

John 3:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Analysis

A stark division emerges: 'He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.' Present tense 'is not condemned' and 'is condemned' show judgment as present reality, not merely future event. Unbelief is the condemning sin—not because other sins don't matter, but because unbelief rejects the only remedy for all sins. Humanity enters the world 'condemned already'; faith in Christ is the only escape.

Historical Context

This verse clarifies the judgment theme. All humanity stands condemned under sin (Romans 3:23, 5:12). Faith in Christ delivers from this condemnation (Romans 8:1). Rejection of Christ confirms and seals condemnation. The 'only begotten Son' emphasizes Christ's uniqueness—there is no alternative savior.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How is condemnation a present state rather than merely a future event?
2. Why is unbelief the ultimate condemning sin?

Interlinear Text

ό	πεπίστευκεν	εἰς	αὐτὸν	οὐ	κέκριται	ό	δε	μὴ
G3588	He that believeth	in	him	not	condemned	G3588	but	not
	G4100	G1519	G846	G3756	G2919		G1161	G3361
πεπίστευκεν	ήδη	κέκριται	ὅτι	μὴ	πεπίστευκεν	εἰς		
He that believeth	already	condemned	because	not	He that believeth	in		
G4100	G2235	G2919	G3754	G3361	G4100	G1519		
τὸ	ὄνομα	τοῦ	μονογενοῦς	νίοῦ	τοῦ	θεοῦ		
G3588	the name	G3588	of the only begotten	Son	G3588	of God		
	G3686		G3439	G5207		G2316		

Additional Cross-References

1 John 5:10 (Faith): He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

Mark 16:16 (Faith): He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Romans 8:1 (Parallel theme): There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

John 5:24 (Faith): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

1 John 5:12 (References God): He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

John 3:36 (Faith): He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Romans 5:1 (Faith): Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

1 John 4:9 (References God): In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Romans 8:34 (References God): Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

John 20:31 (Faith): But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.