

Man's Predicament

April 23, 2017

Genesis 1:26-31 and Genesis 3

In the Beginning:

- God
- Creation
- Mankind was over all things.
- An uninhibited relationship with God was had, both by Adam and Eve.
- The fall of mankind – they/we messed up the relationship.
- *For as in Adam all die, even so, in Christ all shall be made alive.* **1 Corinthians 15:22**
- Sin – Anything that I think, do or say that goes against God and His Word.

Hamartia (Greek word)

- a. to be without a share in
- b. to miss the mark
- c. to err, be mistaken
- d. to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honor, to do or go wrong
- e. to wander from the law of God, violate God's law, sin¹

Sin is described in the Bible as transgression of the law of God (1 John 3:4) and **rebellion** against God (Deuteronomy 9:7; Joshua 1:18).²

How sin worked then and now:

Doubt:

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” **Genesis 3:1**

We doubt God's love.

We doubt God is enough.

We believe we need more than what God can give.

We doubt that God didn't mean what He said.

We doubt God knows best because we know better.

Know what God says:

And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” **Genesis 3:2-3** (knowledge isn't the problem per se)

¹ <http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/hamartia.html>

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/definition-sin.html>

Once doubt has set in and although knowing what is right, we listen to the enemy's half-truth. The enemy tells half-truths (at best, which is a lie). We don't know the whole truth until we have given in, wishing we hadn't.

Satan told Eve she would know good from evil (true) and their eyes would be opened (true). Satan also told them they would be like God (though already made in God's image) and he conveniently left out the part that they would die spiritually (lie).

Adam and Eve believed a lie, ignored the truth, and made a choice that has affected every person born since. God told them that the day they ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil they would die. They did not immediately die, but they began to die. This death was two-fold. First, it was separation from the life of God. This was the great divorce or separation that has plagued man ever since. Second, they eventually did experience physical death. All of creation was subjected to this frustration (see Romans 8:20). Death, decay and destruction entered God's perfect world because of rebellion and sin. When they disobeyed God, they became like Him in being able to discriminate between good and evil; but they became unlike Him in that they lost their sinlessness and eventually died.

So because of Adam and Eve, we are born into sin and we have also sinned. Afforded the same opportunity as Adam and Eve in the beginning, we would have done the same. How do we know? Because we do it today.

So like Adam and Eve, because of our sin we are:

Dead

Separated from God.

Hopeless

I can be:

Alive and live.

Connected with God.

Hopeful

Who am I in Christ?

Our Response/ Prayer Focus:

Unbelievers:

Put my trust in Jesus. .

Continue on our own.

Believers:

Follow Jesus with all I have.

Lay down my temptations and sin that entangles me.

Continue in Sin.