

Class #1 - The Gospel's Gracious Declaration

Heritage Presbyterian Church is a Christian church that believes and preaches the Gospel—the good news about Jesus proclaimed in the Scriptures. But why do I need to hear good news? What exactly is the good news?

Introduction

Heidelberg Catechism Q 2 *How many things are necessary for you to know that you may live and die happily?*

A. Three; the first, how great my sins and miseries are; the second, how I may be delivered from all my sins and miseries; the third, how I shall express my gratitude to God for such deliverance.

I. A Sinner Trapped in a World of Suffering

A. The Perfect Beginning

1. Creation in General (Genesis 1-2)

2. Creation of Man (Gen 1:26-31, 2:18-25)
 - a. Unique in Ability

 - b. Unique in Relationship

Referred to as the state of innocence

Ecclesiastes 7:29: "Lo, this only have I found, that God has made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."

B. The Probationary Test

1. Adam's Position

2. Adam's "Probation"
 - a. **Genesis 2:16-17:** *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

 - b. **Purpose:** *Prove whether man would obey God simply for who He is, without any "natural" reason*

C. The Cataclysmic Fall

1. Why does Adam's Sin Affect Us? (Romans 5:12)
 - *Is this fair?*

2. How does Adam's Sin Affect Us?
 - a. Sinfulness (Genesis 6:5, Romans 3:10-18, Ephesians 2:1-3)

 - b. Misery (Genesis 3:24, Ecclesiastes 2:22-23, John 3:36)

Referred to as the state of nature

Ephesians 2:1-3: *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked...and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

D. Summary

1. Man **created** good and upright, in fellowship and communion with God.
2. Man **tested** in Garden; Adam, as God-appointed representative head of human race, fails the test.
3. Mankind **plunges** into sin and misery; nature now corrupt; man stands in rebellion against God.
4. **Result:** You are a sinner trapped in a world of suffering.

II. The Savior Come to Deliver Wretched Sinners

A. The Gospel Distorted

B. The Gospel Defined

1. ***NOT*** what *we do*, but rather what *God has done*.
2. What has God done?
3. Why you need another Adam.

Next week: The Gospel's Gracious Demands - Believe, repent, and receive by faith all that God has done for sinners in Christ.