

Don't Get Played by the Devil

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Bible Text: Genesis 3:1-7

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I hope you are in Genesis chapter three. If you are not, I hope it doesn't take you a long time to get there. Genesis is at the beginning of our Bible where, of course, the Bible starts. But not where God starts, because God always has been and always will be.

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.¹

Father, add blessing to the reading of the Word of God. I pray that you will take me as your vessel. Cleanse me of sin. Empty me of self. Fill me with your Spirit. Thank you for what we have already heard to prepare our hearts for the preached Word. Bind the forces of Satan and I pray, God, that you might not allow him to hinder what takes place. God, help me, Lord, to be filled with you so that you will speak through me. For that soul that is nearest hell, might that one get saved today, anyone that knows not Christ. And then for all of us that are saved, change us now that we will never be the same. In Jesus' name. Amen.

You may be seated. Thank you for standing.

¹ Genesis 3:1-7.

Our Bible begins by saying:

“In the beginning God...”²

Could I just pause there?

“In the beginning God...”³

Listen. Do you notice that the Bible does not start by trying to prove the existence of God? It rather assumes that we already know that God exists, amen? So we will not spend much time today debating or arguing or trying to convince people that God exists, for the invisible things of God are clearly seen. You can look out at creation. You can see the plants and the trees and the birds and the fish and, my friend, you don't have to just look at creation, you can take even your own conscience and God has imprinted on all of us a knowledge of his existence and if that doesn't help you, if not the creation, if not the conscience then you have got this wonderful canon of Scripture that thoroughly declares to us that God is and the greatest manifestation of God is in Christ, his lovely Son. Aren't you glad that we don't serve a God that is man made, that is man created, that is man invented or that is man himself? Aren't you glad that the God that we serve was in the beginning, amen?

We thank the Lord for it. And he got all these things started. When there was nothing there was God. You hear me? When there was nothing there was God. And because there was God, God took something and made it out of nothing. And God was the one that took the sun and the moon and put them up in the sky with no strings attached and yet they never fall down. God is the one that took and divided the day from the night and God is the one that took those mountains there and painted the world with daffodils and God is the one that created the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea.

Listen to me. It was not a tadpole that climbed out of the water and then turned into some monkey. I don't care what that science teacher tells you with the glasses on the bottom of his nose and dandruff on his jacket. You are not kin to a monkey and a monkey is no kin to you.

It was God that then took from the dust of the ground and formed man and breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. Have you ever pondered the complexity of the human anatomy? Ain't no way this thing just kind of ended up like this. This body and all of its intricacies and its complexity and its body and all of its differences and diversity, this body is amazing because it was made by an amazing creator.

And here is man on earth, God's highest creation, had the privilege of enjoying God in the Garden of Eden. What a joy it must have been to walk in the garden and talk to God

² Genesis 1:1.

³ Ibid.

every day, just to fellowship with him. God says it is not good that man should be alone. I will make a help meet for him. And, of course, out of Adam God made Eve, the woman.

Somebody said, "How did they come up with the name woman?" Well God made Eve and she was so beautiful Adam said, "Whoa, man," and they came up with woman, amen?

And so you got Adam and Eve. By the way, not Adam and Steve, Adam and Eve. Can I get an amen? Praise God. You know what I am saying. Not Eve and Yvette, Adam and Eve.

And established a family. Thank God. I heard brother {?} just elaborate on God's establishment of the home yesterday. Thank God for the family. Amen. Husband, you ought to love your wife. Wife, you ought to love your husband, in spite of him. Amen. And here he places them in the garden. They are made in the image of God, created in total innocence. They are naked and they are unashamed because God has established and sanctioned this union and there is nothing vile about Adam and Eve, because God has brought them together and instituted marriage and they are not engaged in any gross or immoral sin. God has put that man with that woman. That is his wife. And they are meant to be for a lifetime.

They are enjoying the joy of the garden and all of the blessings of all the trees in the garden and they are supposed to eat off of all of the trees. They are all yours. Countless they must have been with the best fruit and the greatest duty and the most illustrious array of God's creation. I can't imagine how beautiful that garden was. Every tree, but the one in the middle. Don't touch it. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For if you eat of that tree ye shall surely die. No ambiguity in God's words. Very clear. You eat, you die. So don't eat.

You know, deductive reasoning. And yet in Genesis chapter three, despite the fact that God made creation, animals and the trees and the sun and the moon and he saw that it was good, but then in chapter 1:27 he created man in his own image, male and female and he went after creation of everything it was good, that after creation of man in verse 27 and woman he went from good to very good, verse 31. It was good to have some things, but when he created male and female, God said, "It is very good."

In his own image.

But then in chapter three the Bible tells us about the serpent. As sly and as slick as any animal that God created. And, by the way, clever. And you take an already clever, an already sly animal and then embody him with the devil. You have got a mess. And they had a mess.

So here comes the serpent embodied by the devil and he comes to Eve with a proposition. Now, mind you, Eve has it made in the shade drinking what? Pink lemonade. She got it all in all. What more can you ask for? You have got every tree in the garden. You have

got fellowship with God. You have got the image of God in which you are created. You have got total innocence. Hey, can live be any better?

Here comes the devil. And he takes her through this process and convinces her to take what is the best she could possibly have and mess it up. Did you hear that? I was thinking here, the last couple of days. The devil is something else. Come on now say amen. The devil is something else. I mean, ain't nobody like the devil. He is just sickening and cunning and subtle and sly. You understand what I am saying? He is a loser. He was created as a God's choice angel, but wanted more than what he should have had. And he tried to mess with God's stuff and he got kicked out. So he has always wanted some company, somebody else to dwell with him in loserhood.

