

The Reality of Salvation (Part 2)

Genesis 3:20-24

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Genesis 3:20-24 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. **21** The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. **22** And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of Us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." **23** So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. **24** After He drove the man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

I. Review (20-21)

- Faith
 - Adam names his wife Eve
 - Eve means life
 - She was the mother of the living
 - Even though there were no children
 - They knew they were going to die
 - Adam's naming of Eve = faith

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- What did God say?

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.

- Adam and Eve trusted God and believed His promise
- Atonement
 - Atonement means covering
 - God made covering for Adam and Eve
 - He did it by killing an innocent animal
 - Picture of what Christ would do
 - Christ's righteousness is our covering

II. Discipline of God (22-23)

- Man has become like Us, knowing good and evil
 - Knowing good and evil
 - God knows about evil but He never experiences it Himself
 - Only man knows evil within himself
 - Sin is in Adam and Eve completely
- God's discipline
 - However, Adam and Eve are now believers
 - Yes, and God disciplines His children
 - Why?

Hebrews 12:4-11 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. **5** And you have forgotten that word of

*encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, **6** because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son." **7** Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? **8** If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. **9** Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! **10** Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. **11** No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

- To produce holiness and righteousness in us
- Forces us to grow in Him
- To remove from us sinful tendencies
- His discipline removes us of our comfort
 - Banished man from the garden
 - Because man is no longer able to live in God's presence because of sin
 - God has to remove man from the Garden
 - Man and woman did not want to leave
 - Bars man from eating from the tree of life
 - Why?
 - If man ate from the tree of life
 - Then he would have lived forever
 - He would have lived in full weight of sin and misery
 - He would have lived an eternal life of second death
 - This was a merciful act by God
- His discipline increases sorrow and work
 - For Adam = working the ground
 - For Eve = having children
- His discipline brings death
 - Back to the ground where he came from
 - Death here is not the final, but it is our hope
 - Hope for a better country

III. Hope of Future (24)

- Cherubim guardian
 - At east side of Garden
 - Why?
 - Man and woman would have wanted to go back to the Garden
 - God prevented that
 - What is a cherubim?
 - Angelic beings
 - Usually around the throne of God

Ezekiel 10:1 *I looked, and I saw the likeness of a throne of sapphire above the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim.*

- On the Ark of the Covenant

Exodus 37:1, 6-9 Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. **6** He made the atonement cover of pure gold—two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. **7** Then he made two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. **8** He made one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; at the two ends he made them of one piece with the cover. **9** The cherubim had their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim faced each other, looking toward the cover.

2 Samuel 6:2 He and all his men set out from Baalah of Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim that are on the ark.

- They were angels that guarded God's glory and throne
- These angels protected the entrance to Eden
 - They prevented man from entering the Garden
 - They were preventing man from coming near God's presence
- The hope
 - God never destroyed the Garden before man's eyes
 - So where is the Garden?
 - It is gone, no longer here on earth
 - God never destroyed the tree of life
 - We will see it again!

Revelation 22:1-2 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2** down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

- This present world of sin and sorrow is not our home
 - God has prepared for us a better place!

Hebrews 11:13-16 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. **14** People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. **15** If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

- God allowed Adam (and all his descendents) to live and die
 - So that we look forward to a new body fit for eternal fellowship with God
 - This new body happens because of Christ who died and rose to crush Satan's head
 - When Christ rose again, He resurrected to a new body and we will have a body like His

Philippians 3:20-21 *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.*

1 Corinthians 15:49 *And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the Man from heaven.*

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 *Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— **52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.*

- In the mean time, we have hope
 - Why?

1 John 3:2-3 *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **3** Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

- He promises He will send a Savior
- He promises that the Savior will bring us back to Him
- We will be in His presence—what a promise!
- This is our hope—a sure confidence that God will do what He says He will do!
- In the end, at death, we look forward in being reunited with God forever