

# The Justice of God & the Grace of God

## Sunday, December 21, 2025

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 3:14-15)
  - a. It's important to 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. 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.
  - 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. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 16)
  - a. Now it was time for the man and woman to stand before God in judgment.
    1. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says that we must each stand before the judgment seat of Christ!
    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.
  - d. Second, the woman would experience suffering in having children.
  - 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 17-19)
  - a. Because of Adam's sin, the ground is now cursed.
    1. Thorns now plague the world (vs. 18).

2. The ground would be very hard work to get the ground to yield food.
- b. Man would now die and return to dust.
  1. They didn't die at that moment physically – but they did die spiritually.
  2. 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.
- c. What is the big takeaway in this passage? Sin changed everything; sin makes everything harder; God always judges sin.
4. The Grace of God for \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 15)
  - a. 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.
  - b. 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).
  - c. 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.
  - d. 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?