

Genesis 3:8-24, pt. 1
God Pursues Man after the Fall

There is a movement among Christianity that is gaining more and more popularity

- At first glance, it sounds like a novel idea
- Some of the reasons why churches are switching to this philosophy of ministry are more pragmatic than Biblical

I am speaking of the seeker sensitive philosophy of ministry

- If you have not heard of this movement, you will
- More and more churches across the world are adjusting to this type of approach
- More and more churches in the Houston area are moving in this direction

Here is the basic essence of the seeker sensitive philosophy – churches should cater to the felt needs of the lost in order to win them to Christ

- The message is toned down so as not to offend
- There is little or no emphasis on people bringing Bibles to church – instead, they will display the various Scriptures on huge screens above the stage
- The musical aspect of the worship service is more of a spectator approach as a professional band, orchestra, and choir is leading the service
- The Gospel message is downplayed
 - o Little or no emphasis on repentance, commitment, change of lifestyle
 - o What is emphasized is simple belief in Christ – as if that will not affect one’s life!

Some of the more popular names associated with the seeker sensitive movement are

- Bill Hybels – Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, Illinois
- Rick Warren – Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California
- Joel Osteen – here in Houston, Texas

There could be countless other individuals named

- But you get the general idea

What disturbs me the most about the seeker sensitive movement is its lack of a clear Gospel presentation

- To be sure, these churches and their pastors are concerned to see the lost come to faith in Christ
- There is no doubting that

However, the means by which this is accomplished is through downplaying the entire Gospel

- Yes, belief in Jesus Christ is important
- But the Bible says that the demons themselves “**believe and shudder**” (James 2:19)
- Salvation is more than just intellectual belief in something

The very term for this philosophy, “seeker sensitive” implies that unbelievers are termed “seekers”

- In these types of churches, the worship services are geared toward the sake of the unbelievers
 - o This affects the message
 - o This affects the music
 - o This affects the entire focus of the service

But this is contrary to what the Bible tells us

- The church consists of those who have confessed faith in Christ
- The church is to worship God – He is our focus
- Our church service is not geared toward any group of people – it is to be an act of worship, thanksgiving, and honor to Christ

But in these “seeker” churches, the unbeliever is the focus

- The thought is that if the conditions are right, then the unbeliever will come to faith in Christ

If you think I am exaggerating, allow me to quote Rick Warren, one of the most famous pastors in all the world and who unashamedly professes to be seeker sensitive

- This letter was sent out to the Saddleback Church family a few years ago
- *“Dear Saddleback family, tonight (Thursday) we begin the first of 12 Saddleback Easter services. Have you invited anyone to come with you yet?
At our Easter services in the last three years more than 5,000 people opened their lives to Christ - because YOU invited them! It's almost guaranteed that if you bring those you care about to a Saddleback Easter service, they will come to know Jesus” (emphasis mine)¹*

What audacity to make such a comment!

Where is the emphasis on God’s supernatural, sovereign work?

- Where is the emphasis on repentance from a sinful lifestyle?
- Where is the emphasis on Christ?

According to Warren, if you bring them to his church, “it’s almost guaranteed” that unbelievers will be saved

The reality of the situation is quite different, beloved

- The condition of the human heart is such that nothing outside of God’s work through His Word will bring anyone to faith in Christ

Consider these words from Romans 3, “**There is none righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; ¹² all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one. ¹³ Their throat is an open grave, with their tongues they keep deceiving, the poison of asps is under their lips; ¹⁴ whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; ¹⁵ their feet are swift to shed blood, ¹⁶ destruction and misery are in their paths, ¹⁷ and the path of peace have they not known. ¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.” (3:10-18, emphasis mine)**

- That, my friend, is the status of the unbeliever
- Did you notice that the Scriptures affirm “**there is none who seeks for God**”
- **NONE!**

The reason why no unbeliever seeks God is because he is:

- Spiritually dead (Eph 2:1) – there is no spiritual life or pulse in the unbeliever
- Spiritually blind (2 Cor 4:4) – there is no sense of a right perspective on the condition of the human heart

¹ <http://www.pastors.com/RWMT/default.asp?id=247&artid=4241&expand=1>

The entire seeker sensitive approach to ministry, then, is turning the Gospel upside-down!

