

TWO TREES
CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TWO-PT 2
GENESIS 2-3, 5:5

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INTRODUCTION

Last Sunday morning we began looking at the stark contrast between **two trees** mentioned in Scripture that stand out more than all other trees since time began! **In fact, these two trees have had more of an impact on mankind than any and all of the other trees combined!**

These two trees that we're looking at are:

- 1) **The Tree Of Knowledge Of Good And Evil.**
- 2) **The Cross Of Christ.**

Last week we saw that:

1A. *THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A TREE FORBIDDEN FOR MANKIND! (Genesis 2:16-17)*

1B. *THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS A TREE REQUIRED FOR MANKIND! John 3:14-15—“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (Cf. Numbers 21:4-9)*

This morning let's see another contrast between these two trees:

2A. **THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A PLACE OF DEATH! (Genesis 2:17)**

In Genesis 2:17, when the LORD God warned Adam against eating of that tree, He told him, “...for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

The Hebrew rendering is *“dying thou shalt die.”*

In *Genesis 3:6*, when Eve ate the fruit of the forbidden tree and gave to Adam and he ate the fruit of the forbidden tree along with her, **there was a definite change that instantaneously took place in both of them!**

Adam and Eve both *died spiritually* that day (We'll talk about what that means here in just a moment!) So when the LORD God said that they would *surely die* in the day that they ate. That did take place!

Additionally, Adam and Eve **began to die physically that day!**

You ever heard of someone who was under a sentence of death called *“a dead man walking!”* OR maybe someone says *“they are as good as dead”*. That was the case with Adam and Eve!

Understand that though Scripture records that Adam lived 930 years (which is a good long time), nevertheless, the sentence of death because of sin assured that he was *“a dead man walking” (i.e. He was “as good as dead” and could have died at any moment along that 930 year path that he walked this earth!)*

That one act of sin by mankind was the greatest tragedy of all time because of its great impact on all mankind and even all creation!

A. **That One Act Of Sin Was Tragic Because Of Its Internal Impact On Man! (Genesis 3:7-13)**

The **internal impact** on man was that **he died spiritually!**

In *Genesis 2:15-25*, God gave man some responsibilities! God put man in the garden to dress it and to keep it. (Vs 15) God gave him freedom to eat with responsibility. (Vs 16-17) God gave him the responsibility to name every living creature. (Vs 19-20) God gave him the responsibility to lead a mate, a help meet. (Vs 21-25)

Understand that **man**, unlike any other creature, **was made to have fellowship with God!** But, **man's sin broke that fellowship. (Genesis 3:8-10)**

What a great tragedy to have had sweet fellowship with the God of the universe one day and to be spiritually dead the next!

In *Genesis 3:12-13*, we find man trying to pass the buck on responsibility.

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Mankind today is still trying to pass the buck on responsibility for their sin:

"Its not my fault, it was my family. . .or my friends."

"It was the neighborhood I grew up in."

"It is because I grew up poor."

"The devil made me do it!"

That One Act Of Sin Was A Tragic Because Of Its Internal Impact On Man!

B. That One Act Of Sin Was Tragic Because Of Its External Impact On Creation!

1. All Of Creation Was Cursed! (Genesis 3:14)

All of plant life and animal life were affected!

Every time you have to pull weeds out of your garden or flower bed it should remind you of the consequences of sin!

Every time you have to slap a mosquito or a gnat it should remind you of the consequences of sin!

Every time you have to go to the doctor or have to take medicine it should remind you of the consequences of sin!

2. The Battle Of The Ages Began! (Genesis 3:15)

The battle for the souls of men was on!

Satan desires to keep souls damned for eternity in hell!

God wants those same souls to live for ever with Him in heaven!

3. Toil And Trouble Began! (Genesis 3:16-19)

Work did not begin, but labor did! (Genesis 2:15)

a. Labor In Childbirth!

b. Labor In Work!

