

INTRODUCTION

1. This morning we are returning to our study of Genesis and the Genesis Record.
2. We've already looked at chapters one and two which give us the creation account.
3. Chapter one gives the six days creation in six twenty-four hour days.
4. Chapter two gives us the seventh day rest and goes back and picks up the details of the creation of man and woman on the sixth day.
5. Now we come to chapter 3.
6. Chapter 3 records the fall of man and the consequences of the fall.
7. For our study this morning and next time, I'd like to read the first seven verses.

8. Read Genesis 3:1-7.
9. As we begin a look at man's fall from paradise, we are quickly brought to the fact that nothing from this point on is "good."
10. If you remember, when God created in Genesis chapter one and two, He concluded by saying all was very good.
11. But now as we look at chapter three nothing is good.
12. It's went from good to bad!
13. Romans 5:12 (NASB) summarizes it by saying,
"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."
14. And there you have the New Testament commentary on Genesis 3.
15. Paul Enns makes a good point when he says, "Genesis 3 does not describe the origin of sin, but it does describe the entrance of sin into the realm of humanity. Genesis 3 describes a historical event; Adam and Eve were historical people who sinned against God in time and space. The historicity of this event is essential if an

analogy is to be seen in Romans 5:12–21. If Adam was not a real creature who brought sin into the human race at one point in history, then there is no point to Jesus’ redeeming humanity at another point in history. Christ’s own testimony, however, confirms Genesis 3 as a historical event (Matt. 19:3–5).”¹

16. He’s right!
17. Genesis 3 is a historical event regarding the fall of man and the entrance of sin into the world.
18. Genesis 3:15 is also a historical event that describes the virgin birth and death and resurrection of Christ.
19. But as we consider Genesis 3:1-7, I want to begin by asking, “What is sin?”
20. First let’s start with...

LESSON

I. The Terms for Sin

Whatever sin is, Psalm 51:4 says it is “against You” (God).

¹ Enns, Paul P. *The Moody Handbook of Theology*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1989. Print.

Sin is called by different terms in the Bible:

In the Old Testament the more common words are:

Heb. ḥaṭṭā'ūt, “a missing”; peša', “rebellion,”
“transgression”; 'āwôn, “perversion”; ra', “evil” in
disposition; reša', “impiety.”

In the LXX which is the Greek translation of the OT the
common words are hamartía, “missing the mark”;
parábasis, “transgression”; adikía, “unrighteousness”;
asébeia, “impiety”; anomía, “lawlessness”; ponēría,
“depravity”; epithymía, “evil desire.”²

Some other terms would be: error, wrongdoing,
wickedness, evil-doing, iniquity, immorality, ungodliness,
unrighteousness.³

In Genesis chapter 3 none of those words are used.

In fact, the word “sin” doesn't occur at all but it is very
apparent it's there.

Look at Genesis 2:16-17. This is the command God gives
to Adam before the creation of Eve: “And the Lord God

² Bromiley, Geoffrey W., ed. “Sin.” *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Revised* 1979–1988 : 518.
Print.

³ <https://thesaurus.yourdictionary.com/sin>

commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (NKJV)

Now look at Genesis 3:6. It says the woman “took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”

1 Timothy 2:14 says “the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

2 Corinthians 11:3 (NKJV) But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

George Swinnock says, “Sin goes in a disguise, and thence is welcome; like Judas, it kisses and kills; like Joab, it salutes and slays. The foolish sinner sees the pleasant streams of Jordan, but not the Dead Sea, into which they will certainly empty themselves.”⁴

Eve was deceived by Satan in eating of the forbidden fruit. But it was different for Adam.

1 Timothy 2:14 says “Adam was not deceived.”

⁴ Ritzema, Elliot, and Elizabeth Vince, eds. 300 Quotations for Preachers from the Puritans. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2013. Print. Pastorum Series.

Who was the command in Genesis 2:16 given to? Adam.

He ate with both eyes open.

He wasn't deceived by the serpent, Eve was.

He disobeyed God's command.

God said, "Don't eat of this tree" but they both ate. This is DISOBEDIENCE.

Let's take some of these terms and look now at...

II. The Definition of Sin

Sin is "transgression of God's will, either by doing what He forbids or failing to do what He requires."

This is certainly true in Genesis 3.

Both Adam and Eve transgressed God's will.

His will was for them to obey Him and not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

By doing what He forbade, they sinned.

Let me remind you again of what we have already looked at and let me state it in 5 statements:

A. Sin is a Transgression of the Law of God

The Greek word *parabasis* means “overstepping, transgression.”

God gave the Mosaic law to heighten man’s understanding of His standard and the seriousness of transgressing that standard.

Romans 4:15 (NKJV) says, “the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.”

Thereafter, when God said, “You shall not bear false witness,” a lie was seen to be what it is: an overstepping or transgression of the law of God (cf. Rom. 2:23; 5:14; Gal. 3:19).

B. Sin is a Failure to Conform to the Standard of God

The Greek word *hamartia* means “miss the mark,” “every departure from the way of righteousness.”

