

Tests that Challenge Self-Deceit

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Genesis 3:1-13

Introduction

What did you think about exams at school or College or University? What about in trade school? Why are students afraid of exams? Although there are a number of reasons such as procrastination, lack of preparation and study for the exam, fear of failure, poor study habits, distorted/irrational thinking – the number one reason, I believe is “exposure”. Exams expose. They expose the reality of the level of knowledge and ability of the student. Unfortunately, students are reduced to a label of “Passing” or “Failing”, when in fact many exams in our culture simply test the ability of the student to remember “facts” as opposed to be able to take this “facts” and put them into practice in real life.

When I coach or counsel, we want to develop real life scenarios that “expose” and prove the maturity level of each client. It is critical to be tested by life through various trials and difficult relationship issues in order to reveal areas of our character that needs maturity.

Whether you are religious or not this morning, we MUST all be TESTED:

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, *consider it an opportunity* for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is **tested**, your *endurance has a chance to grow*. 4 So let it grow, for **when your endurance is fully developed**, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.” James 1:2-4 (New Living Translation)

One of the “life significant skill” that NO student ever learns about is how to test their defense mechanisms in relationships, especially self-deceit. There are no classes on how we lie to ourselves.

How old is the problem of deception and self-deception?

“I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be *led astray* from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:3)

In our passage this morning, we find Adam and Eve – the father and mother of humanity – EXPOSED by a test. In this test and in their failure, some dangerous truths have been exposed. But these dangerous truths don’t simply apply to Adam and Eve. As Pastor R. Kent Hughes notes

“Adam and Eve, as our parents, were genetically, historically, and theologically *every man and every woman*. They are **paradigmatic of all of us**—not only in their original sin, but because the way they attempted to deal with their sin is the pattern with which we attempt to deal with it today¹

Please turn in your Bibles to Genesis 2:25, we will read Genesis 2:25 to Genesis 3:13. This is God’s Inspired and Truthful Word:

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

**He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”
2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.**

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” 11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” 12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Here we find a test. Here we find failure. And with the time that we have this morning, I want to ask the question, “How does the test of deceit play out with our First Parents and with us?”

1. Spiritual Warfare Test – Do you recognize your enemy?

¹ Hughes, R. K. (2004). [Genesis: beginning and blessing](#) (p. 76). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

By developing a Biblical balanced view of Satan. “**Now** the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made....” (Genesis 3:1a)

The Bible begins and ends with discussing the reality of Satan. Satan is not a myth. We have no doubt who this Serpent is because the Bible tells us.

1) John recognized our enemy:

Revelation 12:9 – “9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that **ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world**”

2) Jesus recognized who the enemy was and this enemy can affect us:

In John 8:44- Jesus said of the Religious Leaders of His day who were leading people astray: “44 You are of your ***father the devil***, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a **murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and **the father of lies**”

3) We should recognize our enemy does not give up

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you..... 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your ***adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour***. 9 Resist him (1 Peter 5:6-9)

4) If you are not a Christian this morning recognize that Satan wants to keep it that way

“Satan, who is the god of this world, has **blinded the minds of those who don’t believe**. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They *don’t understand this message* about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God (2 Corinthians 4:4) (NLT)

- 5) Christians should recognize our enemy by daily, hourly, putting the entire armour of God

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore **take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day**, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the **belt of truth**, (instead of deceit-lies) and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness** (protect our hearts-emotions), 15 and, as **shoes for your feet**, having put on the readiness given by the **gospel of peace** (positional Gospel peace irrespective of circumstances). 16 In all circumstances take up the **shield of faith**, *with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one*; 17 and take the **helmet of salvation**, (protect your mind against distorted, deceitful thinking) and the **sword of the Spirit**, *which is the word of God*.

The Serpent is under humankind, and knows it.

