

CONDEMNED ALREADY.

SOME years ago, a young man, whom we will call Robert, lived in a part of America, which was newly settled and where the gospel had been seldom preached. One evening however a young evangelist spoke from the third chapter of John's gospel, insisting particularly on the eighteenth verse. "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."

The words "*condemned already*" made a strong impression upon Robert. He sought to persuade himself that there were no such words in the bible, and that the preacher had doubtless made a mistake. Robert was quite willing to allow that if he continued in his evil ways he would be *judged* later, but to be condemned now, was too much. The word of God is a sword (Eph. vi. 17), and this sword had penetrated the soul of the young man.

Returning home he strove, again and again, to convince himself that it was not true, and could not be found in the bible. In order to assure himself, as soon as he came into the house he took his bible so long neglected and looked for the passage. Truly the solemn words were there. "But he that believeth not is condemned already, because, he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."