This means that all people have missed the mark of

God's standard and continue to fall short of that standard (Rom. 3:23). This involves both sins of commission as well as omission. Failure to do what is right is also sin (Rom. 14:23).

C. Sin is Rebellion Against God

In 1 John 3:4 John says, "sin is lawlessness." "Lawlessness" (anomia) can be described as a "frame of mind." It denotes lawless deeds (Titus 2:14) and is a sign of the last days, meaning "without law or restraint" (Matt. 24:12).

D. Sin is Wrongful Acts Toward God and Man

Romans 1:18 refers to "ungodliness and unrighteousness of men."

Ungodliness refers to man's failure to obey God and keep the commandments related to Him (Exod. 20:1–11); unrighteousness is seen in man's failure to live righteously toward his fellow man (Exod. 20:12–17).

E. Sin is a Principle within Man

Sin is not only an act but also a principle that dwells in

man.

Paul refers to the struggle with the sin principle within (Rom. 7:14, 17–25); all people have this sin nature (Gal. 3:22).

Hebrews 3:13 refers to it “as the power that deceives men and leads them to destruction.”⁵

One old writer said, “Who is the hoary sexton that digs man a grave?

Who is the painted temptress who steals his virtue?

Who is the murderess that destroys his life?

Who is the sorceress that first deceives and then damns his soul? Sin.

Who, with icy breath, blights the fair blossoms of youth?

Who breaks the hearts of parents?

Who brings old men’s gray hairs with sorrow to the grave? Sin.

⁵ Ibid., Enns.

Who, by a more hideous metamorphose than Ovid ever fancied, changes gentle children into vipers, tender mothers into monsters, and their fathers into worse than Herods, the murderers of their own innocence? Sin.

Who casts the apple of discord on household hearts?

Who lights the torch of war and bears it blazing over trembling lands?

Who, by divisions in the church, rends Christ's seamless robe? Sin.

Who is this Delilah that sings the Nazarite asleep and delivers up the strength of God into the hands of the uncircumcised?

Who winning smiles on her face, honey flattery on her tongue stands in the door to offer the sacred rites of hospitality and when suspicion sleeps, treacherously pierces our temples with a nail?

What fair siren is this who, seated on a rock by the deadly pool, smiles to deceive, sings to allure, kisses to betray, and flings her arm around our neck to leap with us into perdition? Sin.

Who turns the soft and gentlest heart to stone?

Who hurls reason from her lofty throne and impels sinners mad as Gadarene swine down a precipice into a lake of fire? Sin.”⁶

That is so true!

Look back at Genesis 3 and let's see...

III. The Consequences of Sin

- A. Eyes were Opened to Evil (Gen.3:7)
- B. They Knew they were Naked (guilt) (Gen.3:7)
- C. They Hid from God (Gen.3:7)
- D. They Blamed Others for their Sin (Gen.3:12)
- E. They were Banished from the Garden (Gen.3:22-24)
- F. Sinful Anger (Cain's offering) (Gen.4:5)
- G. Murder (Cain murders Abel) (Gen.4:8)
- H. Lying (Cain lied about Abel) (Gen.4:9)
- I. Death (Gen.5; Rom.6:23)
- J. Corruption (Gen.6)
- K. Destruction (Flood) (Gen.7-9)
- L. Drunkenness (Gen.9:21)
- M. Perversion (Gen.9:22)
- N. Idolatry (Gen.11)

⁶ <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-234/the-breadth-and-depth-of-sin>

CONCLUSION

1. If there were no sin, everything would be very good.
2. Everything created in the heavens, everything created on the earth would be very good as it was on day six.
3. But because of sin, everything is very bad.
4. From World Wars, terrorism, mass murders, serial killings, plane crashes, auto accidents, fires, crippling and maiming of people through accidents, nuclear reactor disasters like Chernobyl, radiation poisoning, pollution, cancer, heart disease, all illnesses to all broken relationships, all divorce, all orphaned children, all drugs, all crime, all dereliction in all forms, all confusion, all conflict, all struggle, all disappointment, all anxiety, all fear, all guilt, all depression, all sorrow, all failure, all remorse, as well as all lust, and selfishness, and pride, and hatred, and covetousness, and rebellion, and murder, and stealing, and sexual acts outside of marriage, and irresponsibility, and disobedience to parents.
5. In a summary: all evil, all sadness, all failure, all death is because of sin.⁷

⁷ <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-234/the-breadth-and-depth-of-sin>

6. How has it affected you?
7. If you're here without Christ, then you are "dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph.2:1).
8. You are currently walking "according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience" (Eph.2:2).
9. Further you are living "in the lusts of [your] flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and...by nature [a child] of wrath, even as the rest" (Eph.2:3).
10. You're "separate[d] from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without GOD in the world" (Eph.2:12).
11. That's no pretty a picture that what we have looking at this morning.
12. But it doesn't have to be that way.
13. Come to Jesus Christ now.

14. Repent and turn from your sins and receive the Lord of Glory!
15. Let's pray.
16. Lord's Supper.