

Sometimes there comes an awful moment of truth when they can no longer suppress their conscience, and when the great weight of guilt surfaces (it was lurking and developing there all along), and this cataclysmic self-revelation can be so devastating that it destroys them! And thus it brings its own suffering. If this self-revelation of guilt does not take place during this life, it will most certainly take place at the final judgment!

Living in accordance with the judgments of conscience outwardly, while rationalizing or suppressing them inwardly also allows people to feel more comfortable temporarily, but tends to make them proud of themselves and critical of others, cuts them off from recognition of wrongdoing in themselves, and thus makes them incapable either of forgiving others or of receiving forgiveness for themselves. After a time other persons tend to shun them and avoid them and leave them in their lonely self-righteousness. Again, they bring suffering on themselves.

Without a healthy assessment of their own subjective guilt in transgressing the Law of God day by day, sinners do not feel the need of human forgiveness or of God's forgiveness, although they need both greatly. Without confession of guilt, human beings cannot receive God's forgiveness. And so they go on sinning, incurring guilt, remaining unrepentant and unforgiven, until the Day of God's Righteous Judgment, when secrets will be uncovered and unforgiven sins receive their just punishment.

But God in His great mercy has taken care of both objective and subjective guilt in the lives of those on whom He bestows His special mercy.

In Romans 8:1 the apostle exultantly cries, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!" Why is this so? Because the thing that was the cause of my condemnation, my sin, has been removed! In II Corinthians 5:21 Paul says, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." All my condemnation was placed on Christ, and He exhausted it and carried it away, and it is no longer on me! So much is this the case that Paul can say, "Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns?" (Romans 8:33-34) Christ Himself drank the last drop of my condemnation, and there is not one drop left for me! Charles Haddon Spurgeon writes:

Payment He will not twice demand;
First at my bleeding Surety's hand,
And then again at mine.

And by realizing that all of my objective guilt – past, present, and future – was laid upon Christ, so that there is now no condemnation for me; I can trust in Christ's blood and in God's promise of forgiveness of all my sins, and be relieved of all of my