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4. Physical Death Began! (Genesis 3:21)

Up to this point there had been no death.

5. Paradise Was Lost! (Genesis 3:22-24)

The most perfect place God created was forfeited by man! It says in verse 24 that God "***drove out the man!***"

Internal Impact...External Impact...

C. That One Act Of Sin Was Tragic Because Of Its Eventual Impact On Man!

*Genesis 5:5—"And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: **and he died.**"*

The Eventual Impact Includes Physical Death:

Man began to die physically the day that he ate of the fruit! Since that time man has continued to die physically!

Every cemetery is a testimony to the tragedy of sin!

Every cemetery is a reminder that we too will pass that way!

Hebrews 9:27—" . . .it is appointed unto men once to die. . ."

Psalm 89:48—"What man is he that liveth; and shall not see death?"

Ecclesiastes 3:20—"All go unto one place; all are of dust, and all turn to dust again."

Romans 5:12—"Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin."

Every person who loses a loved one to death wants to know "***why***" – The ***why*** is found in the consequences of Adam's sin!

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The Eventual Impact Includes Eternal Death:

Hebrews 9:27—“ . . .It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment.

Revelation 20:14—“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

Internal Impact...External Impact...Eventual Impact...

D. That One Act Of Sin Was Tragic Because Of Its Universal Impact On Creation!

1. All Of Mankind Was Impacted!

Romans 5:12—“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

2. All Of Creation Was Impacted!

Romans 8:19-22

E. That One Act Of Sin Was Tragic Because Of Its Eternal Impact On Man!

1. Because Of Sin Man Was Doomed In His Sin!

Eternal Death. Separation from God for eternity in hell.

2. Because Of Sin A Substitute Was Needed!

(Genesis 3:21)

a. A Substitute As A Sacrifice For The Sinner!

Romans 6:23—“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.”

Romans 5:20-21—“But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”

b. As Substitute As A Covering For The Sinner!

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2 Corinthians 5:21—“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

Christ is our covering! He is our Atonement!
He is our Righteousness!

3. Because Of Sin Our Substitute Came!

And that brings us to the contrast of the other tree we are talking about—THE CROSS OF CHRIST!

THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A PLACE OF DEATH!

2B. THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS A PLACE OF LIFE!

A. The Cross Of Christ Brings Us SPIRITUAL LIFE Here And Now!

The TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL was a living tree that brought forth DEATH in mankind because of disobedience, but THE CROSS OF CHRIST was a DYING tree that brought LIFE because of obedience!

1. First There Was Christ’s Obedience!

Philippians 2:8—“...he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Luke 19:10—“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

How did Christ accomplish that? By His “obedience unto death, even the death of the cross!”

2. Then There Is The Obedience Of The Sinner To Believe The Gospel!

Ephesians 2:1—“And you hath He [JESUS CHRIST] quickened who were dead in trespasses and sin.”

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How was that accomplished? When we **obeyed** the Gospel **believed** on Christ's **finished work** on the Cross of Calvary on our behalf!

John 3:16—"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 8:1—"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."

The Cross Of Christ Brings Us Spiritual Life Here And Now!

B. The Cross Of Christ Brings Us Physical Life Hereafter!
(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57)

Hebrews 2:9—"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

As one song we sing at Easter says, "*We shall rise, hallelujah, we shall rise!*"

C. The Cross Of Christ Brings Us Eternal Life Here And Hereafter!
Eternal life is a present possession for those who are in Christ!

John 3:36—"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on Him.

John 5:24—"Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life."

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Conclusion

THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A PLACE OF DEATH!

We all are partakers of that tree because of our position of being "*in Adam*". But we don't have to be stuck with all of the consequences of that tree! We have an alternative! We have another tree!

THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS A PLACE OF LIFE!

We become partakers in the Cross of Christ by grace through faith which changes our position from being under condemnation to being "*in Christ*"!

And our position of being "*in Christ*" gives us **spiritual life** and guarantees us **eternal life!**