

# This We Believe

(Prepared by Ps Tony for GBC Evening Service August 30<sup>th</sup> 2020)

## Back to The Basics – No 7: The Fall of (Man) Humanity

### 1. What is the fall of humanity (man)?

**Genesis Chapter 3:1-22.** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” <sup>4</sup> “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. <sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” <sup>11</sup> And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” <sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust, all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring <sup>a</sup> and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” <sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” <sup>20</sup> Adam named his wife Eve, <sup>p</sup> because she would become the mother of all the living.

<sup>21</sup> The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup> And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” <sup>23</sup> So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup> After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

### 2. What are some of the effects and results of the fall on every living human?

- Genesis chapter 3 – effects and results.

Vs7 Their eyes were opened, and they knew something was different. Perhaps the difference can be illustrated in this way. A doctor can know of cancer by virtue of his education and experience as a doctor. That is, he has read of cancer, heard lectures on cancer, and seen it in his patients. A patient, also, can know of cancer, but as its victim. While both know of cancer, the patient would wish he had never heard of it. Such is the knowledge which Adam and Eve came to possess.

Vs 8 They hid from God, they covered themselves, they felt shame. Vs 12 They blamed those around them. Vs 15 God put enmity between offspring of serpent; Eve - pain in child bearing; desire for you're your and He will rule over you; Adam vs 19 will die and return to the ground; working the ground will be difficult; vs 24 banished from paradise and the presence of God; no access to the tree of life. As a result there was a separation of harmony and life with God and others for His purposes and humanities joy and purposes.

- **A Key Question Asked by Many:** “How do we know that no one is born perfect or innocent, but rather born under the curse?”

**(1) The behaviour of all people** throughout all human history (Note: The rest of the bible story up until Jesus – effects and results). **(2) Individually:** Our bodies don't function as they should; Our minds don't see things clearly as they should; Our wills are set in a direction contrary to the will of God apart from the active work of the Spirit of God ; Our emotions are prone to over reaction, anger, depression, jealousy, etc.

**(3) World Religions and Theism(s):** Polytheisms; Agnosticism; Even Atheism; all “isms”.

**(4) The Testimony of Scripture:** The sacrificial system(s) There is no one righteous not even one; From sin I was conceived; In Adam all die in Christ all live; The wages of sin is death; **(5) Natural Theology** teaches us this, that we all die. **(6) The cross; (7) The need for life and a resurrection; (8) The Gospel** - hope in Jesus.

- **A Key Question Asked by Many:** “How is it that the fall has affected the whole human race and how is that fair?”

Adam is our representative. In Adam all Die! Everyone is Born Spiritually Dead to God. A helpful explanation and comparison might be by pointing out we all inherit limitations and tendencies, conditions, traits these are sometimes beautiful, helpful and sometimes these are not. You can be born tall, smart, and handsome or short, bald, and slow - none of that's your choice, it's a result of passed on natural genetics, from our ancestors (and environmental conditions) we are in this condition because of that. We are not born perfect or with a clean slate, no one, not even one. This goes some way to address the issue of “How is that Fair?” but you could equally ask “How is it that not fair?” We are all in the same “boat”! You and I sin because of our nature not because we are forced to. It's what sinners do. Someone might also take the high moral ground and object by saying that “If they were Adam they would not sin”, and that they would make the right choice. I might then say, “well that's great to hear so then do that now, - which will it be? You have a choice today? Which will you chose, “Adams choice to not trust God and obey His words by giving your life over to Jesus or by going your own way like Adam did?” The choice is right before you today - but probably not.

### 3. Some reflections on the Christian knowledge of the fall and sharing the good news of Jesus as Lord.

Though we are given a Theological History of the fall in Genesis ch 3, it does not follow that this explanation of ‘sin to sinners’, is essential to give in every evangelistic conversation or encounter (though it is very important to know).

- Jesus and his encounters
- Peter and his preaching/teaching/sharing
- Paul and Athens

### 4. The value of knowing and embracing (believing) in the biblical teaching of the fall, as followers of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (The Triune God).