- 6) ***We should recognize that Satan is on a time clock and will be defeated....and he knows it!*** In

Matthew 8:29 when the demons saw Jesus they cried out “And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us ***before [our appointed] time?***”

James 2:19 - You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! ***Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.***

Revelation 20:1-2, 10 – “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, **that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan**, and **bound him for a thousand years..... and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

Jesus was to have ultimate victory over Satan, Prophesied in Genesis 3:15 and fulfilled with His Death, burial and Resurrection:

1 John 3:8- “...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil...”

Romans 16:20 “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

There is a second test to challenge self deceit:

2. The Spiritual Leadership Test - Do we fail to take our calling seriously?

“Now the serpent was *more crafty than* any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman.....” (Genesis 3:1a,b)

Adam’s left his wife wide open to deceit. Eve was left exposed and defenseless. God created Adam and Eve with certain non-negotiable roles. Adam was to responsible to own his roles and lames.

“LORD God formed (shaped/made) the man...” (Genesis 2:7)

“..the **LORD God** planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put (appointed) **the man** whom he had formed” (Genesis 2:8)

“15 The **LORD God** took **the man** and put (charged) him in the garden of Eden to work (serve/ worship) it and keep (protect/preserve) it. “ (Genesis 2:15)

“16 And the **LORD God** commanded the man, saying, “**You may** surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 **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.**” (Genesis 2:16-17)

Who did God form, appoint, put in charge, define his purposes to? THE MAN! (Adam). Who was to serve/worship and work for God? THE MAN! (Adam)

Who was to protect and preserve God’s Word and the Creation? THE MAN! (Adam).

The target of deception, Eve, was left exposed by Adam’s deliberate silence. But just stop for a moment and look at the text. Do not be so quick as to jump ahead. Eve was left defenseless and exposed. **Adam kept his mouth shut when he should have said something.**

God calls husbands to physically, financially and ultimately, spiritually protect, preserve and replenish their relationships with their wives.

In Genesis 2:24 “Therefore **a man** shall **leave** his father and his mother and **hold fast** to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh.**” The man replaces the closest, intimate relationship of Father and Mother to be replaced by his wife. He is to be “glued” to her, not in a codependent manner, but in terms of loyalty and commitment. He is protecting and provide. He is to be a secure base to which she can return daily. He is to be a safe have where she feels emotionally, physically, safe. He is to intentionally initiate a desire to attune to her needs, and affirm perspectives. He is to have a sacrificial service to her life without coddling or creating entitlement. He is to lovingly speak the truth and be humble and teachable to reason with her. He is to develop resilience in working through the challenges of life.

How important is this to God? A writer of the New Testament, Paul quotes Genesis 2:24 in Ephesians 5:31: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

Paul also exhort husbands in Ephesians 5:25-26: “25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her **by the washing of water with the Word** (Eph 5:25–26.)

In the midst of unjust suffering and trials, Peter encourages husbands to in 1 Peter 3:7

“Live in an understanding way, live in a way whereby the husband seeks to understand his wife that gains a fuller knowledge of who she is, because she is the more delicate, precious vessel, as a co-heir of Christ, so that nothing hinders his prayers to God.” (*paraphrase mine*)

Men, husbands and young men, we need God to give us the grace, humility and teachable hearts to protect our wives and families through prayer and the study of the Word. This can be a challenging test.

What if I am a single Mom...or abandoned as a wife?: Isaiah 54:5 – “For your Maker is ***your husband*** — the LORD Almighty is his name— the Holy One of Israel is **your Redeemer**; he is called the God of all the earth.” Press into Him and His Word.

This leads to our third “Test” that all of us must pass

3. **The Biblical Authority Test** – Do we trust God at His Word?

Genesis 3:1 “Did God actually say..?”

All self deception begins with doubting God’s Word. Listen carefully to what I am not saying. There is a difference having a question about God’s Word that we need further clarity on. An explanation so we can better understand. A great example of this is in Nehemiah 8 when the people heard Ezra read the Word of God to them .

“And he read The Book of the Law.....And the ears of all the people were **attentive** to the Book of the Law.....the **Levites**, **helped the people to understand** the Law, while the people remained in their places. **8 They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.**” (Nehemiah 8:3-4, 7-8).

