

**Ecclesiastes 7; Lord's Day 3**  
**WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF MY MISERY?**

- I. We cannot blame the good God because He created man good, without sin and misery.
  - A. God's creation of man was especially good because man was God's highest creature.
    - 1. Physically, mentally, psychologically, and spiritually man is a most remarkable creature (able to bear God's image).
    - 2. And man was created so he had a relationship to God.
  - B. God made man "in His own image," i.e., like God, "looked" like God spiritually.
- II. Man's sin and misery had its origin in us, i.e., in our first father's willful and deliberate fall into sin.
  - A. Our problem is not that we have bad parents, bad schools, bad friends, or bad circumstances.
    - 1. Our fundamental problem is that we have a bad heart; and we all are born with it.
    - 2. We are so bad that we only sin always, and are unable to do anything truly good in God's sight.
  - B. Adam was created fallible (lapsible), i.e., he was able to fall from this lofty position.
    - 1. Adam was created with a morally free will, i.e., he was spiritually free either to love God or to hate Him.
    - 2. God placed before Adam two trees which were the occasion for him to express his free will.
  - C. Sin came when Adam, of his own will, deliberately chose to disobey God and determine good and evil for himself.
    - 1. Satan, in the form of the serpent (Rev. 12:9; 20:2), deceived Adam's helpmate so he could use her as an ally.
    - 2. Adam knowingly (he was not deceived) ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree, making his choice (I Tim. 2:14).
- III. To what extent are we naturally sinners?
  - A. Adam and Eve immediately knew guilt, worthy of the punishment of death.
    - 1. He immediately knew spiritual separation from God's love and favor (removed from the Tree of Life).
    - 2. The power of spiritual death began to rule in them so that they were filled with carnal lust and wanted to do only evil.
  - B. Adam's fall into sin had bitter consequences for all mankind, for God appointed Adam representative and father of all.
    - 1. It brought sin and death to all mankind (I Cor. 15: 21,22; Romans 5:12).
    - 2. Now we are, by nature, wholly incapable of doing any good and are inclined to all wickedness (totally depraved).
  - C. The only hope of escape is from outside of ourselves: the grace and mercy of God in Jesus Christ.
    - 1. Learn that in Christ there is forgiveness of all our sin and guilt, and He has the power to remove sin's dominion over us.
    - 2. Jesus does this by regenerating us, re-creating us in the image of God (now the image of Christ).