- Instead of a God-centered worship service, there is a man-centered
- Instead of preaching the full counsel of God, there is an attempt not to offend unbelievers
- Instead of calling for repentance, there is an attempt to emphasize the goodness of man
- Instead of relying on God to work through His Word, the focus is on the felt needs of the unbeliever

This morning, we have a wonderful opportunity to test the truthfulness of the seeker sensitive movement

- We find ourselves in Genesis 3

God created a perfect environment with two perfect individuals who had perfect fellowship with one another and with God

- He gave them one commandment – not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

Satan approached Eve and deceived her into eating the forbidden fruit

- Eve then went to Adam and he deliberately ate from the fruit as well
- Both Adam and Eve were disobedient to the Lord's commandment

How does man respond after this?

- According to the seeker sensitive movement, the unbeliever has the capacity and potential to remedy his problem if the external conditions are right

Surely Adam and Eve will seek God

- Right?

Let's read Genesis 3:8-24

What we see in this passage is *not* man seeking God

- Instead, God pursues man

This account in Genesis three provides three (3) reasons why God pursues man after the Fall

- To confront him over his sin (3:8-13)
- To chasten him because of his sin (3:14-19)
- To cover him because of his sin (3:20-24)

We will begin this lengthy passage this morning

- And then finish it up next week

The first reason why God pursues man is...

I. God pursues man in order to confront him over his sin (3:8-13)

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,

It is positively amazing that God even pursues man after the Fall

- Adam and Eve certainly did not deserve the opportunity, did they?

The last thing that we saw them do last week was to sew fig leaves together in an attempt to cover themselves from one another

- Without being told, they began to feel *shame* and *guilt*

It seems in the account of Genesis that soon after their covering themselves that we read, “**And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day**”

Get the picture here

- Adam and Eve each eat the fruit of the tree that they were commanded not to eat
- They are ashamed of their naked condition, so they use fig leaves to hide their shame from the other

But now a different Audience comes into the garden

- God Himself

They “**hear**” the sound of God walking in the garden

- They had not made eye contact with Him
- They had not heard Him speak, yet
- They heard the sound of Him walking

The word “**hear**” is a well-known Hebrew word, *shema*

- It literally means to obey²

I don’t think this word was chosen randomly

- It would have been a painful reminder that Adam and Eve had not obeyed the commandment of God
- Their disobedience caused them to hide from the presence of God

This is very much similar to the situation at the giving of the Law in Exodus 20³

- “**And all the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, ‘Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, lest we die.’**” (20:18-19)
- When Israel heard the voice of God, they were afraid and stood at a distance
- This is very similar to the reaction of Adam and Eve

As is the case with appearances of God in the Old Testament, this was none other than the pre-incarnate Christ

- The apostle John states that “**God is spirit**” (John 4:24)

But when you see God making Himself visible in the Old Testament, this is Jesus Christ

- In theology, we call this a theophany⁴

Throughout the OT, the idea of walking with God is evident⁵

- “**Enoch walked with God**” (5:22, 24, emphasis mine)
- “**Noah walked with God**” (6:9, emphasis mine)

It is God’s grace that He even comes looking⁶

- God could have executed immediate judgment for their disobedience
- Remember, He had done that very thing with Satan and his rebellious angels when they sinned

² John H. Sailhamer, *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Genesis*, 52.

³ Sailhamer, 52.

⁴ John J. Davis, *Paradise to Prison*, 92.

⁵ Kenneth A. Mathews, *NAC, Genesis 1-11:26*, 239. Also see Genesis 17:1; 24:40; 48:15.

⁶ Leon J. Wood, *A Shorter Commentary on Genesis*, 34.

and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

What was the reaction of Adam and Eve to the sound of God walking in the garden?

- “the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden”

They were *not* seeking God, right?

- They were hiding from Him

In the first game of hide and seek, notice who is doing what

- God is seeking
- Man is hiding

The difference is that this isn't a game

- This is the state of every unbeliever who has ever lived

Adam and Eve are demonstrating the heart of those who are apart from Christ

- They hide from God
- They don't want to be around Him

*What was formerly a great joy has now become a source of terror*⁷

⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”

What we find over the next few verses is a conversation

- First between God and Adam
- Then between God and Eve

While Adam and Eve attempt to hide from God, God asks a question, not a command⁸

- He did not come down in wrath
- Rather, He comes down in a graceful manner

God asks, “Where are you?”

- Did God not know where they were?
- I thought God was all-knowing!

Certainly God knew where they were

- God knew every action that Adam and Eve had taken
- More than that, God knew every thought that was in their mind

God “**knows the secrets of the heart**” (Ps 44:21)

- “**And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.**” (Heb 4:13)

⁷ Wood, 34.

⁸ Victor P. Hamilton, *NICOT, Genesis 1-17*, 192.

Why then, does God ask a question when He already knows the answer?

- Every time God asks a question, it is not to gain information for Himself
- When God asks a question, it is to probe the human heart

In essence, God is confronting Adam over his sin

- Did you notice how verse 9 begins?
- “Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him”

The woman was the one who sinned first

- But God does not approach her first

Remember, Adam was the one who was put into a position of responsibility and authority

- He was the representative of the human race
- Not the woman

So God goes straight to the one who was put into a position of authority

- He confronts Adam over his sin

We can suppose that it was a normal, customary habit for God to come down into the garden and commune with Adam and Eve

- But this day was different
- Adam and Eve were not there to greet God

So God asks the man a question designed to draw him out of hiding⁹

- “Where are you?”

¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”

From behind the trees, Adam responds to God

- “I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself”

Did Adam really answer God’s question?

- No
- Adam really answered the question, “Why are you hiding?”¹⁰

But his answer does reveal the reason for his hiding

- Adam told God, “I was afraid”
- This is the first time that fear is mentioned in the Bible

What was Adam afraid of?

- The serpent – no
- The woman – no
- Adam was afraid of facing God after his sin

⁹ Derek Kidner, *Tyndale OT Commentaries, Genesis*, 70.

¹⁰ Hamilton, 193.

Adam's complete answer was, "I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself"

- Remember, no one had to inform him that he was naked
- That was a natural by-product of disobedience

Every time before now when Adam met with God, he had no clothing¹¹

- And it was never a problem before
- But now something was different
 - o Adam knew that he was naked

In disobeying God, Adam did two things

- He sewed fig leaves together – hiding himself from the woman
- He hid behind the trees – hiding himself from God

Both of these acts are man-made attempts to cover his sin, shame, and guilt

¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

God responds to Adam's statement with two questions

- "Who told you that you were naked?"
- "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

Of course, God knows the answer to these questions

- From His divine standpoint, He saw everything that took place
- Nothing was hidden from His sight

As the Judge of the Earth, God is calling Adam to be accountable for his actions¹²

God wanted Adam to admit and confess his sin

- Let's see whether Adam does that or not

¹² And the man said, "The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."

Adam's second response brings some things to light

- He admits his sin
- However, not before he attempts to shift the blame

Rather than confess his sin openly, he is devious and deceptive¹³

- He acts more like Satan who is "crafty" (3:1)

Adam responds to God's two questions, "The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate"

- He blames the woman

¹¹ Henry M. Morris, *The Genesis Record*, 116.

¹² Gordon J. Wenham, *Word Biblical Commentary, Genesis 1-15*, 76.

¹³ Hamilton, 194.

