

Lesson #2—The Perspective of the Fall.

Introduction

- A. In considering the greatness of our creation we are led to agree with the psalmist in his statement in Psalm 139:14.

I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, marvellous are Thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well.

- B. It is staggering to our imagination to realize that we have been created in the image and likeness of God, created to have fellowship with God, created with the ability and office to represent God, created with the capacity to have dominion over the universe and cause it to glorify our Creator!
- C. When we look at the world, the human race and ourselves from the perspective of the creation—we immediately cry out, "What has happened to us?" We are not at all the way God made us. We are creatures of sickness and death, selfishness and sensuality, hatred and violence, covetousness and rebellion, weakness and pride—and yet all the while conscious of a lost greatness and sensing a deep loneliness.
- D. The answer to the cry of our heart is found in the Bible. We are fallen. We have turned away from our Creator. The evidence of our fall is all about us as well as within. If we are to understand ourselves we must add this new perspective to the Biblical concept of our creation.

I. The Biblical Position Stated.

Introduction

1. God, in His infinite wisdom, created the human race in our first parents, Adam and Eve. Adam was placed in a probationary position whereby he represented all other members of the human race. When he chose to sin against God—the whole human race fell in him. Romans 5:12
 2. Today we are born into the world with all the effects of the Fall of Man attributed to us.
- A. The immediate effects of the Fall of Man.
1. Personal shame and fear, Genesis 3:7, 10.
 2. Loss of fellowship with God, Genesis 3:8-10.
 3. Hiding from God, Genesis 3:8-10.
 4. A tendency to pervert the truth, Genesis 3:11-14.
 5. The cursing of the Serpent, Genesis 3:14.
 6. Women to bear children in sorrow, Genesis 3:16.
 7. Woman subjected to man, Genesis 3:16.
 8. The cursing of the ground, Genesis 3:17-19.
 9. The sentence of physical death, Genesis 3:19.
 10. The expulsion from the Garden, Genesis 3:24.
- B. Death is the basic characteristic of fallen man.
1. Alienation from God.
 - a. Condemnation with its conviction, John 3:18; 16:8; Romans 2:14, 15.
 - b. Depravity with its inability, Eph. 2:1-3, 12; 4:18; Romans 3:10-18.
 - c. Enmity with its rebellion, Isaiah 1:2-6; 63:10; Romans 8:7.

- d. Meaninglessness with its idolatry, Eph. 5:3-6; Col. 3:5, 6; I Peter 4:3.
 - e. Ignorance with its perversion, Rom. 1:21-32; Eph. 4:18, 19; I Peter 1:14.
 - f. Separation with its enslavement, Eph. 2:1-3, 12, 13; 4:18; Col. 1:21.
2. Alienation from mankind.
- a. Scripture: Romans 1:29-31; I Cor. 3:3; James 3:14-16; Titus 3:3.
 - b. Instead of being characterized by love and trust there is intuitive and spontaneous discord, suspicion, jealousy and hatred among us.
3. Alienation from self.
- a. Scripture: Phil. 2:21; Rom. 1:31; II Tim. 3:2-4; Titus 3:3.
 - b. Instead of loving and accepting ourselves as God intended, we now vacillate between making ourselves an idol through self-love or an enemy through hatred.

Summary: The Fall has produced physical and eternal death in mankind.

- a. Scripture: Gen. 3:19; Rom. 5:12-14; 6:23; 8:20-23; II Cor. 5:1-4; Revelation 20:6, 14.
- b. Instead of physical and mental well-being, man is characterized by weakness, sickness, suffering and eventual separation of soul and body. Instead of being born into a life of unending fellowship with God, man is born separated from God which separation will eventually terminate, except for the grace and mercy of God, in eternal separation from God.

II. The Biblical Position Explained.

Introduction

- 1. The Fall brought the following consequences into the human race.
 - 2. The believer is still very vulnerable to a measure of these consequences. This is particularly true when he does not know how to live correctly in the practice of the truth or when he chooses not to.
- A. The personal consequences of sin.
- 1. Sin brings the obsession of lust, John 8:34; I John 2:16, 17.
 - 2. Sin brings spiritual defilement, Mark 7:1-23; Hebrews 12:15.
 - 3. Sin brings self-defeat, Acts 18:6; II Timothy 2:25.
 - 4. Sin brings the enslavement of the snare of the Devil, I Tim. 3:6, 7.
 - 5. Sin brings deception, I Cor. 3:18; James 1:22, 26.
 - 6. Sin brings guilt, I Cor. 11:27; James 2:10.
 - 7. Sin brings disruption of fellowship, I John 1:3-6.
 - 8. Sin brings a change of character, Jeremiah 17:1; James 4:4.
 - 9. Sin brings a hardening of the heart, Hebrews 3:8, 13, 15; 4:7.
 - 10. Sin brings fear, Genesis 3:10; Romans 8:15; Hebrews 2:14, 15.
 - 11. Sin brings death, Romans 6:23; 8:6; James 1:15.

