

The Beginning – Part 3

Introduction & Review

- The Bible establishes that everything was good in the beginning at creation (Gen. 1:4, 10...., 31).
- Adam & Eve willfully disobeyed God and experienced the devastating consequences of sin (Gen. 3:1-6).
- The human response to sin: attempting to cover-up (3:7b), hide (3:8, 10) & blame (3:11-13).
- God's response to sin: seeking the offender (3:8a) & confronting (3:9-13).

I. The Consequences of Sin for the Serpent

A. Humiliation (Gen. 3:14)

The serpent was created by God, used for evil & symbolizes opposition to God (Gen. 2:19; 3:1; Rev. 12:9). No questions & no opportunity to confess for the serpent (Jn. 8:44). God's judgments are always justified – “Because you have done this”. Satan is the initiator of temptation leading to sin. This curse & humiliation is to be a sobering reminder to all who defy God – crawling & eating dust with no relief.

B. Defeat (Gen. 3:15)

There is intense hostility & hatred from Satan toward people who are made in God's image – “enmity”. God gives gospel hope & prophetically declares victory over Satan thru Christ – “bruise your head”. Cain reveals the hatred toward Abel – “your offspring” & “her offspring”.

II. The Consequences of Sin for the Woman

A. Pain (Gen. 3:16a)

One of Eve's unique & primary roles in life was motherhood – privilege & duty. God added pain to childbirth as a sobering reminder of yielding to deceptive lies & temptation. This increased pain is not called a curse, but it is a penalty for her sin.

B. Reluctant Submission (Gen. 3:16b)

Another primary role in life for Eve was to be a wife. God also brings a sobering reminder that Eve's sin brought strife in marriage – natural desire to control her husband (3:6; 4:7). But God has ordained the husband to be the leader – “he shall rule over you” (1Co. 11:3); leader in humility, love, faith, sacrifice, courage, etc.

III. The Consequences of Sin for the Man

A. Pain (Gen. 3:17-19a)

One of Adam's primary roles in life was leader & provider for his family – husband & father. God's judgment against Adam is for not being a leader with his wife – “Because you have listened...” (3:17a). The pain & difficulty in working to providing the families' needs is a sobering reminder of yielding to temptation under pressure (3:17b-19a).

B. Death (Gen. 3:19b)

The pain & difficulty in working is intended to be life-long (v. 19a). There is no designed lifestyle of unproductive retirement as Americans view it; working & providing was to end in death. Physical death is the direct result of Adam's blatant disobedience – “return to the ground” (3:19b; Rom. 5:12). “return” means that sin brought about a reversal or deterioration of the physical body. Spiritual death had occurred immediately when they disobeyed. God had warned about death & the serpent denied it (2:17; 3:4).