

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

Romans 5:12

A baby’s cry echoes for the first time in his new world. We celebrate his life. His parents count every finger and toe. We marvel at his perfection that gives promise and hope for a new beginning. We do not despair over his life of sin which has already begun...we do not grieve for his death. But with each new life, each beautiful child—the story of man and his separation from God is told again and again.

Adam and Eve lived in Paradise—eternally with God. But because God gave them free will (the very essence of humanness), they were disobedient to God and tasted the forbidden fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. And now, through the generations of man, women and men are reminded of that sin through the pain of childbirth and the certain death of their offspring. The gap that separates us from God is replayed in every birth, every miracle, and every precious child born into this ungodly world.

Praise God that we can again use our free will to close this gap, to be free from sin, and to, once again, have an eternal and glorious life with our eternal Father.

The depravity of man is a term that relates to man’s total inability to operate in a strict moral fashion. The word deprive means “to take something away from; to keep from the possession or enjoyment of something; deny.” What has been taken away from men and women by God? Are most people even aware that they do not have some quality, capability, talent, component, etc., that would

otherwise make them a better person? We are often aware of our physical limitations.

However, we are seldom aware of our spiritual limitations. Indeed, most people don’t know that something called a spirit is even missing from our lives. However, God has a wonderful plan of redemption and a plan for restoring our spirit.

It all began when there was nothing. Noth-

ing in the universe, no earth, no matter and no energy. However God was. And in the beginning God spoke. God is the Creator. God is our creator. God is perfect.

In the book, *The Face* by Hank Hanegraaff, page 112, Hank states; “We all have earthly fathers, but no matter how good-or bad, as the case may be-none are perfect. God, however, is the perfect Father. And as the perfect Father, He desires an intimate personal relationship with each of us. In His word He says, “*I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3).*”

“*Yet the same Bible, that tells us of God’s love, also tells us that He is the perfect Judge. As such, God is absolutely just, righteous, and holy*” (Hanegraaff, p.112). Why

does God have to judge? What is he judging and by what standard does He use?

Read the first three chapters of Genesis in preparation for this lesson. Understanding Genesis is fundamental in experiencing spiritual growth. Genesis is not a myth or a story but is actual truth. Indeed, as archeologist are discovering, many of the writings in Genesis have been proven to be true historically.

One of the reasons some people have a problem with the book of Genesis is that they believe that it is in conflict with evolution theory and scientific thought. See **Appendix E** for some thoughts on this subject. The facts are that science has confirmed the creation story as taught in Genesis to a much greater extent than it has the Theory of Evolution.

1. Write down God’s instruction to Adam and Eve.

1.1 Genesis 1:28 _____

1.2. Genesis 2:16,17 _____

2. What were Adam and Eve like?

2.1. Genesis 1:26-27 _____

2.2. Genesis 2:22-23 _____



2.3. Genesis 3:20 – “Now the man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother all the living.”

3. What did the crafty serpent (Satan) tell Eve?

3.1. Genesis 3:1-5 _____

4. What was the result of disobeying God?

4.1. Genesis 3:6-7 – “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 desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate/ Then the eyes of both of them were open, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.” _____

God told them that they would surely die if they ate from the tree. What type of death did they experience? The first type is separation from God. Separation is a type of death.

5.1. **Separation from God**

5.2. **Spiritual death**

5.3. **Physical death**

6. The forbidden fruit was offered to Adam and Eve as being able to make them like God. Instead it brought them the ultimate proof of their now finite existence; death (“Till you return to the ground”).

6.1. Geneses 3:17-19 _____



6.2. Job 20:6-7 - *“Though his loftiness reaches the heavens, And his head touches the clouds/ He perishes forever like his refuse; Those who have seen him will say, “Where is he?”* (How brief is the happiness of the wicked.)

7. Adam and Eve sinned. *How did their sin affect you? What is the relationship? Think about this question...the answer is key to our need for a savior and reconciliation with God.* _____

7.1. Romans 5:12-21 - *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned/ for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law./ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come./ But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many./ The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification./ For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

(v.18) So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men./ For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous./The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,/ so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

7.2. Romans 3:23 - *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* _____

7.3. Romans 6:23 - *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* _____

8. Therefore, what does it mean to be born in sin?

8.1. Psalm 51:5-6 – *“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part Thou wilt make me know wisdom.”* _____

8.2. Psalm 58:3 We go astray from birth. _____

8.3. Isaiah 48:8 - *“You have not heard, you have not known. Even from long ago your ear has not been open, Because I knew that you would deal very treacherously; And you have been called a rebel from birth.”*

9. Sin resulted in death. God’s justice requires a payment (penalty) for the sin. When Adam and Eve sinned, what did they try to do? Remember they were changed creatures.

9.1. Genesis 3:10 _____

9.2. Genesis 3:21 _____



10. What did God require for Adam and Eve's sin? What does He require for our sin?

10.1. Leviticus 17:11 _____

10.2. Hebrews 9:22 - *“And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”* Three things bring about the need for atonement:

1. Sin is universal.
2. Sin is serious.
3. Men/women are incapable of dealing with sin.

11. Atonement in Hebrew means “to cover” or “to pardon.” The New Bible Dictionary states, “God and man, then, are hopelessly estranged by man’s sin, and there is no way back from man’s side. But God provides the way. In the Old Testament atonement is usually said to be obtained by the sacrifices, but it must never be forgotten that God says of atoning blood, ‘I have given it for you upon the alter to make atonement for your souls’ (Leviticus 17:11).

Atonement is secured, not by any value inherent in the sacrificial victim, but because sacrifice is the divinely appointed way of securing atonement. The sacrifices point us to certain truths concerning atonement. Thus the victim must always be unblemished, which indicated the necessity for perfection. The victims cost something, for atonement is not cheap, and sin is never to be taken lightly. The death of the victim was the important thing. This is brought out partly in the allusions to blood, partly in the general character of the rite itself and partly in other references to atonement.” Read the following verses to gain more insight into the concept of atonement.

11.1. Leviticus 5:11-13 _____

11.2. Hebrews 10:1-4 – *“For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near./ Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?/ But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year./ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”*

11.3. God’s love of His people provided payment for our sins.

12. 1 Cor. 2:11 – *“For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.”* Before becoming Christians, we are what the Bible refers to as natural men/women. In 1 Cor.: 2:14-16 it states, *“But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man.”* Where did this depravity begin? What is it that we are missing? And if we are missing something, how do we find it?

12.1. 1 John 5:11-12 states, *“And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.”* God has provided full payment for our sin through the death of His Son Jesus Christ. But how do we find “the life.” _____

12.2. John 3:15-17 _____

12.3. John 11:25-26 *“Jesus said to her, “ I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,/ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

12.4. John 1:12 _____



Have you accepted this wonderful gift from Jesus?

During the week read/sing the following song as a reminder of this lesson.

Grace Greater Than Our Sin - Julia H. Johnston, 1849-1919

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss,
grace that is greater—yes grace unfold—points to the Refuge, the mighty Cross.
Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within,
Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin.