

defeated him, *thus cancelled his plans to bring every person to hell!* Though we deserve the WORST, we freely have the BEST through Jesus!

- c. The Savior has taken our eternal punishment, but we still suffer the temporary consequences –
- i. Women – <sup>16</sup> ...“I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth...; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.” How could a woman avoid the pains of child birth? *Don't have children*; but God has given wives a desire for their husbands!
  - ii. Men – <sup>17</sup> “...Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face You will eat bread...” When we are sweating this summer, let's →remember our sin and →rejoice in Jesus our Savior!

3. **Jesus' Sacrifice:** <sup>21</sup> The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. The making of the garments of skin required the death of one or more animals, *thus the shedding of blood!* Then, for thousands of years, sin led to sacrifice, which kept pointing ahead to the Promised Savior!

**Conclusion:** As we proceed through this Lenten season, let us †see our sin, †take responsibility, and †continuously receive God's gift of full forgiveness through Jesus! Amen!

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# “Sin, Savior, Sacrifice!”

Based on Genesis 3:1-21 NAU

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent – 2011

March 13 → 8:00 & 10:45

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ, on this first Sunday in the season of Lent – *as we focus on today's OT reading* – we find the key contents of the season of Lent. Those include †the reality of our sin, †Jesus, *our Savior from sin*, and †His all-sufficient sacrifice, *which took away the sin of the world!* We now consider those realities further in Genesis chapter 3:

1. **Our Fall:** Notice the devil's tactics:
  - a. Deception – The serpent tries to put God in a bad light: <sup>1</sup> ... “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman answered, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; <sup>3</sup> but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it...’” The devil knows the truth, *but he wants to deceive or confuse us!*
  - b. Doubt – <sup>3</sup> ...God...said, ‘You shall not eat from it...or you will die.’ God's Word was clear, but: <sup>4</sup> The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die!” Oftentimes our sinful minds will be in conflict with the Word of God; however, *let us always repent of our sinful thoughts and GO with God's Word!*
  - c. Desire – The devil was the first clever salesman; *he made something horrible look wonderful:* <sup>5</sup> “...God

knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God..." Then, *with the woman open to compromise*, she: <sup>6</sup> ...saw that the tree was good for food, ... a delight to the eyes, and ...desirable to make one wise... Even though the consequences of eating were sin, death, and hell, *the devil helped her see five good reasons to eat!*

- d. Action – So, ♦having been deceived, ♦doubting God's Word, and ♦desiring what was forbidden: ...she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. James stated the *action of sin* with these words: <sup>NAU</sup> **James 1:15** "...when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death." When they fell, we fell; *now we commit our own sins!*

2. **God's Love:** God kept His Word; their sin brought ♦*immediate spiritual death* and ♦*eventual physical death*, but God continued to love them, us, and all! God loves because of *who He is*, not because of *what we do*; therefore, **He promised to send a descendant of the woman who would save us from our sins!**
- a. To blame others is to refuse God's love – God said to Adam: <sup>11</sup> "...Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"
- i. Adam blamed the woman – <sup>12</sup> "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." Okay Adam, she gave it to you, *but YOU ate it! It's YOUR fault!*
- ii. The woman blamed the serpent – <sup>13</sup> ...the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have

done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Yes woman, he did deceive you, *but YOU allowed him to deceive you! It's YOUR fault! YOU chose to believe him over God's Holy Word!*

So how is blaming others refusing God's love? Sin brings death and hell, *so God offers life and heaven!* However, if we refuse to ♦*admit* and ♦*take responsibility* for our sin; *then we are also refusing God's love in the form of His forgiveness!*

- b. Since the serpent led the human race to destruction, God promised to destroy the serpent and save the human race – God said to the serpent: <sup>15</sup> "...I will put enmity [hostility] Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed [between the serpent race and the human race]; He [the Savior I will send] shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."
- i. If a serpent bites a person, the bite will be low on his body – *maybe on his heel*. The snake bites for the purpose of killing the person! However, *as the poison rises through his body*, there is time to fight the poison and survive!
- ii. If a person wants to kill a serpent, he doesn't try to bruise or crush his body *but his head!* When that head is bruised or crushed, *the serpent cannot survive!*

Jesus, *God in the flesh*, suffered ♦*pain*, ♦*our sin*, and ♦*God's punishment*; then, *when His work was finished*, He laid down His life! However, in doing so, *He bruised or crushed the serpent* – He