

Throughout history, humanity has made some incredibly miraculous discoveries while coming up with some pretty amazing ideas: the wheel, electricity, airplanes, smart phones, onion rings. The ingenuity and brilliance of mankind is unmatched in all of creation. Scripture even speaks to this reality. In Genesis we read, “God made man in His own image,” giving humanity the unique opportunity to not only know their Creator intimately but also think, feel, and communicate in ways other creatures cannot. Human beings are God’s crowning achievement.

Unfortunately, this is only part of our collective story.

The ultimate paradox of humanity is that while we are the most beautiful, as well as the most valuable, creature within all of God's creation, we are also the most corrupted, broken, and eternally condemned. And every one of us unquestionably deserves a holy God’s eternal condemnation due to our sin and rebellion against the One who created us.

Our rebellion found its leaders when God created humanity, and Adam and Eve’s insurgency destroyed humanity’s relationship with God. In Romans 5, here is how the Apostle Paul describes our dire existence: “from one sin came the judgment, resulting in condemnation” (Romans 5:16a). Sadly, no one can escape their deserved condemnation unless their gracious Creator intervenes on their behalf.

Easter reminds us that the miraculous intervention we needed was indeed initiated by Jesus Christ, and through His obedience, death, and resurrection, our deserved condemnation is replaced by Christ’s righteousness. Continuing in Romans 5, Paul joyfully writes, “but from many trespasses came the gift, resulting in justification. If by the one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive the overflow of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:16b-17). Praise God for His salvation!

REFLECTION

- Why is it helpful to sometimes be reminded of our condemned state before our salvation as we look to grow closer to God and know Him better in our salvation?
- On the other hand, why must we always go back to the truth that “there is not condemnation for those in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1) when we do struggle with sin?

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Father, I come to you as one your Son has purchased through His death and resurrection. While I once deserved condemnation, I now thank you for Christ’s righteousness granted me through salvation found only in Jesus. Help me to walk in your love and grace and Christ’s righteousness and to be thankful for His work on the cross. And help me to show Christ’s love others who need your grace. I pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen.