

# **Faith: Tested and True**

## **The Serpent in Paradise** **Lesson 2** **Genesis 3**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*  
*June 14, 2020*

# “The just shall live by faith”

*Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38*

- ▶ Salvation – “justified by faith . . . peace with God” (Romans 5:1)
- ▶ Salvation – protected through faith . . . for salvation (1 Peter 1:9)
- ▶ True faith
  - A gift of God – not a natural capacity (Ephesians 2:8)
  - Belief in the truth of God’s Word
  - Belief in God’s Ways – He is good (Psalm 109:21)
- ▶ Faith is essential for good works
  - “Whatever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23)
  - “Without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Hebrews 11:6)
- ▶ Faith will be tested (1 Peter 1:6-7)
  - Necessary to show it is genuine
  - Necessary for the glory of God

# “The just shall live by faith”

*Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38*

- ▶ Satan is the agent of testing (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28)
  - A cherub from the presence of God
  - Heart lifted up . . . internally filled with violence
  - A liar and a murderer
  - Cast from heaven to the earth
- ▶ The work of Satan
  - Challenge and undermine faith
  - A real threat to us, for which we need to be prepared
  - A threat that ultimately brings glory to God (1 Peter 1:7)
  - Act 1 in Genesis 3 – the “schemes (wiles) of the devil”

# The Temptation (3:1-5)

- ▶ The serpent – arrives without introduction
  - Crafty – wise or cunning with the idea of deception
  - Disguised as an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14)
  - The temptation – probing Eve’s understanding of God’s word
  - The intent – turn her focus from Christ (2 Cor 11:3)
  - A subtle change in speaking of God: God v. YHWH God
- ▶ Eve’s first response – a correct answer
- ▶ The serpent – a flat denial of God’s word and Eve’s understanding
  - An alternate result: be like God in wisdom, knowing good and evil
- ▶ Eve’s second response
  - Independent judgment (1 John 2:15-17)
  - Good for food
  - Delightful to the eyes
  - Desirable to make wise
- ▶ Eve took the fruit, ate it, and gave it to Adam, and he ate

# A Root Cause Analysis of Sin

- ▶ Adam and Eve - innocent in a period of probation – Covenant of Works?
  - A test of free will? – a salvation of works?
- ▶ The governing principle of the Everlasting Covenant: the just shall live by faith
- ▶ Righteousness is by faith in Christ so it can be according to grace (Romans 4:16)
- ▶ John Calvin (Institutes of the Christian Religion. Vol. II, i, 4)
  - “By the subtlety of the devil, the woman faithlessly abandoned the command of God.”
  - “Infidelity (faithlessness) was at the root of the revolt.”
  - Never would Adam have dared to show any repugnance to the command of God if he had not been incredulous (unbelieving) as to His word.”
  - “Hence infidelity (faithlessness) was at the root of the revolt.”
- ▶ Hosea 6:7
  - “Like Adam . . . they have dealt treacherously against Me”
  - Hebrew: BAGAD = treachery in violation of a covenant
  - ESV: “They have dealt faithlessly against Me” (NET, Lexham, NIV)

# A Root Cause Analysis of Sin

- ▶ Spiritual life (new birth/regeneration) comes by faith (John 3:3-8)
- ▶ Saving or justifying faith only comes as a gift from God (Eph 2:8)
- ▶ The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable (Rom 11:29)
- ▶ The command in the Garden was to expose sin, not deliver from sin
- ▶ Adam and Eve were natural, not spiritual (1 Cor 15:45-49)
  - Adam – living soul – natural
  - Christ – a life giving spirit – from heaven

# The Fall (3:7-13)

- ▶ Eyes opened – nakedness and guilt (Heb 4:13)
- ▶ Knew good and evil (Isa 57:20-21)
- ▶ Made themselves loin coverings – self made religion
- ▶ Fear of God – hid themselves
- ▶ Ignorance of God – tried to deceive God
- ▶ They died!

# The Curse (3:14-19)

- ▶ The Serpent
  - Hostility between the serpent and the seed of the woman
  - Prot-envangelium – the first Gospel
- ▶ The woman
  - Pain in child bearing
  - Troublesome marriage
- ▶ The man
  - Lifetime labor to subdue and cultivate the earth
  - Physical death

# The Kindness of God (3:20-24)

- ▶ Garments of animal skins – a covering (atonement)
- ▶ Access to the Tree of Life is blocked and guarded

# The Serpent in Paradise

- ▶ The serpent is a lion (1 Peter 5:8)
  - A liar – seeking to deceive
  - A killer – seeking to kill
- ▶ The focus of his attack – our faith in Christ
- ▶ “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17)
- ▶ “Kept by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed” (1 Peter 1:5)