CONDEMNATION

THE EARLY CHRISTIANS CALLED THEMSELVES THE PEOPLE O
WAY. AS WE BEGIN OUR LENTEN JOURNEY, WE BEGIN WITH
OWN CONDEMNATION FIRST – THEN WE CAN RELATE TO J
CONDEMNATION FOR US & FOR OUR SALVATION. DID YOU NO
HOW THESE PEOPLE IN THE GOSPEL LESSON WERE ALL SO M
INTO THEMSELVES? -- EAGER TO BE NOTICED FOR THEIR GIF
THE POOR / THEIR PRAYERS / THEIR FASTING? DID YOU NO
THEIR GREED? HOW DOES THAT SONG GO?---LORD, IT'S SO HA
BE HUMBLE WHEN YOU'RE SO PERFECT IN EVERY WAY! IF WE
GOING TO MAKE OUR LENTEN JOURNEY PROPERLY, THAT FIRS
ALL INVOLVES OUR CONDEMNATION – BEGINNING WITH
CONDEMNATION OF ADAM: "DUST YOU AND & TO DUST YOU SH
RETURN." THE BIBLE VERY CLEARLY CONFRONTS US WITH
REALITY THAT THE RIVER DOES NOT RISE ABOVE ITS SOURCE.
ONE MAN'S TRESPASS LED TO THE CONDEMNATION OF ALL...
CAME INTO THE WORLD THROUGH ONE MAN & DEATH TO
BECAUSE ALL HAVE SINNED!..... YOU ARE DUST & TO DUST
SHALL RETURN. ..... THERE IS NONE THAT DOETH GOOD & SIN
NOT – NO NOT ONE!.....ALL OUR RIGHTEOUSNESSES ARE AS FI
RAGS!....LET THAT BE THE VISION BEFORE OUR EYES AS I
BEGINS. EACH OF US MUST SEE OURSELF CONDEMNED.
AND WHEN WE DO THAT, THAT MEANS THAT THE WAY OF
CROSS IS NOT MERELY BEING A SPECTATOR-EVENT WHICH WE
VIEW FROM A DISTANCE. THIS IS ALL VERY PERSONAL. I E
SINNED! I HAVE FALLEN SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD! I ST
BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF THE HOLY GOD! AND NOW W
THE ASHES ON MY FOREHEAD I AM AGAIN REMINDED THAT I ST
CONDEMNED..... AND NOW AS I GET READY TO RECEIVE
BLESSED SACRAMENT, I FEEL THIS TAP ON MY SHOULDER – I TU
& I SEE JESUS STANDING THERE – THE SINLESS SON OF GOD -- &
HOLDS OUT HIS HAND & SAYS, YES, CARL, YOU ARE DUST – B
HAVE TAKEN ON MYSELF YOUR FLESH & BLOOD – I HAVE COM
TAKE YOUR DEATH / YOUR DUST / UNTO MYSELF --- I HAVE COM
TAKE YOUR PLACE --- I AM CONDEMNED RIGHT WITH YOU &
YOU! HERE IT IS, MY BODY GIVEN FOR YOU / MY BLOOD SHED
YOU! SO THE TITLE IS NOT, CARL IS CONDEMNED /
CONDEMNED OR ANY OF THE REST OF YOU! NO! NO! NO! JESU
CONDEMNED! ON HIS BROW IS NOT DUST BUT THORNS. HIS TAS
NOT JUST TO TAKE UP A CROSS, BUT TO BE TAKEN UP UPON T
CROSS FOR US! THE LORD – THE HOLY GOD – HAS LAID ON HIM
INIQUITY OF US ALL WHAT OTHER RESPONSE IS THERE BUT TH
YOU! THANK YOU! NOW, HE INVITES, TAKE UP YOUR CROS
FOLLOW ME. YOU ARE FREE TO BE

N GREEK MYTHOLOGY THERE IS A

OLD, RED, BLUE. IT'S KNOWN AS THE PHOENIX. IT LIVES
OME 500 YEARS / THEN IT BUILDS A NEST HIGH IN THE TRE
INES IT WITH HERBS & SPICES. THE PHOENIX NESTS THERE U
HE SUN IGNITES THE NEST. IT IS THEN THE FIRE CONSUMES B
HE NEST & THE BIRD.. THE MIRACLE IS THAT A NEW PHO
RISES FROM THE ASHES OF ITS PREDECESSOR – NEW I
PRINGS FROM THE OLD..... IS THERE ANYTHING M
IFELESS THAT A PILE OF COLD ASHES?.....THE WAY OF GO
P POINTS TO THE NEW LIFE ARISING FROM THE COLD, H
EALITY OF DEATH! O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING? O GR
HERE IS YOUR VICTORY? THE STING OF DEATH IS SIN.
TRENGTH OF SIN IS THE LAW! [DUST YOU ARE, & TO DUST YOU V
RETURN!] BUT THANKS BE TO GOD WHO GIVES US THE VICT
HROUGH OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST