

THE TRUTH AND EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S SALVATION

Lesson Nine

Consequence of Man's Fall- Man's Spirit Became Deadened

Subject: The Consequence of Man's Fall: Man's Spirit Became Deadened

Scripture: Gen. 2:17; 3:11; 4:9; Eph. 2:1; 4:18; 4:19a; Jn. 4:13-18; 1 Tim. 4:2; 1:19a

Aim:

Memory Verse: Prov. 20:27

Introduction: Due to man's fall, man's spirit became deadened. This man that is has lost its function. The conscience has become alienated from the life of God. It has become empty and in some cases has ceased from feeling. When man got poisoned by Satan, man's spirit became deadened. Man did not die right away physically, but became dead in spirit.

Definitions: The Conscience Condemns or Justifies.

1. Condemn: to pass an adverse judgment on, disapprove of strongly.
2. Justify: to show to be right, to be free from blame.

Content: 1) Adam and Eve became separated from God and lost access to the tree of life. 2) They hid themselves from the presence of God. They no longer felt free to talk to God because of their feeling of guilt and shame.

Man took of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, causing man's spirit to become deadened as well as man's conscience; becoming highly insensitive toward God, and what pleases Him.

Our conscience needs to be followed even before we are saved, (what function there is left), otherwise the condition of our conscience becomes even worse. 1 Timothy 4:2 speaks of liars who have lost the sense in their conscience, as if seared with a hot branding iron, having no feeling.

Man's deception. Man will resort to covering his conscience with reason. Because man has received a life of knowledge of good and evil, his resources of thought come from that tree. Instead of man truthfully acknowledging his conscience, man hides and covers it with reason to help justify his actions. For example, when Adam was asked by the Lord, "Where are you?" the Lord wanted to touch his conscience. When God asked Adam if he ate of the tree that he shouldn't have eaten from (Gen. 3:11) Adam should have just replied "Yes"! Instead of answering the question, Adam resorted to reason, and said, "the woman whom thou gavest to me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat." In other words, it's all her fault! Then Eve expressed the same thing and blamed it on the devil.

After Adam and Eve had children, Cain became jealous of Abel's offering to God. Because of such jealousy, Cain killed his brother. When asked by God, "Where is Abel thy brother",

Cain replied, "I don't know, am I my brother's keeper?" Not only did he lie, but he was very disrespectful.

These are only a couple of such responses from those with a conscience which is insensitive toward God.

*Please note: When our conscience condemns us, it is God who condemns us and our conscience knows no reason or rationalization, we should just obey God's speaking.

Another example in the N.T. is John 4:13-18. Here, the Lord wanted the Samaritan woman to realize her sin of having five husbands. Her reply was, "I don't have a husband." Meanwhile, she had five and the man she was living with was not her husband. The Lord, before giving her the living water, wanted to touch her conscience.

We should not try to pacify or ignore our conscience, but deal properly with it. God's desire is that man would eat of the Tree of Life; to contain God as the Divine life. Because of the fall, Satan's poison got into man causing his spirit to become deadened. Now, because of the satanic poison in man, it became impossible for God, who is holy, righteous, and glorious, to enter into a contaminated vessel. Here it is not a matter of God's love, but of His holiness. So He (God) placed at the east of the garden of Eden, Cherubim and a flaming sword which turned every way to keep the way to the Tree of Life away from man.

Application:

1. What do lies do to our conscience? 1 Timothy 4:2
2. What makes our spirit numb? Ephesians 2:1
3. If our conscience condemns us, we know it's God who condemns us. How should we react to a condemned conscience?
 - a. Cease from proceeding to do the incorrect thing if we have not yet done it.
 - b. Repent, if we have already done it.
 - c. Confess and claim the cleansing blood.
4. Our spirit is the Lamp of the Lord (Prov. 20:27). What has the fall done to the inside of man? Ephesians 4:18
5. When we don't listen to our conscience, the voice of God becomes fainter and weaker every time (demonstration of a voice getting weaker and stronger).

Man has become fallen so that his spirit has become dead and in some cases ceased from feeling (Eph. 4:19a). How terrible this is!