

TEACHING GOAL

To study the effects of the fall of Adam and Eve.

DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

Q. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

S.C. 13; L.C. 21-23; W.C. of F. VI & IX; Savoy 6 & 9; Young 27

SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Study Passage: Genesis 3

Support Passages: Genesis 6:5-8; Psalm 89:46-48; Ecclesiastes 7:20-29; John 6:43-44; Romans 1:24-25; I Corinthians 15:21-22; Ephesians 2:1-3; James 1:13-15; Revelation 21:4

BIBLE STORY

Genesis 3: Adam and Eve are tempted by Satan and fall into sin.

MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

"For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Corinthians 15:21-22, ESV)

APPLICATION

Since every one dies we must face the issue of immortality. Will it be in heaven or hell? The Scriptures tell us that people go to heaven only by repenting from sin and believing on Christ as Lord (Romans 10:9-10).

SUMMARY

Adam was created by God with a free will and good. He was placed in the Garden of Eden, in a paradise, and could ask for no better estate, but something happened to bring all that to an end. By a direct and flagrant act of disobedience, Adam and Eve lost their first estate of goodness and delight. In the next few lessons we shall examine the nature of sin and how the desire to sin is passed on from generation to generation. In this lesson we wish to undertake the effect of the fall of Adam on us today.

The sin of our first parents had this immediate effect:

1) They were ashamed of their nakedness. 2) They hid from God because they felt guilty. 3) God immediately administered judgment upon the serpent, the man and the woman. 4) Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden and denied access to the Tree of Life.

Let us notice first of all that Adam did not have to sin. He did so of his own volition. Therefore, Adam was responsible for what he did and God judged him accordingly and rightly. The condition of obedience was simple enough. He was not to eat of a certain tree and he could then stay in the garden and enjoy it. Remember that God had provided everything for Adam's delight and well-being. He could eat of any other tree in the garden but this one. God wonderfully provides for His people, and His laws are not hard, but they are good for us. The way to happiness and joy in this life is obedience to the Law of God (John 15:10-11).

One immediate effect of Adam's sin on mankind was the loss of all freedom and ability of the will to do any spiritual good accompanying salvation. This, of course, renders all mankind dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1-3) and the new birth alone restores a measure of ability to do what is spiritually good and pleasing to God (Hebrews 11:6; Romans 6:18,20; etc.)

Secondly, let us notice the nature of the curse which in essence is a curse of death. All living things now die, whereas before Adam's first transgression they did not. The serpent was cursed with death. In Genesis 3:14 we read the phrase, "all the days of your life" which implies that the life of the serpent is limited by death. Snakes are very wonderful creatures and live very well in their bellies. Human loathing for snakes is irrelevant here because the enmity referred to in this text is between Christ and the snake who is the devil. So the curse on the snake is death and enmity with Christ who is God. Furthermore, snakes participate in the curse of death along with all other creatures. Eve's pain in childbirth was increased, but more so because all her children would sooner or later die. Involved with her curse was the sinful domination of her husband. On the other hand, godly marriage involves a very delightful domination as described by Paul in Ephesians 5:22-33, "Let every individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband." Marriage is good and delightful, but the curse affects marriage adversely because men and women hate each other and fornicate. Adam was cursed with death (Genesis 3:19) and in addition he was cursed because his

planting would die and not thrive as it did in the garden. His curse did not consist merely in the sweat of his brow but because his labor was increased and his plants and animals would now also die. Like the snake is a wonderful creature so Adam's sweat glands were wonderful organs¹ and not really involved with the curse. The curse in essence is the effect death has on all creation and mankind in particular which have also become dead in sin.

¹ R. D. Ratcliff, I am Joe's Skin, Reader's Digest, June 1972.