

Turn and Live!
Ezekiel 18:1-32

Main Point:

Instead of letting sin be your ruin, turn away from it in repentance and live forever.

1. Blame-shifting is a natural tendency for all of us.
2. God rejects blame-shifting because He holds each person accountable.
3. In doing so, God brings death to the sinner, though He takes no pleasure in it.
4. Instead of letting sin be your ruin, turn away from it in repentance and live forever.

Derek Thomas "The fault, they concluded, lay entirely with their forefathers; it had nothing to do with them."

Exodus 20:5 5 ... For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, (NKJV)

Derek Thomas "The self-excusing instinct is a strong one ..."

Christopher Wright "It seems to encapsulate two fundamental human tendencies which have been apparent in fallen humanity ever since the garden of Eden: to blame somebody else and to blame God - anything but accept personal responsibility for sins committed."

Iain Duguid "The Lord's response to this proverb is a categorical denial of its applicability."

Iain Duguid "They too have shared in eating the sour grapes, so they cannot pass the buck for the unpleasant aftertaste onto others. God's dealings with them have been nothing other than perfectly just."

Derek Thomas "There are doctrines in the Scripture which cannot be reconciled by a finite mind: God's sovereignty and man's responsibility being two such truths. No amount of reasoning can fully understand how both can be true; and yet both are true."

Jeremiah 32:41 41 Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.' (NKJV)

Dane Ortlund "God is indeed punishing Israel for their waywardness as the Babylonians sweep through the city. He is sending what they deserve. But his deepest heart is their merciful restoration."

Thomas Goodwin "Though God is just, yet his mercy [is] ... more natural to him than all acts of justice ..."

Lamentations 3:32-33 32 Though He causes grief, Yet He will show compassion According to the multitude of His mercies. 33 For He does not afflict willingly ... (NKJV)

Christopher Wright "[Ezekiel] calls people to recognize that their choice of commitments and behavior, in response to the known will of God, is literally a matter of choosing life or death."