- A knowledge of the fall is a gateway into understanding why the planet is a violent and sometimes dangerous and difficult place to live.
- A knowledge of the fall is a gateway into understanding why the planet is such a beautiful and productive and life giving place to live.
- A knowledge of the fall is a gateway into understanding why ‘life is hard’ and why humanity is often self-serving and self-destructive. In short, why we hurt others and hurt ourselves through our propensity to sin.
- A knowledge of the fall is a gateway into a saving knowledge of the Saviour Jesus Christ the Lord who offers redemption now and fullness of restoration in the near future, and forever more.
  - Those who cry out to Jesus as Lord are heard and forgiven.
  - Those who turn to Jesus receive an inheritance of life now and forever more rather than remaining in death (and under the sentence of death) now and forever more.
  - Those who have faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, are promised a complete overhaul of the effects of the fall. (New body, new ability to not sin, new home, new relationships, new heaven, new earth, new name, new identity, new citizenship).
- A knowledge of the fall is a gateway to acknowledge and experience the love of God for one's self.

- A knowledge of the fall is a gateway to show love and compassion towards those that feel the effects of the fall.

## 5. The grace of God and the ongoing effects of the fall on me as a believer and new creation.

- **Pre fall** – Adam and Eve with God in Paradise and without sin. Here is a perfect relationship but not tested and there is God's grace and favour.
- **Post fall** - There is imperfect relationships which are tested all the time and unable to be restored or maintained by anyone. God continues to show his grace and favour holding back His full judgement on sin and sinners. People are much more robotic here in this era and condition. Its true God didn't make robots but our freedoms are far more limited as a race in a post falling state than our original state. People are now not free to not sin. Humanities freedoms from God's Lordship result in perpetual sinners sinning.
- **Post Conversion, Jesus Saves Sinners** - More grace and God's favour on saved sinners. For those that have turned to Jesus and been born again, adopted, forgiven, received the Holy Spirit now have His word, and are not blind but see. These now see but don't see everything, but see dimly. But, they do see! They don't love God and people perfectly but they do love in ways that they know are good and pleasing to God. Lots has changed but still there is a lot to still happen for the child of God that Jesus has saved and is saving (or being saved). Some of that change will take place now slowly through trails of various kinds but the body of death is yet to undergo its final war with sin and with pain. At death, death will give way to victory.

### 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 - "The Resurrection Body"

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup> For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup> There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. <sup>41</sup> There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

<sup>42</sup> So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

### Mystery and Victory

<sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

<sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?"

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

However, in this [Post Conversion, Jesus Saves Sinners](#) era/state, those that are brought by the blood of Jesus are *free to not sin but still sin*. (Paul, Romans 7:7-25).

- [Post Consummation of Christ and His body the Church](#) - "on that day" *God's people will receive the full fruits of God's grace and favour.* They will know good from evil but will only be capable of doing good. They will all be free to not sin and will not sin, but will be in the .... "*new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.* <sup>2</sup>*And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.* <sup>3</sup>*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.* <sup>4</sup>*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away..."* (Revelation 21:1-4ff).

## 6. "The Beauty of the Fall" is a precondition of biblical revelation for the Glory of God to be displayed and enjoyed in the Believers Life.

- It made the disciples of Jesus (and the early Church) Happy.
- It made the disciples of Jesus (and the early Church) Humble.
- It made the disciples (and the early Church) Heralds.
- It made the disciples (and the early Church) Hospitable.

### In Summary:

A knowledge of the fall is a gateway and enlightening truth into many other essential truths that are given to us in scripture. This is so that we may have a godly relationship with God and with others, for His Glory, for our joy and sanctification and for the salvation and security of others.

### Small Group Questions & Prayer:

1. What old or new truths have stood out to you tonight?
2. What old or new truths have you heard tonight that you find hard to process or accept?
3. Please take a few minutes to pray together:
  - Giving thanks to God for the truth, we have heard tonight through the revelation of the scripture by the power of His Holy Spirit.
  - For greater understanding of the effects and results of the fall going forward.
  - For a greater concern, love and tender heartedness towards those who are living under the effects of the fall who are without hope, unless they come to see Jesus as Lord and Saviour themselves.