

**The School of Biblical Law**  
Introduction to Law and Grace  
Lesson Fifteen: “The Condemnation of Death”

Many Biblical themes show that all men are condemned to death and without hope for life apart from God’s mercy because autonomous man ate of the Tree of Knowledge, which resulted in death.

1. The promise of God was death to those who disobey God’s Law (Gen. 2:17).

God is a God of absolute truth and what He decrees comes from who He is (Mal. 3:6; James 1:17).

He is a God of absolute justice who enforces the terms of His Law to the last jot and tittle (Mt. 5:18).

Man tested God’s verbal promise, not believing God would fulfill the terms.

Man implicitly called Satan the truth-bringer or the light-bearer.

2. Because of Adam and Eve, mankind is under the death sentence.

The deeds of man are evil. Ps. 14:2-3, “The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy. There is none that doeth good, no not one.”

Ps. 51:5, “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

3. Man, although still a man, now has a twisted image.

Man was created subordinate to God and now continues to submit himself to some aspect of creation (Rom. 1:18-25).

Man was created for dominion but tries to dominate without submitting to the tool of dominion, which is the Law.

Man still does both – submits and dominates. Usually he submits himself to the god he thinks will serve him best and dominates mankind and nature for his own selfish gain.

Man will either pay the price of servitude or discipline under the hand of a merciful God or man will pay the price of bondage to sin.

4. All men are orphaned.

The Bible teaches the universal fatherhood of God (Acts. 17:26-28).

The Father disinherited all his children.

Unless God opens His mercy, no one can hope for life.

- Ezekiel 16:3-6
- Ex. 33:19 and Rom. 9:15

The revelation of total depravity positions man to acknowledge his need for help that cannot arise from within his own sinful and rebellious being. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 5:3). A proper understanding of depravity also keeps man from the erroneous belief that he is able to do enough good, law-keeping deeds to merit salvation.