Or in the Early Church: ““Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they **received the message with great eagerness** and **examined the Scriptures every day** to see if what Paul said was true.” (Acts 17:11)

- 1) **Eve distrusts God's Word by listening to Satan *doubting* God's Word:** "Did God really say?" - This is not what Satan does. He immediately casts doubt on what God says in His Word. Yet, if we let the Bible speak for itself within its context we find that over 2,500 times in the Old Testament alone the Bible asserts that God spoke what is written within its pages.²

In Deuteronomy 18:18 God said to Moses: "**I will put my words in his mouth**, and he will tell them everything I command him." On his deathbed David testified, "**The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me**; his word was on my tongue" (2 Sam. 23:2). God spoke to Isaiah of "**my words that I have put in your mouth**" (Isa. 59:21). Second Chronicles 34:14 tells of "the Book of the **Law of the LORD that had been given** (to) and through Moses." The prophet Zechariah wrote of "**the words that the LORD Almighty** had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets" (Zech. 7:12³).

How does James 1:6-8 describe someone who doubts God's Word, therefore lacks discernment and wisdom in challenging time?

"...the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is **driven** and **tossed** by the wind (circumstances). 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 **he is a double-minded man, unstable** in all his ways."

- 2) **Eve distrusts God's Word by being *distracted* by what God restricted instead of what He provided:** 'You shall **not** eat of **any** tree in the garden'? (Genesis 3:1). Actually God said in Genesis 2:16-17 - "You may surely eat of **every tree** of the garden, 17 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." We often focus on what we believe God has restricted as opposed to being satisfied in what He has graciously provided.

² John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), p. 69.

³ Norman L. Geisler, *Systematic Theology, Volume One: Introduction, Bible* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2002), 230.

3) **Eve distrusts God's Word by *denying* the consequence of disobeying God's Word.** Genesis 3:4
But the serpent said to the woman, "You will ***not surely*** die...". Let us remind ourselves what God actually said to Adam in Genesis 2:16-17 – "16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying,

"You *may surely eat* of every tree of the garden, 17 **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.***"

Eve's self deceit is to dismiss the consequences of her attitude and actions and fourth she seemed to focus on the restriction to her autonomy and hunger for knowledge to control life as a god. Derek Kidner states:

"It is the serpent's word against God's, and the first doctrine to be denied is judgment"⁴

The only way we can keep from being deceived is to take responsibility to know what God actually says in His Word – in context! Each Believer is responsible to know what God actually says. No where in the Bible does it we simply need to just read the Bible. There is emphasis on studying the Bible. Even if you are not a Christian this morning, have you ever studied the Bible? Really worked through what the Bible actually says? This is NOT the same as listening to our favorite YouTube sound bite that supports what we believe.

.....This goes for individuals: Paul exhorts the Young Pastor Timothy to "15Do your best to present yourself to God as **one approved**, (tested by fire, proven and examined under the heart of difficult circumstances) a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

This is why Paul warns and instructs the early Church in Ephesus:

"while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, ***deceiving and being deceived.***
14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 **All Scripture** is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:13-17)

⁴ Derek Kidner, Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary, vol. 1, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1967), p.72.

Therefore, every believer ought to know that every part of God's Word is God's Breathed and is useful... of deep value...profitable for Teaching us (What is Right)...Exposing and Rebuking us (When we are not right)...for Correcting us (Getting us Right)...Training us (so we Stay Right) so we are Equipped (Live Right).

We have studied 3 tests we can take and pass in order to overcome self deception and deception: The Spiritual Warfare Test....The Spiritual Leadership Test....third, the Biblical Authority Test...

This next test we just CANNOT afford to fail.

4. The Eye sight Test. Do we lose sight of Whose we are and what we demand?

One of the greatest ways we can deceive ourselves and lie to ourselves is to convince ourselves that we see when we don't. One the greatest tests is for God to give us in our Relationship with Him is to see if we will interpret life through His lens or ours. We see life through our own agenda and will, not God's.

"But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it ***your eyes will be opened***, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

6 So when *the woman* ***saw*** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a ***delight to the eyes***, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate"

7 Then ***the eyes of both were opened***, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths." (Genesis 3:4-5, 6-7)

Notice how these verses are "book ended" with "eyes...opened". The beauty of the Bible is this is often for emphasis to excuse the pun "gain our attention", to see if we are really looking....

