

Out of the Fire into the Father's Arms

Does the Holy Spirit convict Christians of sin?

*'And when He has come, He will convict the **world** of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged'*

(John 16:8-11)

**In the epistle to the Romans, Paul shows
that we first encountered God in the
courtroom**

The Gentiles

***'For the wrath of God is revealed from
heaven against all ungodliness and
unrighteousness of men, who suppress the
truth in unrighteousness...who, knowing
the righteous judgment of God, that those
who practice such things are deserving of
death, not only do the same but also
approve of those who practice them'***
(Romans 1:18, 32)

'Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds"'

(Rom.2:1-6)

What is the wrath of God?

- ✓ God is holy and hates sin with His whole being. He cannot be passive in regard to sin. Holiness without judgement upon sin is not possible
- ✓ God's anger is not an emotional eruption against a provocation causing Him to lash out at sin. It is His settled, unrelenting, uncompromising opposition to evil
- ✓ But sin is not a thing. It is an act which is committed by living, moral, responsible beings whom He has created in His image for His glory. Therefore, sin cannot be separated from those who commit it

***'For as many as have sinned without law
will also perish without law, and as many
as have sinned in the law will be judged
by the law..in the day when God will
judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ,
according to my gospel'
(Romans 2:12, 16)***

The Jews

'But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.) Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world?'

(Romans 3:5-6)

The verdict for all the world

'Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God'

(Romans 3:19)

But now...

'But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus'

(Rom.3:21-26)

- ✓ **Jesus is the propitiation, the appeasement of God's wrath, for our sins**
- ✓ **This means that the cross is the finality of our judgment. We have been taken out of the courtroom and will never come into judgment for sin again**
- ✓ **To think that we could be brought back into the courtroom would be as insane as a father taking his child back into a burning house**
- ✓ **The cross changes everything**

✓We have a dramatic change of relationship with God, and a change of location

✓We have been adopted into His family as children of God

✓So what is the feeling we experience when we walk according to the flesh?

✓It is NOT conviction. Our Father does not want to relate to Him anymore with a 'courtroom' mentality or terminology

✓It disappoints Him when we think this way

'When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may repay us for all the evil which we did to him." So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him'

(Gen.50:15-17)

'Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them'
(Gen.50:19-21)

✓ *'Let us go onto perfection...'* **What that means**

✓ **Sin-consciousness hinders our relationship with Him**

✓ **One of those better promises is that through the death of Jesus our sins have been entirely and eternally put out of God's sight and thought.**

'For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more' **(Heb.8:12)**

✓ **Heaven has been cleansed from the record of our sins...and the law nailed to the cross!**

✓ *'For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things'* **(1 Jn.3:20)**

✓ So what is the feeling we experience when we walk according to the flesh?

✓ First, it is the feeling of our new nature which hates sin. The flesh and the Spirit war against each other

✓ **We feel what He feels**, *'And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption'* (Eph.4:30)

✓ Also, it is not the feeling of sinning against law but against love

✓ When we sin against law we are aware of God's wrath against sin. But when we sin as His children we are aware of how much He loves us



- ✓ **This feeling is not negative, but positive!**
- ✓ **It is testifying to my new creation identity**
- ✓ **It says, I have a special relationship with my heavenly Father. I am not illegitimate**
- ✓ **Our Father will not let us go back to shame, but is taking us forward to glory!**
- ✓ **We are predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**

'Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure'

(1 John 3:1-3)