

THE TRUTH AND EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S SALVATION

Lesson Six

God's Charge and Man's Fall

Subject: God's Charge and Man's Fall

Scripture: Gen. 2:8-9, 15-23; 3:1-6; Matt. 4:4; 2 Cor. 11:3; 10:5; Rom. 5:12; 6:23; Deut. 11:16

Aim: (1) In order to accomplish God's purpose in creating man, man needed to take in God's life; (2) man failed when he chose to disobey God by partaking of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thus taking in Satan's poison instead.

Memory Verse: Rom. 5:12; 6:23

Approach: We have seen that God created man for a high purpose. He created man in His own image and as a vessel, a container. Man has the image of God. What do you think God looks like? Do you look like God? When you get angry, do you not look like (express) the devil? What has happened? Are you not supposed to rule over all the created things? If a lion comes to you, will you run for your life? Where is your dominion? Why did Adam lose his power? Let's see what happened. When we go over the story, put yourself in the place of Adam. (Eve can be considered as part of Adam.)

Content:

- A. God charged man to eat. When he was first created, Adam did have somewhat the image and dominion of God. He had the image because he was made of the three parts so that he could express God. We see that Adam had the dominion when he was told by God to till and guard the garden and when he gave names to so many creatures. Yet, in order to fulfill God's purpose Adam needed to take in God's life. But how could Adam do this?

God planted a garden with the tree of life in it. He then placed man in the garden to till it and to guard it. Then He charged him to eat. His intention was that man would partake of the tree of life by eating it. He wanted to be the source and content of man's life. He also wanted man to be filled with His life and grow with His life. (Look up the word "eat" in a Bible concordance and see how many times it is used in the bible.) Eating is very important in the bible and proper eating is very important to us.

- B. God gave a warning. God mentioned another tree in the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Of that tree God commanded man not to eat of it; with a warning that if he did eat from it he would surely die. The warning was needed because of the snake (Satan), who was also in the garden and wanted man to eat of that tree. However, God had created man with a free will.
- C. Man fell when he disobeyed God. Satan deceived Eve and Adam into doubting God's word and God's heart. When man listened to him and acted contrary to God's command, man fell. Satan's poison of sin got into man (Rom. 5:12). (You can use the

story of the fiery serpents in Num. 21:4-9 and illustrate by putting a few drops of ink into a glass of water and asking if anyone would like to drink of it.) Because of this disobedience man fell from such a high purpose to a low state of sin and death.

Man was chased out of the garden into a curse. The worst thing was to be away from God's presence and therefore, His life. In the next few weeks, we will see to what a low state man has fallen and how pitiful he has become.

Application:

1. We need to eat properly to stay healthy in our physical body.
2. We need to be very careful in what we take into our soul. It will affect our thinking, decision making and feelings.
3. We can take God in as our life, our source and our content by taking in God's word. God's word is the nourishment and supply for our daily living and for carrying out God's purpose.