- But he also blames God

Instead of coming clean with his sin, Adam tries to shift the blame off to the woman

- He tells the LORD, “**the woman...gave me from the tree**”
- In other words, “Lord, she took from the fruit first! I was a victim!”
- He evades responsibility...or so he thinks

Adam reasons that if Eve had not eaten from the tree, then he would not have, either

- But remember, he is the representative of the human race
- Adam, not Eve, was the one that had authority and responsibility from God Himself

As if that was not enough, Adam attempts to blame God for his sin

- Read his statement in verse 12, “**The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me from the tree**”

Adam insinuates, “Lord, if You had not given me that woman, I would not have eaten. You know that I was doing fine before she came along. And LORD, YOU were the One who gave her to me. She was a mistake!”¹⁴

- That was a slap in the face of God, wasn’t it?
- That was a veiled attempt to shift the blame back to God, who had originally given the wife to Adam

Haven’t we all done that before, in some way?

- We take something or someone that is a blessing and a gift from the Lord, and we try to excuse away our sin
 - o Lord, if I had been born into a different family, I wouldn’t have made that decision
 - o Lord, if I had a better husband (or wife), I would be much more faithful
 - o Lord, if I had more money, I wouldn’t be having these bad thoughts about stealing
- All of these are Adam-like attempts to take our sin and to shift the blame entirely on God
 - o What we are really saying is this, “*God, You made a HUGE mistake*”
 - o We of limited scope and perspective are judging God – and our biased verdict says that His sovereign, providential plan for our lives is not good enough
- To say that we are walking on thin ice would be an understatement!

Only after two failed attempts to blame the woman and God does Adam finally confess, “**I ate**”

- Sure, he confesses
- But it is downplayed in the midst of blame-shifting and pointing the finger at others instead of himself

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

After dealing with Adam, God turns to the woman and asks one question, “**What is this you have done?**”

- Back in 2:23, Adam had responded to seeing the woman, “At last! This one is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This one will be called ‘Woman’ for from Man was taken this one.”¹⁵
- The emphasis on “this one” is very clear in the Hebrew

¹⁴ Mathews, 241.

¹⁵ Dr. Bill Barrick, *Translation of Genesis 2-3*, 3. TMS OT 603.

God asks the woman, “**What is this you have done?**”

- This would be a sting to the woman, who was the apple of the man’s eye
- God used the same Hebrew word that Adam had used earlier
- She who was to be Adam’s helper had become his partner in crime¹⁶

And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The woman’s response is not much better than the man’s

- Except she doesn’t blame God

Oh, but she still blames someone, “**the serpent deceived me**”

- This is true, especially when you look at 1 Timothy 2:14
- But the facts still did not acquit her from her guilt¹⁷

Her deception was still no excuse

- She knew the commandment of God

After blaming the serpent, the woman confesses, “**I ate**”

- Like Adam, her confession didn’t come up front
- It was the last thing she mentioned
 - o Almost like a last resort

Why did God pursue man?

- *First of all, to confront him over his sin*
- *Second...*

II. God pursues man in order to chasten him because of his sin (3:14-19)

And the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life;

Notice that unlike God’s dealings with Adam and Eve, He asks no questions of the serpent

- Rather than a question, God issues forth a curse¹⁸

Also notice the order in which God will deal out His chastisement

- The serpent (3:14-15)
- The woman (3:16)
- The man (3:17-19)

When God came into the garden earlier, the order was different

- Man first
- Woman second

¹⁶ Mathews, 242.

¹⁷ MacArthur, 215.

¹⁸ Kidner, 70.

So we have a structure that is very obvious¹⁹

- Man
 - o Woman
 - **Serpent**
 - o Woman
- Man

The middle of that structure is Satan

- He is the real source of Eve being deceived

It is interesting that the word “**curse**” is only used of Satan²⁰

- Not Adam
- Not Eve

The blessing that God had originally given them (Gen 1:28) was not entirely lost

- It is not until Cain kills Abel that a man is cursed²¹

But we know that God speaks of the serpent being cursed “**more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field**”

- This implies that other animals were affected by the Fall
- “**For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.**” (Rom 8:20-21)

Creation itself suffers from the effects of this curse

- Weeds and thorns
- Pain, weariness, and sweat
- Harmful germs, viruses, and diseases
- Decay and disaster
- Sorrow and strife
- Floods, earthquakes, droughts, and famines²²

For the serpent, he was to eat dust for the rest of his life

- This is not to be taken literally
- Rather, this was a well-known expression that implied humiliation and total defeat²³

“**He who tempted Eve to eat now himself will eat dust**”²⁴

¹⁹ Allen P. Ross, *Creation & Blessing*, 141.

