

## **Genesis 3:22-24**

With our Backs to Eden

*Backward glances ...*

- I. Ejected from Eden
  - A. Banished from Paradise
  - B. Cut off from Life
  - C. Barred from God
- II. Lost and Longing
  - A. Aching for Home
  - B. Dying Inside and Out
  - C. Desperate for Communion
- III. Reversal Through Redemption
  - A. Paradise Regained
  - B. New Life in Christ
  - C. Access in Christ
- IV. Hearts Toward Heaven
  - A. A Vision of Newness
  - B. Hope of Eternal Life
  - C. Unbroken Fellowship with God

*... astounding promises.*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. How did God punish Adam and Eve?
2. What guarded the way to the tree of life?
3. Adam and Eve were happy and holy in the garden. What were they now?
4. How can sinners get back into a good relationship with God?
5. We will never get back to Eden, but is there another Paradise for God's people? What is it called?

## **Backward Glances**

To leave something behind “without a backward glance,” usually means that you have no regrets and can move happily on to the next place or the next phase of life. You can be sure that our first parents had no such “happy” experience when they were cast out of the Garden of Eden. How they would miss the glorious natural setting, their harmonious interaction with creation and untainted fellowship with one another, and most heart-breaking of all, they would miss sweet unhindered fellowship with their God. The initial impact upon realizing what they had done must have been excruciatingly bitter. They would always look back with deep sorrow and experience a continual longing for things to be the way they once were again. Their initial grief would soon be aggravated by the tangible effects of their new state. Such would be the case for their posterity – and such is the case for us down to this day. Deep down inside we long for things to be right again but we are incapable of undoing what has been done – there is no going back to Eden. Thanks be to God for His great mercy and kindness. He does for us what we could never do and then some. Through Christ He restores us to fellowship with God and with His children and He provides for us a Paradise far beyond what even Adam and Eve could comprehend in their pristine state. We may shoot some glance backward to what once was – and grief over what has come to be – but in Christ we have a taste of Heaven now – and with eye fixed on what is to come in the new heavens and new earth.