

A photograph of the Earth from space, showing the Americas and surrounding oceans. The Earth is curved, with the Americas visible in the center. The oceans are a deep blue, and the landmasses are a mix of green and brown. The sky is black.

# How Christians Condemn the World

Hebrews 11:1-7

# Righteous People Condemn The World Merely By Being Righteous

- Noah was such a man.
  - Heb. 11:7 - “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”

# Righteous People Condemn The World Merely By Being Righteous

- How did Noah condemn the world?
- He preached, but others did not listen.
  - 2Peter 2:5 - “...Did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.”
- He worshiped God.
  - Gen. 8:20 - “Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.”

# Righteous People Condemn The World Merely By Being Righteous

- This condemnation is defined:
  - If Noah was right, everyone else was wrong.
  - If he was right in building the ark, everyone who refused to help was condemned by his faith.
  - Condemnation defined: “katakrima - one’s good example renders the wickedness of another more evident and censurable.” (Thayers)

# Righteous People Condemn The World Merely By Being Righteous

- Abel condemned Cain this way.
  - Gen. 4:3-8
  - Heb. 11:4 - “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”

# Righteous People Condemn The World Merely By Being Righteous

- Nineveh would condemn the cities in which Jesus preached.
  - Jonah 3:1-10
  - Matt. 12:41 - “The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.”

# Righteous People Condemn The World Merely By Being Righteous

- The queen of Sheba would condemn the Jews of Jesus' day.
  - 1Kings 10:1-13
  - Matt. 12:42 - “The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.”

# Christians Condemn The World Today



- Believing spouses may lead unbelieving mates to the faith.
  - 1Peter 3:1-2 - “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.”



# Christians Condemn The World Today



- Sometimes the non-Christians will not tolerate the condemnation of the faithful Christians' example.
  - 1Cor. 7:13, 15-16 - “And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him... 15 But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?”

# Christians Condemn The World Today



- The lives of faithful Christians are condemnatory examples to a lost world.
- Faithful Christians will even condemn unfaithful angels.
  - 1Cor. 6:2-3 - “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?”
- A Gentile who fulfills the law condemns the Jew who does not obey it.
  - Rom. 2:27 - “And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law?”

# Why The World Dislikes Devout Christians



- We protest: “But we're just trying to be Christians!”
- This manner of life, by its clear contrast, is a condemnation to the disobedient and unfaithful.
- Jesus had to teach this to His disciples.
  - John 15:18-19 - “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you... 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.”

# Why The World Dislikes Devout Christians



- The result is that:
  - The sinful are uncomfortable around the faithful. Christians are what they know they ought to be, but are unwilling to discipline themselves to become.
  - The behavior of the faithful is a visible condemnation of the unbelievers' lack of faith and obedience. It is no wonder the righteous make sinners uncomfortable.

# How Can Faithful Christians Endure If The World Hates Them?

- Jesus promised to be with those who follow Him.
  - Matt. 28:20 - “...Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- A way of escape will be made available in temptation.
  - 1Cor. 10:13 - “...God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”
  - That includes the temptation to compromise the faith in order to be accepted by the world.

# How Can Faithful Christians Endure If The World Hates Them?

- We will not in any way lose our reward if we remain faithful.
- Though we die.
  - Rev. 2:10; Phil. 1:15-16, 21-24; 1Thes. 4:13-18
- Though all enemies come against us.
  - Rom. 8:31-39
- As long as we remain steadfast.
  - Heb. 10:34-39

# How Can Faithful Christians Endure If The World Hates Them?

- We know to expect opposition and to be prepared for it.
- The godly will suffer persecution.
  - 2Tim. 3:12 - “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”
- We are blessed when we endure.
  - Matt. 5:11-12 - “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven...”

# How Can Faithful Christians Endure If The World Hates Them?

- Christ suffered before us as an example and an encouragement.
  - 1Peter 2:20-21 - “For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”
- We put our trust in God through Christ.
  - Phil. 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”



# How Christians Condemn the World



- Despite setbacks and difficulties, a faithful Christian will continue to set a good example of faith and obedience to God.
- To the world, and to some professed Christians, this will be taken to be a “holier than thou” attitude.
- When one stands for the truth, solidly and without compromise, this will be seen by the world as judging unfairly or self-righteousness.
- In spite of all this, we must keep pressing on in service to God without compromise or negligence, for we must give account to God, not to the world.

# How Christians Condemn the World



- If you had lived when Noah was building the ark, you would have had the same opportunity and same problem you have right now.
- The same situation faces us today, but instead of a flood, it will be fire.
- How do you know you would have been saved from the flood?
- Would you have listened to Noah's preaching then? If so, then you will listen today.
- 2Peter 3:1-13