²⁰ Ross, 145.

²¹ Mathews, 243.

²² MacArthur, 216.

²³ Sailhamer, 55.

²⁴ Hamilton, 196.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”

Although it seems that the curse is upon the animal kingdom, the real thrust of the curse is against the instigator who was behind the Fall

- “the serpent of old who is called the devil” (Rev 12:9)

Here in the midst of a curse upon the serpent lies a great theological truth

- Genesis 3:15 is the first proclamation of the Gospel

That’s right

- A future blessing will arise from a present curse

God promises that there will be “enmity” between Satan and the woman

- This struggle will continue on indefinitely without Divine assistance

Part of Satan’s strategy in deceiving Eve was to pretend to have her best interest in mind

- He pretended to be Eve’s friend

But God unveils this lie and affirms that Satan will be in constant friction and dissension with mankind

There is also a promise that there will be “enmity...between your seed and her seed”

- That is, between the seed of Satan and the seed of woman

What is interesting is that man, not woman, is the one who passes on the seed

- But God, Who knows everything, speaks of “her seed”
- He obviously knew what He said was true

Who was this “seed of woman”?

- They had no idea of who this seed was
- They had no idea when this seed would appear

Satan didn’t know who this seed was or when he would appear

- But you can bet that Satan had his eye on males born in the prophetic line²⁵

If you look at chapter four, you will see something intriguing

- 4:25, “And Adam had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, for, she said, ‘God has appointed me another offspring in place of Abel; for Cain killed him.’”
- The word here for “offspring” is the same word “seed” in 3:15

Could Eve have the promise of 3:15 in mind?

- Could she have thought that Abel was the Deliverer?

Ultimately, the reference to the seed of the woman is none other than Jesus Christ

- Jesus was not born in the normal stream of humanity
- Rather, He was born of a virgin – no seed from a human male
- This allowed Jesus to be “her seed” while still being fully human

²⁵ Morris, 122.

We must remind ourselves that Genesis is a book about genealogies

- It traces the lineage of the Messiah from Adam forward
- Luke 3 records such a tracing of the Messianic line

God continues here in Genesis 3:15 in stating, “**He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.**”

- This verse speaks of an interchange of bruising that takes place between two individuals
 - o The seed of the woman, Jesus Christ
 - o And Satan himself

Notice that the same word “**bruise**” is used in every translation, except for the NIV

- Even though it is the same Hebrew words, the NIV chooses to translate the words differently, “**crush...and strike**”

We have to think of the difference between a man’s point-of-view and a serpent’s point-of-view

- The man looks down at a serpent
- The serpent looks directly ahead, almost at ground level

So it makes sense that the man would bruise the serpent “**on the head**”

- Likewise, it makes sense that the serpent would bruise Jesus “**on the heel**”
- The serpent cannot attack anything higher!

Of course, the final attack of which Genesis 3:15 teaches is the crucifixion

- Yes, Satan “**shall bruise you on heel**” – he unleashed everything in his arsenal at Christ both prior to, and during, the crucifixion
- But Christ “**shall bruise you on the head**” – Christ dealt a death blow to Satan while on the cross

“**The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.**” (1 John 3:8)

- On the cross of Calvary, Christ bore the wrath of every sin ever committed by every person who would ever believe in Him
- In other words, He provided redemption for sinners

In providing redemption, Christ destroyed the prospect of Satan’s plan

- From the time of his initial rebellion, Satan has tried to destroy and delay God’s work in humanity

“**Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil**” (Heb 2:14)

- Christ rendered Satan “**powerless**”
- He took away Satan’s stinger, which was “**the power of death**”

