

THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

December 20, 2009

Considering Genesis 3--1

Please read **Genesis 3:1-5**. Note how Satan manipulates Eve in this place. Did God say what Satan quoted Him as saying? Read **2:16-17** and see for yourself. Not only did God not say what Satan quoted Him as saying, He said the exact opposite, something of which Satan was quite aware. So why did Satan quote God as saying something He never said? What he was attempting to do at the very outset of this conversation was cause Eve to view God as excessively restrictive. Today he does that very thing to Christians and prospective Christians alike.

It's a very interesting paradox that both Satan and Jesus do not hesitate to point out to individuals that their lives must surely change once they have determined to render their obedience to Christ. Both of them urge people to count the cost (**Luke 14:25-33**). Jesus never sought to hide the fact that a spiritual person must give up worldly passions and pursuits. In that way, he and Satan present a similiar message to the prospective Christian. However, their reason for the message and manner in which it is delivered are entirely different.

When our Lord warns prospective Christians to count the cost before becoming His disciples, He is not saying that there is any other way to salvation. He is not trying to discourage them and persuade them to remain children of the devil. Rather, He is trying to prepare them for the life that they will need to live once they have become Christians. Our Lord would have no disciple who did not know beforehand that they would have to cease their sinful, worldly life once they became Christians. That is why He urges us to count the cost and not to enter into a relationship with Him in ignorance.

Satan will also warn prospective Christians about the cost of discipleship. However, his purpose is to show the unfairness of it all. His purpose is to show how restrictive and petty God is with all of His rules, doctrines, and precepts. I cannot tell you how many people I have spoken to in the past who have told me that they could never become Christians because of all that they would have to give up. They never consider what they will have gained by becoming Christians or the fate their current lifestyle is laying up for them. That is Satan's influence at work. Consider how he approached Eve and you can almost hear his tone of voice. "Did God *actually* say, 'You shall not eat of *any* tree in the garden?'"

To Eve's credit, she correctly stated what God had really said. She had no idea that in so doing she was playing right into Satan's hands. As we consider the consequences for what is just about to happen it becomes obvious that the greatest lie Satan has ever told was the one he told right here, "You will not surely die." With Satan there is usually some truth

mixed in with the lie and such was the case here. No, they would not immediately die *physically*, though the process of physical death would enter the world because of their actions. They *would* immediately die spiritually because of their sins. Obviously, that had never entered Eve's mind. Going a step further, Satan told Eve that she would be like God. Adam and Eve possessed a very intimate relationship with God, He walked in the garden and spoke with them. Eve knew His power and His might. Here was Satan telling her that not only would she *not* die by eating of the forbidden tree, she would become like God by so doing. First Satan had painted God as excessively restrictive and then as a petty child trying to selfishly cling to a power that ought to belong to everyone.

Yet even here was a modicum of truth. When they ate of the fruit their innocence was forever lost and they were able to view sin and evil as God views it. While Eve thought that she was going to become like God, she certainly was not expecting what she got. Satan promised she would become like God, never explaining in detail what that meant. She and Adam ate and began to die physically and did die spiritually. Through their sin spiritual and physical death were introduced into the world of man. We will continue to examine this most important of chapters in the next article.

-Adam

In Need of Prayers	Information
<p>Taylor Osterling is home and currently stable.</p> <p>Lilly Fitzwater's new room number is 32.</p> <p>Michelle Oxendine (friend of Jim Edwards) is dealing with some health problems.</p> <p>David Day (Bobbie Atkisson's grandson) and his wife have both been deployed to Iraq.</p> <p>Remember the family of Brother Cecil Ellis.</p> <p>Rachel Knollman has had some late complications in her pregnancy. The baby is fine.</p> <p>Remember Ron Catchen, Chuck McDavitt, and David Blakeman.</p> <p><i>Remember to pass any additions to this list on to me in writing so that I do not forget. Thanks!</i></p>	<p>Brother Noli Villamor has sent an update with a request. He is seeking to start a new work. I have posted his e-mail back on his folder. Please check it out.</p> <p>Brother Larry Orton has placed membership with us. We are excited to work and worship with him!</p> <p>The men will meet at 4 p.m. Please make your plans to attend.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">University Height Church of Christ 445 Columbia Avenue Lexington, Ky 40508 859-255-6257 www.uheightschurch.com</p>