



Condemnation Robert Morris

Focus The word “gospel” means good news. Christianity is the only religion that has good news instead of bad news. When we receive Jesus, we are receiving the *good news*. Without Jesus, we are condemned and sentenced to eternal damnation. The good news is that if we believe in Jesus and accept His payment for our sins, we will never be condemned or separated from God.

Fun Do you enjoy working in the yard, gardening, or landscaping? Or would you prefer for someone else to do it?

Review Key Scriptures: Matthew 23:14; John 8:10–11; John 3:17–18

1. What is the good news?

The word “gospel” actually means good news. When the Bible says Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom, it means Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom of God. No other religion has good news like this. It is the good news that God loves us. It is the good news that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life!

2. Who is the messenger?

While we may be messengers, we are not *the* Messenger. The Greek word Euangelion has the word “angel” in it, and the word angel means a messenger with good news. When the Old Testament describes the angel of the Lord, it is referring to Jesus. The good news (or gospel) is not just a story in the Bible—the good news is Jesus. He came to the earth, lived, died, was buried, and rose again.

3. What is the message?

The word “condemnation” comes from the word damnation. A condemned

person is one who has received a death sentence. Rejecting Jesus is an eternal death sentence. Jesus does not condemn us. “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved,” as John 3:17 tells us. Without Jesus, we are condemned and have a death sentence, but the good news is Jesus paid that sentence for us. If we believe in Him and receive Him, we are saved. No condemnation is the glory of the gospel, and no separation is the guarantee of the gospel.

Group Dynamics Idea Ensure the relational care of your group members by being intentional about knowing them personally. Take time to discover their interests, talents, and stories. This will create a meaningful connection in your group while establishing trust.

Discuss

1. Why does the world thrive on telling bad news? Why do you think the news broadcasts more bad news than good news?
2. What are some examples of the good news of the kingdom of God?
3. What is the difference between viewing the gospel as a Bible story versus viewing the gospel as Jesus Himself? How does this perspective shift change how we respond to the gospel?
4. Can you think of a time you were dealing with bad news and asked Jesus—the Messenger of good news—into your situation? What was it like dealing with the bad news *without* Jesus versus dealing with the bad news *with* Jesus?
5. Without Jesus we are condemned. What does condemnation look like and feel like? Why does the devil try to continually bring accusation and condemnation?
6. With Jesus there is no condemnation. How does it feel to be free from all condemnation? How can you keep the truth of your freedom in Jesus at the forefront of your thoughts?
7. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- The word “gospel” means good news.
- Jesus is the Messenger who brings good news.

- Without Jesus we are condemned, but if we accept the work Jesus did for us, we have eternal life with Him.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your Son Jesus to save us instead of condemning us to eternal damnation. Thank You for the good news of Your kingdom. Thank You that through Jesus we never need to be condemned or separated from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Helping each person in your group to feel welcome and accepted is a win! You can do this by greeting them as they walk through the door, being yourself and encouraging others to do the same, and showing genuine interest in each person.