Paul ends the book of Romans with this encouragement, “**And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.**” (16:20)

Paul also writes to the church at Corinth, “**For He (Christ) must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.**” (15:25, italics mine)

And way back in Genesis 3:15 was the first promise of a future Redeemer who would defeat Satan and provide a way of salvation for humanity²⁶

- It is awesome that this promise of victory came as a judgment upon Satan!²⁷

We have studied the fact that God pursues man after the Fall for a number of reasons

- First, to confront him over his sin (3:8-13)
 - o God questions Adam and Eve, desiring that they confess and own up to their sin and disobedience
- Second, God pursues man to chasten him because of his sin (3:14-19)
 - o God teaches Adam and Eve that there are consequences to sin
 - He curses Satan
 - But in the midst of that curse is a promise of a future Redeemer

What does God say about Adam and Eve?

- Are they cursed?
- Do they get off scot-free?

Next week, we will finish up this section on these reasons why God pursues man after the Fall

One thing that has been running through my head this past week is the comparison between Satan and Adam and Eve

- Think about it with me

Both Satan and mankind sinned

- Satan and his angels were cast away from the glory of God, never having an opportunity for repentance, restoration, or redemption
- Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God's Word, and they are provided with redemption and covering, even though they were cast away from the Garden of Eden

God was not obligated to redeem Adam or Eve

- He owes mercy to no man
- Justice calls for the punishment of sinners, not their redemption²⁸

Satan is cursed

- Adam and Eve are promised a future Redeemer who would become a curse for them (understanding Genesis 3:15 in light of NT truth).

It is simply astounding to think that long before Satan, Adam, and Eve were even created, God had already chosen those who would be saved!

- God had a plan of redemption in place before the first act of ex nihilo!

This morning, we have seen God's promise of a future Redeemer who would be the seed of a woman

- The only person who qualifies for this unique and special role is Jesus Christ
- Every other male who has been born has done so through a male seed

²⁶ Wood, 35.

²⁷ Davis, 93.

²⁸ John MacArthur, *The Battle for the Beginning*, 213-14.

Jesus Christ came to this Earth as the God-Man

- Perfectly and fully God
- Perfectly and fully Man

Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life

- Unlike Satan
- Unlike Adam and Eve
- Unlike all others who have come after them

Jesus Christ died to atone for the sins of others

- Although condemned as a criminal, He was innocent
- He died a substitutionary death – in the place of others

The Bible states very clearly that “**He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**” (2 Cor 5:21)

- God treated Christ as if He had committed every sin ever committed by every person who would ever believe
- Then He treated those who would believe in Christ as if they had the perfect righteousness of Christ Himself
- *Amazing!*

The most humbling aspect of this is that I didn’t even realize my condition before I became a believer

- I thought I was good enough to go to heaven
- I thought God would let me be the exception

In my life, and in the lives of every genuine believer, God is the Seeker

- “**For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost**” (Lk 19:10)

We see that in the story of Adam and Eve – God pursuing man after their sin

- We see that in the story of every one here who has been born again
 - o God had to seek us out

Left to themselves, Adam and Eve would have hid from God until their death

- Afraid to meet with God
- Ashamed of their physical bodies
- Aware of their shame

But God pursued them

- And He did something marvelous
- We will see that next week

If you are here this morning and do not have a relationship with Christ, I would urge you to remember what we have studied this morning

- We are all born into the family of Adam
- If you trace your family tree back long enough, you will find that we are all related through Adam and Eve

When Adam sinned, it was as if we all sinned

- It only takes one sin to go from perfection to imperfection

- “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.” (James 2:10)

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom 6:23)

- We are all going to die physically one day, unless the Lord intervenes with the Rapture

More than your fear of physical death, my friend, you need to be concerned with spiritual death

- Being separated from the Lord for all eternity
- There is no opportunity for repentance after the grave

God prepared hell “for the devil and his angels” (Mt 25:41)

- But you will join them unless you repent of your sins