

Salvation

The Sovereign Grace of our Triune God

”Thou Shalt Surely Die!”

Lesson 2: Genesis 3

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
June 13, 2010*

God, the Creator

- ▶ Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning, God created
- ▶ The eternity, the power and the wisdom of God
- ▶ An alien truth for man
- ▶ No compromise with man's wisdom
 - Isaiah 42:5, 8
 - 2 Peter 3:4-7
- ▶ The heavens declare the glory of God
 - Psalm 19:1-6
 - Psalm 104
 - Romans 1:18-23

God's Purpose for His Creation

- ▶ There is no “plan B”
- ▶ The exaltation of God through Christ on earth
 - Romans 11:36; 16:27; Colossians 1:15-16; Timothy 1:17;
1 Peter 4:11; Jude 24-25
- ▶ For mankind – “the obedience of faith”
 - Acts 17:26-27 – seek Him
 - Ecclesiastes 12:13 – Fear God and keep His commandments
 - Matt 6:33 – seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.
 - Romans 16:25-27 – the obedience of faith through Christ
 - Romans 9:11 – God's purpose of election
 - Romans 9:17 – proclaim power and Name
 - Romans 9:19-23 – show wrath, power and riches of His glory
 - Isaiah 45:18 – Created earth to be inhabited and not create in vain
(Isaiah 40:28-31; Hebrews 13:20-21; Revelation 13:8; Matthew 25:4;
Ephesians 1:4)

The Divine Purpose

- ▶ Creation declares the glory of God
- ▶ God is to be worshiped
- ▶ God's eternal power and Godhead revealed
- ▶ Man to be brought to the obedience of faith
- ▶ The elect only to receive this blessing
- ▶ The blessing to be through Jesus Christ.

Adam and Eve

- ▶ Made in image of God
 - Not holy
 - Duty: work/dominion; obey; worship
 - Incomplete – independent of Christ
- ▶ Anticipation of a future Rest
 - Later institutionalized in Law of Moses
 - Spiritual significance explained in Hebrews 3:1-4:11
- ▶ God's *modus operandi*
 - Trial of faith (1 Peter 1:6-7)
 - Fiery trial (1 Peter 4:12-13)
 - Temptation/testing (James 1:12-15)
 - Many tribulations (Acts 14:22)
 - Example of Christ – process was exalting to the Triune God
- ▶ Were Adam and Eve prepared for the rest?

The Serpent

- ▶ Appearance without explanation
 - Revelation 12:9; 20:2 – the serpent is Satan
 - John 8:44 – murderer – and abode not in the truth – liar
- ▶ More crafty than any other beast
 - 2 Corinthians 11:14 – disguised as angel of light
 - 2 Corinthians 11:3 – beguiled by subtlety
- ▶ Cunning appearance and content.
- ▶ Must evaluate by truth, not by appearances

The Temptation

- ▶ The command – Genesis 2:16-17

“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

- ▶ Satan raised question about what God actually said.

- ▶ Eve’s answer was true *plus* “do not touch”

Matthew 6:22-23

Proverbs 4:24-27

Proverbs 7:2

- ▶ The serpent’s big lie

The Temptation

- ▶ So when the woman saw . . .
 - A neglected Standard – the Word of God
 - A failed standard – human wisdom
 - The first contest between faith and sight
 - Christ is the Author and Finisher of our faith.
- ▶ Three avenues of sin: 1 John 2:16
 - lust of the flesh – good food
 - lust of eyes – delight to look upon
 - pride of life – desired to make wise

The Temptation

- ▶ “So the tempter pits his bare assertion against the Word and Works of God, presenting divine love as envy, service as servility, and a suicidal plunge as a leap into life, ‘All these things will I give thee . . .’; the pattern repeats in Christ’s temptations, and in ours.” [Derek Kidner]
- ▶ “. . . it smuggles in the assumption that God’s Word is subject to our judgment.” [Derek Kidner]
- ▶ Deuteronomy 8:3; Habakkuk 2:4
 - the Word and faith
- ▶ 1 Timothy 2:14

“Thou shalt surely die!”

- ▶ “Then” (Genesis 3:7)
- ▶ Knowledge of good and evil – eyes opened.
- ▶ Naked and ashamed (before God)
- ▶ Made fig leaf coverings – the path of self determination
- ▶ Romans 1:21-25
 - They knew God but did not honor Him as God or give thanks . . .
 - Became futile in their thinking
 - Claiming to be wise, they became fools
 - Exchanged the glory of the immortal God for image of mortal man
 - Worshiped and served the creature rather than the blessed Creator

The Gracious Creator

- ▶ The LORD God walking in the Garden
 - The omniscient God
 - A serious violation of His holiness and righteousness.
 - The soul that sins must die.
 - God did not destroy them – Romans 3:25-26
- ▶ They hide – Romans 3:11
- ▶ God calls
- ▶ Adam's fear and guilt
 - Adam was afraid – Was this the beginning of wisdom?
 - Romans 1:32 – God's decree – deserve to die
 - No repentance – only self justification
 - Eve followed Adam's example

The Mercy of God's Wrath

▶ The serpent

- physical reminder – eat dust, a symbol of defeat.
- Enmity between seed of serpent and seed of woman
- The crushed head of the serpent (Romans 16:20)

▶ The woman

- Pain in childbearing
- Ruled by her husband

▶ Adam

- Cursed is the ground – creation cursed (Romans 8:20)
- Painful work
- Physical death

▶ A severe mercy

The Grace of God

- ▶ No explanation given for God's actions
- ▶ LORD God made clothing of animal skins
- ▶ Tree of Life – access blocked

A Future Glory

- ▶ “There is no road back, as the nudists and those who make a cult of frankness, the spiritual nudists, suppose. God’s way is forward, for when the body is redeemed (Rom. 8:23) and love is perfect we shall be not back in Eden but clothed with glory (2 Corinthians 5:4).” [Derek Kidner]
- ▶ White robes (Revelation 7:9, 14; 22:14)

The Glory of God in Christ

- ▶ The Sovereignty of God
 - The first lesson of the Bible – God the Creator
 - God's sovereign power guarantees His purpose to exalt Christ in His creation by the salvation of the elect
- ▶ The Grace of God
- ▶ The Wisdom of God
 - Romans 11:33-36