

# The Justice of God & the Grace of God

## Sunday, June 5, 2022

### INTRODUCTION:

- Genesis 3 is one of the most important chapters in all the Bible. Genesis 1 & 2 describe a perfect world that is hard to imagine, but we live in a Genesis 3 world.
- In the last few weeks, we have looked at Satan & how he tempted Adam & Eve. We know that sin has impacted every aspect of God's creation.
- But what impact did sin have on God? Have you ever thought about that? How did God react to Genesis 3? What is God's response to sin in the world today?
- Previously, we saw the pattern that Satan follows in temptation. Today, we will see a pattern of how God responds to sin. Always in two ways: With judgment & with grace.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. God's judgment of the Serpent (Genesis 3:14-15)
  - a. If you don't remember anything we say this morning, remember: God always judges sin.
  - b. God's judgment on Satan was to be cursed above all creatures. Notice the phrases in verse 14 - "above all & above every beast."
    1. There is a double meaning in this curse. There was an immediate curse for the literal serpent and there is a future curse against the Tempter, Satan.
    2. God says in this verse that "because you have done this - because you have tempted and led man to sin - you are cursed above all other creatures." The Tempter is doomed forever. There is no hope for him.
  - c. We see that the serpent was cursed to crawl on his belly all the days of his life.
    1. This means he was cursed to be hated and miserable.
    2. Do you see how this applies to both the literal serpent and to Satan? Most people hate both!
  - d. We also see that the tempter was cursed to eat dust all the days of his life.
    1. This means that he is cursed to be defeated and humiliated. That is the literal meaning of "to eat dust." To eat dust is to be defeated!
    2. This is a powerful reminder for you and me. It often seems that Satan is winning and the world is getting worse and worse. But Satan has been defeated and always will be (see Rev. 20:10 to learn his eternal fate).
  - e. In verse 15, we see that the Tempter was to be the object of enmity.
    1. This word means hatred and hostility. From this point on there would be a hatred between mankind and Satan.
    2. Do you hate sin? Every Christian should. Think of the evil that Satan has brought on this world: war, death, illness, divorce, accidents, drugs and alcohol.
2. God's judgment of the woman (vs. 16)
  - a. Now it was time for the man and woman to stand before God in judgment. What a scary thought! But it is a thought we must each consider.
    1. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says that we must each stand before the judgment seat of Christ! That is you - that is me.
    2. We will all give an account of our lives to God. That ought to make a difference in the way we live!
  - b. The woman was to experience many forms of pain. The text indicates three specifics:
  - c. First, the woman would experience pain in having children.
    1. Anyone who has seen the birth of a child knows that they are witnessing a miracle. The birth of a child brings joy to a family - it is a time of celebration! But is also a time of great pain and suffering by the mother.
    2. Genesis 3 reminds us that this was not God's plan. Had Eve not sinned, the experience of childbirth would have been easy and pleasant.
  - d. Second, the woman would experience suffering in having children.

1. At first, this seems to simply repeat the previous point, but is actually a reference to raising children.
2. On Mother's Day, we talked about how no one loves like a mother. Also, no one hurts like a mother. Women have a much deeper ability to suffer emotionally than men.
- e. Finally, the relationship between the husband and wife would be forever changed. The first institution that God ever created would forever suffer because of their sin.
3. God's judgment of the man (vs. 17-19)
  - a. Because of Adam's sin, the ground is now cursed.
    1. Thorns now plague the world (vs. 18). Most theologians explain that this is more than a reference to a plant. Instead it is a reference to all the ways that sin would now impact the earth: weeds, bacteria, viruses, fangs, claws, storms, tornados, floods...
    2. The ground would be very hard work to get the ground to yield food. In Genesis 1-2, Adam was responsible look after the garden, but it wasn't hard work! Now it would be.
  - b. Finally, man would now die and return to dust.
    1. They didn't die at that moment physically - but they did die spiritually. Now their sin separated them from God.
    2. But they also began the process of dying in their physical bodies. God made Adam from dust, and now he would be destined to return to dust.
    3. What are the big takeaway's in this passage? Sin changed everything; sin makes everything harder; God always judges sin.
  - c. But there is a beautiful side to God's judgment. There is also God's grace.
4. The Grace of God for All (vs. 15)
  - a. It is difficult to see anything good in these verses. But it is there! Look at the end of verse 15. It is one of the most extraordinary verses in all the Bible.
  - b. This verse teaches that there will now be an ongoing war between good and evil.
  - c. Where is the hope? Look at the important parts of this verse:
    1. "The seed of the woman" is a future reference to Jesus Christ - who would be born of a woman.
    2. "Bruise his heel" is referring to an injury but not a life-threatening injury.
    3. "Crush his head" is referring to a life-ending injury.
  - d. SUMMARY: In this cosmic war, the seed of the woman (Jesus) will be wounded (bruise His heel), but the serpent (the Devil) will be crushed (bruise his head).
  - e. This is a direct reference to Christ's victory on the Cross in defeating the devil, and paying for the sin and the judgment of death.
  - f. We live in a war-zone - but the war has already been won! That is the Gospel - that is Good News!

CONCLUSION: That is the God we serve.

- He is a holy God - a God that is perfect - a God who cannot allow sin to go unpunished.
- He is a God that we will all stand before and give an account for our lives.
- Every sinful word, every sinful thought, every sinful deed will be recognized.
- And every sin must be punished. Why? Because God is just. Justice demands that every wrong be made right. But in the midst of God's judgment we find grace.
- We have a choice to make: We can accept the penalty for our sins and be separated from God in Hell forever. Or, we can accept what Jesus did on the Cross as payment for the sinful things we have done.
- If we do, we will be forgiven. We will experience God's grace now and in eternity.
- That's Good News. Have you accepted the Gospel? Have you experienced God's grace?