



Guilty!

Ezra 9

Daniel 9

I. What Is Guilt?

Guilt is . . .

- Sin; offense; deserving punishment
 - He got his just deserts
 - It serves him right

Give them according to their deeds, And according to the wickedness of their endeavors; Give them according to the work of their hands; Render to them what they deserve – Ps.28:4.

Sinner: debtor

Sin: debt

- Mt.5:21-22, **liable, guilty** (26:66)
- Mt.6:12, **moral obligation, debt**
- Ro.3:10, **indictment**
 - Law: none righteous (universal guilt), 19 _____
 - Answerable, accountable

Ro.3:10-19...

Indictment

Law

How many
righteous?

None

How many
sinners?

All

Verdict

Guilty!

Being guilty vs feeling guilty

Saul of Tarsus

1. **Guilt (objective)**: sin against God's law

- Mt.27:3-4a, acknowledged
- Mt.27:4b, denied

2. **Feeling (subjective)**: not always based on facts

- 2 Co.2:7

I. What Is Guilt?

II. Why Did Guilt Go?

People shun guilt because...

Painful

Punitive

Bible has been discarded

Professionals

Popular opinion

I. What Is Guilt?

II. Why Did Guilt Go?

III. Why Is Guilt Good?

We need guilt because...

1. Preserves Society. Ro.1; 3
2. It drives people to salvation.
Mt.9:12
3. Those who deny guilt, deceive themselves. Ro.6:23
4. Death is the great reminder.
1 Co.15:56-57

When death loses its sting

1 Co.15:56-57

⁵⁶ The **sting of death** is sin, and the **power of sin** is the law.

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, → who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of law, sin (Ro.4:15)

Because of sin, death (Ro.6:23)

Forgiveness removes sting (1 Jn.1:9)

I. What Is Guilt?

II. Why Did Guilt Go?

III. Why Is Guilt Good?

IV. Guilt Does Not Give Up

Gn.3, Adam and Eve

- People still try to hide from God,
Ro.1

“Anything that we scientists can do to weaken the hold of religion should be done and may in the end be our greatest contribution to civilization”

(Dr. Steven Weinberg, Nobel Laureate in Physics, *N.Y.Times*, 11/21/06)

Gn.42, Joseph's brothers

- "Guilt is the price we pay willingly for doing what we are going to do anyway"

Dn.5, Belshazzar

- Why conclude the worst?
- Why not scrub the wall?
- Why not just forget it?

"Thus conscience doth make
cowards of us all" (Hamlet)

Mk.6, Herod

- Violated his conscience
 - Silenced John's voice, but not his own inner voice
 - Jesus reminded him of John

“From the body of one guilty
deed a thousand ghostly fears
and haunting thoughts proceed”

– Wm. Wordsworth

Ac.24:24-25, Felix

Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you” – Ac.24:25

For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse – Ro.1:20

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Justification?

Most people fear others will find out what they have done.

- God, the Judge, already knows.

Ps.32

- Good news –
 - Everyone is in same condition.
 - God provides a way out. Ro.8:1