we wouldn't have to pay the fine; that's why we went to court and sat there all day. Well, as I stood before that stern looking judge, he asked me a simple question, he said, "Son, did you run that stop sign?" I knew I was guilty as charged and I hung my head and I answered, "Yes, Your Honor, I did it. I broke the law." My mother was so mad at me for not lying to that judge, she yelled at me all the way home for being so stupid because you had to pay a fine for my breaking the law.

But listen, friends, Ernest is guilty and I knew it before that judge. You are guilty. You are guilty, too. Read your name to yourself and add the words "is guilty" because man has broken God's law by sin and the last judgment awaits all mankind and you can't escape it, friend. Listen to me, let me describe this terrible courtroom scene to you that you may be standing at some day. It's found in the book of Revelation 20, beginning in verse 11. Let me read it to you now and give you a preview of what your own day in court will be like in that coming day.

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Let me pause here, friends, to say this Judge of all the earth sits on that Great White Throne. It is white as a symbol of his holiness because the Judge is God himself, and that Judge is Jesus Christ. He is perfect. He is righteous. He is just. Every case presented to him will be reviewed personally by him as the evidence is presented to him and examined by his intense scrutiny. Well, who is facing that Judge? Let's read on, friends.

And I saw the dead, small and great [that means you], stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the

book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

What that means, young man, young lady, is that there is a biography on your life that's being written on your life as you live your life every day. Your life is watched from heaven and recorded by attending angels. All of your works, your thoughts, your words, the deeds you do in your body, are all being recorded, so to speak, by heaven's camera, if I may so say, and kept written and recorded in a book on your life that will one day be opened. You only have one life to live, friend, how you live it will be revealed on that day where all is laid open and naked before his pure holy eyes. Heaven and earth fled from the fierce face of that Judge and you will tremble at your knees before him as you stand there and your life is held up against his strict and severe law. God made a heaven and God made a hell and if you want to go to heaven when you die, you must pass the test of perfection because God requires perfection to get into his holy heaven and no man is perfect, friends. My Bible says,

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Let's read on in our story from Revelation, the last book in the Bible, about the last judgment.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

What this terrible scene describes, friends, is when the guilty sinner stands before a holy God as Judge over his creation. God made you. He formed you in your mother's womb. He gave you the color hair you have, the color skin you have. He gave you your eyes, your lips, your body. He gave you life to live in this world that he created for his glory. How you live your life will determine how you die, either as a saved person or as a lost person. Saved people go to heaven. Lost people go to hell which is that terrible lake of fire mentioned in the book of Revelation. If you die, friend, in your natural condition, you die in your sins and you stand condemned before that Judge.

Take the time now, friend, to write beside your name the following two words, write your name, your first name and write: is condemned. Joe is condemned. Judy is condemned. Ernest is condemned. Why? Because if I stand there before that Judge in my ruined nature as a guilty sinner, then that Judge will have to carry out the sentence and of the law just like that judge issued me a fine for breaking the law by running that stop sign. But many of you have been running from God. He has wooed you by his Spirit but you've spurned him, turned away from him. You've had folks praying for you throughout your life but you haven't come to Christ Jesus, you've been on the run from him and sin. You know you have. Deep down you know you are a sinner and you stand guilty as charged. Just like a couldn't lie once I stood before that judge, I knew I was guilty, I had

to tell him the truth that I had broken the law and by sin, you too have broken the law of God and the penalty is death, death in a place of punishment for sin, in a prison of a devil's hell.

If you've been keeping up with me, friend, in this message about your life and about your certain destiny, then you have written three things down beside your name. I'll read mine to you. "Ernest is ruined. Ernest is guilty. Ernest is condemned." The verdict is in. When I stand before God, will I stand there saved or lost? And that's what you've got to ask yourself right now, friends, when you die and stand before God, will you stand there saved or lost? Saved is heaven and its rewards, lost is hell and its torments.

Well you ask, "Preacher, what do I have to do to get saved?" Let me tell you, friend, I've got good news to folks who know they are lost, I've got good news to those of you who know you are ruined, guilty sinners as charged, condemned by a holy God because of the stain of sin and the broken law of God by transgression and sin. The first message of the Gospel is that God must punish sin, you've just heard that. Now you have to be ready for the second message of the Gospel which is a Savior from sin. Jesus Christ came into this world doing good. I'm sure you've heard about him and the good things he's done, friends. You've probably heard it when you were little kids. Jesus came healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, raising the dead, feeding the hungry, giving hope to the weary, yet what happened to Jesus? Do you know? Some of you do. Well, wicked men cried, "Away with him!" and nailed him to a cross. First, the Roman soldiers beat him and whipped him and spit in his face. Then they put a purple robe on him and humiliated him. They put a reed in his hand and they bowed to him and mocked him. They then blindfolded him and slapped him across the jaw with the palm of their hands saying, "Prophecy who hit thee!" Then they led him to a hill outside the city of Jerusalem to a place called Calvary, and they even made him carry his own cross there until he fell and a man had to help him. Then once he was there, they stripped him naked and nailed him to that cross and every stroke of the Roman's hammer was an exclamation point that God must punish sin! God must punish sin! God must punish sin! Jesus died so I wouldn't have to die. He died becoming a curse as my substitute for sin, taking the wrath of God on him.

I stand guilty before God because Ernest is ruined, Ernest is guilty, Ernest is condemned. In Bible times, friends, listen to me, in the Old Testament the priest would have to enter the Holy of Holies in that temple and sprinkle the blood of bulls and goats on an altar as a sacrifice to God for sin. It was a reprieve of pardon but it only lasted one year, he had to go do it again, but my Bible says in Hebrews 9:12, he says this about Jesus,

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.

Did you hear that, friend? Remember the stain that sin leaves on our soul? The hymn, "Jesus paid it all," states, "Jesus paid it all/All to him I owe/Sin had left a crimson stain/He washed it white as snow."

Ernest is ruined and so are you. Ernest is guilty and so are you. Ernest is condemned but, wait, I have a Savior from sin in the person of Jesus Christ and he died for me. He loved me and gave himself for me. I am saved when I exercise dependence toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and I pass from death to life when I come to that blood-stained Christ and believe on him. Listen to me, friend, when his life is laid down and applied to me, God can look at me and say, "When I see the blood, when I see the blood," I can now write beside my name, "Ernest is saved."

Listen to me, friends, the cross is the place where men sought to get rid of Jesus but by his death it becomes a place where his saving power flows out to all who come in repentance confessing they are sinners and own him as their Savior and Lord. This is your time, friend, this is your time to do business with God in regard to your soul. You have a soul that one day you're going to die and that soul's going to go back to the God who gave it, your body is going to be placed in the ground. Some of these kids go out here in a car and get in a car wreck and they're buried as teenagers, you never know if you're going to make it until tomorrow. I've stood at funerals where a 16 year old was laid in a grave in a car wreck. Listen to me, friend, men are debtors and prisoners who need to be freed because of a broken law and a stain of sin.

Oh, I'm going to sing a refrain from one of my favorite hymns to you now, friends. If you pardon my voice, will you come to Christ as the Spirit leads you as I sing?

"There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains:
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away."

And you can wash your sins away too, friends. Do business with God, friend. Get to Christ, the remedy for sin.