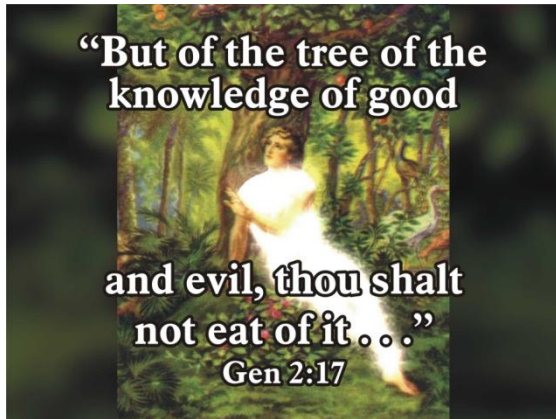


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 3



MAN'S FALL

Scripture Texts: Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3:4-9, Genesis 3:14-19, Genesis 3:22-24; Romans 5:12; Galatians 3:22

It is probable that loss of innocence is gradual. Knowledge of right and wrong comes concerning one thing, then others, and finally, conscience fully awakes. Paul said, **I was alive without the law once (innocence): but when the commandment came (knowledge of good and evil), sin revived, and I died (Romans 7:9).** Children should be taught to repent as soon as a sense of

sin comes over them.

Adam's sin was disobedience to God. It brought sin and death to all mankind. Only Jesus Christ can free us from this curse.

MEMORY VERSE: *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*

—Romans 5:12

The Law Given

Genesis 2:15-17 God gave just one law to Adam, Thou shall not eat of **the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.** The fruit had power to give him the sense of knowledge of right and wrong. To warn Adam fully, God told him the result joined with disobedience. **In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

The Law Broken

Genesis 3:4-6 We are not told how long Adam and Eve obeyed God's Law. Then Satan came to Eve through the serpent. He flatly contradicted God, **Ye shall not surely die.** He came with the most deceiving lie—half-truth and half-lie. (Read **John 8:44.**) He praised the fruit and its effect. He accused God of withholding something good. Eve knew God's command and warning. But while Satan drew a veil of deceit over her spiritual eyes, she looked at the fruit from the worldly viewpoint—the taste, the beauty, the power it would give. Deceived, she ate of it, gave it to Adam, and he ate. Adam sinned, but Eve was deceived. Eve listened to the voice of Satan, and Adam listened to the voice of his wife (**verse 17**). How many times in our day do we see Satan use the woman companion to influence the man to disobey God? Many, many times!

How did Eve come to sin? She listened to the Tempter, considered his proposal, decided to do it, and finally, acted. Then she led another to sin. When did sin enter? Is this pattern followed now? How should we treat temptation? Satan is the great deceiver. Jesus commanded to **Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation (Mark 14:38).**

The Result of Sin

Genesis 3:7-9 Immediately Adam and Eve died. God said, **In the day that thou eatest,** and His Word never fails. Death is separation. They were separated from God. They were at enmity with God. The life of God left them. (1) Their souls died, for sin had entered (**Ezekiel 18:4**). (2) Death entered their bodies. They became mortal. Their bodies began a dying process to be completed later (**Genesis 5:5**). (3) Their eyes were opened. They were no longer innocent. Knowing now good and evil, they knew they were naked. This brought a problem. (4) They hid from God. Guilt does not enjoy the presence of God. Their joy was gone. God says, **But**

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he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul (Proverbs 8:36). Oh, how they had wronged themselves and all mankind! **And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?** The Lord asks every person this serious question, and each must respond with his own answer. What is your answer to Him?

The death of the soul which came to mankind at the first sin is the first death. All of us have this death upon us. Allowed to continue, it will bring the second death which is hell (**Revelation 20:14**). To escape this, we must have here and now the first resurrection in which the soul is made alive (**Hebrews 11:35; Revelation 20:6**). These living, saved ones reign over sin in this world (**Romans 5:17**). When Jesus returns, these will have the second resurrection in which the body will be made immortal (**1 Corinthians 15:51-53**). How does one have part in the first resurrection? By repenting.

The Penalty for Sin

Genesis 3:14-19 God found them (He always does) and pronounced penalties upon each. The serpent would crawl on the ground and be hated by mankind. The woman in sorrow would bring forth children and be ruled over by her husband. Adam would see a curse on the ground causing weeds, thorns, and thistles to grow, resulting in difficult labor in his necessity to provide food. **In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread.** The Lord stated the fact of the death that had come to mankind—**for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**

Genesis 3:22-24 **Lest he . . . take also of the tree of life . . .** God sent him forth from the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. To live always in sin and death would be tragic. We are not suited for life until made holy. The tree of life would be restored later to those spiritually alive (**Revelation 22:2, Revelation 22:14**).

Result to the Human Race

Romans 5:12 **Death by sin.** Sin and death are inseparably joined. Here the entrance of sin is attributed to Adam. (Also, **1 Corinthians 15:22, As in Adam all die.**) While Eve sinned first, Adam followed closely. Man being the head of the woman is considered responsible. **Death passed upon all.** Adam's sin brought the tendency to sin into the nature of mankind. Every person has the tendency from birth to live FOR self and BY self. As soon as one knows right from wrong, he commits sin.

Galatians 3:22 God **hath concluded all under sin.** Some sin much, some not so much. Why does God lump all together? Because He hates all sin and loves all people, He cannot bear to exclude any from the salvation He has prepared. **That he might have mercy upon all (Romans 11:32).**

Christ has promised cleansing from all sin to all who will believe on Him. We must believe He is God and that His death is the perfect sacrifice for us.

JUST A THOUGHT

Acting without thinking is like shooting without aiming.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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