Genesis 3: The Fall

Forestgate Presbyterian Church   ~   November 6, 2011

One of the most important philosophical questions we can ask is: **what is wrong with the world**? Only the Christian worldview adequately answers this question.

One of the most common criticisms of the Christian God is that He does nothing to stop pain and suffering. What is fallacious about this criticism?

The common tendency of fallen man is to **blame God** for everything that goes wrong. (Gen 3:12-13) In reality, only **man** is responsible for bringing suffering into the world. (Ouch.)

God made man **upright**. The moral law was already **written** in the **heart**. (Ecc 7:29; WCF 4.2)

Adam and his wife sought wisdom through **experience**.The only true source of wisdom is **God**. (Jam 1:5)

The first principle of wisdom is to **trust God** and not **yourself**. (Prov 3:5-7)

The danger of trying to gain wisdom by **experience** is that it often leads to **sin**.

Notice that Adam and his wife did not **seek God** before taking the fruit. It is never *right* to acquire something good by disregarding God's law. (i.e., "the ends justify the means")

God comes into the garden in the **Spirit** (*ruwach*) of the day. (Gen 3:8)

By all rights, Adam and his wife were **dead meat**. (Gen 2:17)

God puts man on trial (Gen 3:8-19)
- Arraignment—man called before the Judge
- Examination—"What have you done?"
- Verdict—the accused confesses guilt
- Sentence—curse upon man, beast, and earth

Satan did not **curse** the world. God did. (Gen 3:14-19)

Verse 15 is referred to as the **proto-gospel**. The Seed of the Woman is **Christ**.

Verse 21 provides the first picture of **double imputation**. From the very beginning of Genesis, God shows Himself to be **gracious**.

Adam naming his wife "Eve" is an exercise of **faith**.

Christology: Seed, sacrifice (skins), bread?, tree of life, flaming sword

Timelines:
- Genesis 1: six days
- Genesis 2: one day (day six)
- Genesis 3: one day?
- Genesis 4: at least 235 years
- Genesis 5: nearly 1600 years (all the way back to the beginning)