B. The resultant description of the sinner.

1. In the Fall we sinned against God—the source of all life, John 1:4; 14:6.
 - a. Man became characterized by total disability, Rom. 5:6; 7:8; Eph. 4:18.
 - b. This resulted in a change of nature, Eph. 2:1-3.
2. In the Fall we alienated ourselves from God—the source of all satisfaction, Isaiah 43:21; Col. 1:21.
 - a. Man became characterized by deprivation, Isaiah 55:2; 57:20, 21.
 - b. This resulted in a change of goals, I John 2:15, 16.
3. In the Fall we turned from God—the source of all faithfulness, John 14:6; I Cor. 1:9.
 - a. Man became characterized by enslavement, John 8:34.
 - b. This resulted in a change of loyalty, Romans 1:25.
4. In the Fall we rebelled against God—the source of all hope, Rom. 15:13.
 - a. Man became characterized by hopelessness, Eph. 2:12.
 - b. This resulted in a change of expectancy, Psalm 112:10.
5. In the Fall we defected from God—the source of all purpose, Romans 8:28.
 - a. Man became characterized by meaninglessness, Romans 1:29-32.
 - b. This resulted in a change of values, Romans 1:21-32.
6. In the Fall we forsook God—the source of all truth, I Cor. 1:9; Col. 2:3.
 - a. Man became characterized by deceit, Jeremiah 17:9.
 - b. This resulted in a change of authority, Romans 3:18.
7. In the Fall we transgressed the Person of God—the source of all law, Romans 7:22.
 - a. Man became characterized by guilt, Romans 3:19.
 - b. This resulted in a change of relationship, Romans 3:23, 31.
8. In the Fall we refused to obey God—the source of all holiness, I Peter 1:15, 16.
 - a. Man became characterized by unrighteousness, Isaiah 64:6.
 - b. This resulted in a change of character, I Cor. 6:9.
9. In the Fall we failed to reverence God—the source of all love, I John 3:16.
 - a. Man became characterized by hate, Romans 1:30.
 - b. This resulted in a change of affection, Romans 1:26.
10. In the Fall we abandoned God—the source of all power, Jeremiah 23:27.
 - a. Man became characterized by weakness, Romans 5:6.
 - b. This resulted in a change of resource, Jeremiah 2:13.
11. In the Fall we relinquished God—the source of all protection, Psalm 46:1.
 - a. Man became characterized by vulnerability, Eph. 2:2, 3.
 - b. This resulted in a change of masters, John 8:44.

Summary outline:

The Action	The Resultant Characteristic	The Change of Sphere
We sinned	- Depravity	- Change of nature
We alienated	- Deprivation	- Change of goals
We turned from	- Enslavement	- Change of loyalty
We rebelled	- Hopelessness	- Change of expectancy
We defected	- Meaninglessness	- Change of values
We forsook	- Deceit	- Change of authority
We transgressed	- Guilt	- Change of relationship
We refused to obey	- Unrighteousness	- Change of character
We failed to reverence	- Hate	- Change of affection
We abandoned	- Weakness	- Change of resource
We relinquished	- Vulnerability	- Change of masters

III. The Biblical Position Applied.

Introduction

1. Due to the Fall the believer may now evaluate himself and all facets of life with the following attitudes, misconceptions and functions.
2. It is of the utmost importance that we understand what has happened to us in the Fall—and choose to accept and practice the Bible.
 - A. It is possible for the believer to repress or suppress the truth, Rom. 1:18.
 - B. It is possible for the believer to have a false basis for evaluating truth, Romans 1:28.
 - C. It is possible for the believer to evaluate himself and life from the perspective of alienation and rejection, Colossians 1:21.
 - D. It is possible for the believer to live with a false concept of the self, I Cor. 10:12, 13; II Cor. 10:12; Eph. 5:14-21.
 - E. It is possible for the believer to have an incorrect concept of the method and goal for personal success, Luke 12:13-15.
 - F. It is possible for the believer to have a false list of values and priorities, Matthew 13:22; Luke 16:15.
 - G. It is possible for the believer to live without controlling his mind, emotions or body, II Cor. 7:1; Gal. 5:23; Titus 1:12, 13.

Conclusion: Suggestions for memorization and application.

- A. Memorize Isaiah 43:25.
- B. Apply this lesson by daily making the following affirmations:

1. I choose by faith to seek the truth and to do it—no matter how much it may hurt.
2. I choose to live according to the pattern of the Bible—not my own feelings or desires.