What does “your eyes will be opened” mean? Old Testament Commentator Kenneth Mathews explains:

““your eyes will be opened,” a metaphor for knowledge, suggesting a newfound awareness not previously possessed. In the Old Testament this awareness sometimes is said to be obtained through divine assistance. And finally, they will gain what belongs to God, “knowing good and evil.” Essentially, he is contending that ***God is holding her back—a claim that is sometimes echoed today***.⁵

- 1) **We lose sight believing God is holding back:** Her perspective and sight focus on the deception that God was holding back from her. Satan could of said this same deception in various ways, all of them which we are self deceived today.

Satan is saying, “Think about his Eve:

“(1) You do not need God – He is not enough anyway – You can be your own god.

(2) God does not want you to be Him knowing everything!

(3) God must be keeping something back from you

(4) God cannot be trusted with that which matter most.

(5) God is not good. He restricts your identity and meaning – You must create your own identity of who you are

(6) You can decide and create your own version and definition of what is good and evil. You do not need God to interpret life for you.

(7) You can be right in your own eyes! You can be an individualistic Being with no need for a reference to God!

(8) You can invent and shape a god of your own choosing – In your own image!

(9) You can exchange His truth for your truth. Truth is what YOU decide it to be.”

- 2) ***We lose sight by evaluating what we want through a shallow evaluation*** –“when the woman ***saw*** that the fruit good for fruit”

In Genesis 1 6 times we read “God saw”, meaning that God exclusively determines what is good and beneficial (Genesis 1:3, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25). God’s provision was perfect and sufficient. God is the ONLY One who can accurately evaluate what is “good” and “evil

⁵ K. A. Mathews, Genesis 1-11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), pp. 236–237.

Genesis 3 lays the foundation of “everyone doing what is right in their own eyes”

Proverbs 3:7 – “Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.”

When we do what is “right in our own eyes” – we S.I.N. S.I.N. is always a

shallow substitute of God’s Authentic Plan and Relationship with us and

An **individualistic pursuit** to “enhance” or “better” our world our way because we believe God’s good is not good enough. God cannot be trusted with that which matters most. So, we then

negatively navigate our world’s our way. The result? We miss God’s good entirely. We introduce relational misery, despair and heartache (which is the result of “Evil”).

How was Eve’s Shallow Evaluation Self deceptive?

(1) Eve **convinced** herself that God was not good. Eve’s focus should have been on the God who is Good and not objectifying the “fruit” as good. But she was being convinced that God was not good. Eve made herself the determiner of what is God and not good. God alone determines what is and is not “good”. She assumes the role which determines what is “good” in her own eyes.

(2) Eve **craved with her eyes**, to design her own good: “saw that the tree was good for food, and that it **was a delight to the eyes**” (3:6b)

The Hebrew noun “**delight**” means a “**craving⁶**” to the eye. The idea of the word is an insatiable yearning, longing which becomes a demand.” David warns that “.....the wicked boasts of the *desires* of his soul, and the one greedy for gain...” (Psalm 10:3). The same word and expression is found in (Numbers 11:4, Psalms 78:29ff, 106:14, Proverbs 13:12,19). The same idea is found in James 4:1-2, particularly verse 2- “You anxious, yearn and long for something in and off yourself...but do not get it! So you quarrel and fight!”

When we crave it is an insatiable demand to get it now. In Deuteronomy 5:21 “...you shall not desire (crave) your neighbours house”.

This is why “Craving” has a twin called “Coveting”...

⁶ (‘āwâ l), ni. regard as beautiful or desirable; pi. want, crave; hitp. Crave.... Willem VanGemeren, ed., New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1997), p. 304.

(3) Eve **Covets that always comparing**. “...and that the tree was to be **desired** to make one wise...”
(Genesis 3:6c)

The Hebrew word for “desirable” means a **coveting⁷ for gaining value and worth from something**. In this context is to be wise or insight beyond God’s. A greater insight than God. She would be her own god. It carries the idea of obsessing over what someone else has. It becomes an obsession and possession- “I must have this – now!

The lie is when I can match my neighbour I will be satisfied. Solomon warned about these pursuits in

Ecclesiastes 4:4 “Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man’s envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind”

Before anyone has even gone into the Promised Land, as part of the 10 Commandments God stated

“17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall **not covet** your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”
(Exodus 20:17)

Jesus describes a heart that is choked by “weeds” in Mark 4:18-19 is someone “who hear the word, 19 but the *cares of the world* and the **deceitfulness of riches** and the **desires for other things enter in** and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful”

We desperately seek to obsess over and possess what our neighbour has. Instead of being in fellowship of our neighbour, our brothers and Sisters in Christ, we naturally covet and envy what they have. In Ecclesiastes 2:1-10 we find 12 different idols and addictions Solomon pursued his whole life. His verdict towards the end of his life – a vapor!

(4) **Eve exercises choice and takes charge** - “She took some...” (Genesis 3:6) She is culpable – she reached out. Her way. Satan did not give her the fruit. She took it. This was a thought-out choice propelled by a spirit of covetousness. She took because it seems that as a part of the anatomy of sin is the seduction of a relationship with something else on the woman’s own terms.

⁷ “Desirable” (hāmad) is the same word used in the prohibition against covetousness (Exod 20:17) K. A. Mathews, Genesis 1-11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 238.

(5) **Eve Consumed** - "and ate" Ultimately, the desire to consume our way (1 John 2:15-17). She consumed for herself the things she believed and felt would fill a perceived deficiency of God's. It seems another element of destructive attitudes lead to behavior that is totally self focused.

(6) Adam and Eve **Corrupt Community** -

This Scripture was on The Apostle John's mind when he wrote

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the **desires of the flesh** and the **desires of the eyes** and **pride of life**—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."

5. The Exposure Test – Do we deal openly and honestly with our sins?

Why do these tests to challenge self deceit matter?

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "**Where are you?**" 10 And he said, "I **heard** the sound of you in the garden, and I was **afraid, because I was naked**, and I **hid** myself." 11 He said, "**Who told you that you were naked?** Have you eaten of the tree of which **I commanded you** not to eat?" 12 The man said, "**The woman** whom *you gave to be with me*, **she gave** me fruit of the tree, and **I ate.**" 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "**The serpent deceived me**, and I ate."

What did Adam and Eve do when exposed?

They hid from one another...and they hid from God

When confronted they blamed God and Blamed Satan. **NO ONE took any responsibility** for their part in the disobedience. We have been doing this ever since. We scapegoat, blame, accuse, avoid, run, hide, hold offenses,

Adam and Eve, failed the tests and so do we? This passage exists to show us that we have a problem, and it's a problem that runs deep, and it's a problem that traces all the way back to Adam. This text exposes the fact that our hearts are not right.

Jeremiah 17:9 – "The **heart is deceitful above all things**, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"

Is that you? Is that me? Is that us? Is there anyone here who sees this morning that they have a heart that continues to deceive yourself and others? Therefore, we live behind craving, coveting, consuming? Prone to live behind the deceit of Image Management and Impression Management. Prone to hide? Prone to make excuses? Prone to shift the blame?

I want to tell you this morning that God is not surprised by our mess.

Think about it: Out of 1189 chapters in the Bible Only 1 chapter do not speak of the effects of sin and deceit and the effects of sin: Genesis 1 .

He saw all that in our heart well before you did. And, seeing that, he made a plan so that you could have a new heart and a new mind. We open and honest with were you are at in your Walk with God. At Easter we were reminded that Jesus Christ came to die for our sin and self deception. This is why Jesus is the WAY, the TRUTH and the Life.

8 If we say we have no sin, ***we deceive ourselves***, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we ***make him a liar***, and his word is not in us. “ (1 John 1:8-10)

19 This is the verdict: **Light has come into the world**, but people ***loved darkness instead of light*** because their deeds were evil. 20 *Everyone who does evil hates the light*, and will not come into the **light for fear that their deeds will be exposed**. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Is today the day you receive Jesus WHO PAST the TESTS when confronted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11) and came “.....***appeared was to destroy the works of the devil***.” (1 John 3:8). No more deception...

This is A PROMISE...and this is the WORD of the LORD. Thanks be to God.