And here he comes taking God's choicest creation and trying to get her to buy in to his pressure and to buy into his scheme and to settle for her proposition. And, by the way, he paints this glorious array and he paints it looking so good, looking so grand, looking so great, looking so glossy.

And then when she listens to him, she discovers it ain't the way he painted it. But by then it is too late.

I was thinking, you know, how best to really put what I want to say today and I am going to borrow a little bit of slang. I feel like I am in a crowd that will understand.

In the world—and I am not talking about in the moral sense or immoral. I am just talking about in general. One of the worst things in the world and probably in street talk to happen to you is what they call to get played. Now I am going to try to define it for those of you who are not fluid in such linguistic dialect. To get played is to get fooled, to get tricked, to get used, to get strung along only to find out it ain't what it looked like, to get played is to jump into a proposition that promises a great product, but only ends up in tragedy and catastrophe. To get played is to get yourself set up like you are really walking into a good deal only to find out it was nothing more than a scam. You see, it makes it seem like the grass is greener on the other side, but the truth of the matter is ain't no grass over there at all. To get played is, perhaps, to walk into a situation where it looks like where you are you are losing out but where they are trying to bring you, you are going to gain all the stuff you have always longed for and step out of that life of degradation and boredom and you have to miss out like you have always... To get played is to step into something and only to find out it wasn't what you thought it was. Even got played by the devil.

And what concerns me is he hadn't changed. Let me say that again. He hadn't changed. Now today we are not in the Garden of Eden, but today if we are saved we have got it even better than they did. Why? Because we have been blood washed, amen? We have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. We have been snatched out of the destiny of the pit of hell. We have been adopted. We have been sanctified, justified, hope to be glorified one day. We have been bought back. We have been brought back. Amen? We have been introduced to the greatest individual in the world and that is the Lord Jesus

Christ. God is our Father. Jesus is our Savior, Holy Ghost comforter, Word of God died and heaven is our home.

The devil knows that. And here he comes, when we have got it better than anybody could want to have it, with a proposition. Amen. You know what breaks my heart? People buying into it. Every single day folks that got it made with Christ will listen to the devil. Folks that got it good in Christ want to buy into Satan. Folks that have been blessed by God want the devil's little toys. Folks that have been protected by Jehovah want some mess from Lucifer and I am here to tell you today no matter how good he makes it look, no matter how fancy he makes it seem, no matter how yummy he may say it tastes, he is a liar. He is a murderer. He is a dragon. He is two faced. He is a backstabber. He will never tell you the truth. And the message today is: Don't get played by the devil.

Now, look quickly, relatively speaking, at this process. Number one, I want you to notice the leading to doubt, the leading to doubt. You see verse one.

“And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”⁴

Do you hear that?

“Yea, hath God said...”⁵

Listen. He is leading her to doubt. Do you understand? He is leading her to be confused about the absolute obvious. Do you understand? When the devil starts coming up talking to you and asking you questions about stuff you already know, he wants to confuse you about the obvious. Listen to me. Eve had no question in her mind whether or not she was supposed to mess with that tree. And yet the devil has got her repeating to him what she already knew. Be careful when the devil comes up asking you questions you already know the answer to.

And do you really have to read your Bible? I mean, do you really have to get married as a pure young person? Do you really have to pray? Do you really have to go to church that much? Do you really have to tithe? What is one week? Huh? You all know I am preaching. {?}

Now, look, do you really have to tell the truth all the time? Do you really not only not have to touch someone that is not your spouse, but you are not supposed to look in lust either? Do you really have to monitor what you look at on the internet? Do you really have to be a soul winner? Do you really have to... Yeah, yeah, yeah. And all of the sudden he gets you to be confused about the absolute obvious. And then after you are confused by the absolute obvious, you begin to contemplate an alternative option. Listen

⁴ Genesis 3:1.

⁵ Ibid.

to me. You don't ever have to think about what you can do in addition to what God said if you never question what he said in the first place.

And by getting you confused by the absolute obvious contemplating alternative option, then you begin to conversate with your actual opponent.

Do you know the problem with a lot of Christians? They spend too much time talking to the devil as if we are cool with him. Well, you know, I am not going to do anything. We are just chatting. Come on. We are just discussing some things. He asked me a question and I answered it.

I wonder if Eve had ever sinned if the moment the devil started asking her something dumb she walked away. See, some folks don't see sin in the immediate situation. All they see is an innocent conversation. Amen. Amen. Every once in a while somebody talk nonsense to you. You ought to let them know, I have got to go now. Amen. And every once in a while somebody starts... you have got to be careful, young people, young ladies, when a boy starts talking to you in a way that is inappropriate. Be careful, single young ladies, when a young man starts talking to you. And, by the way, single young men, when a young lady... we have got so many ladies that got bold to...

See, when you engage in a conversation with the devil, next thing you know you will start believing the devil. And you are getting played, the leading to doubt.

Secondly, if you would, the lies of deception.

“We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”⁶

Watch verse four.

“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.”⁷

Now watch this now. Here she goes talking to him. She shouldn't even have been talking to him. Some folks it ain't good to be seen talking to. Amen. Amen. Some time when it is over you need to go home. Amen. Well, I got on the internet the other day and everybody was having a conversation on Facebook about this and I just thought I would chime in. Amen.

Some folk you never even talked to before, but by watching how they talk to others, they need to be deleted from your friends list. Amen. You hear me say all the time, too many on Facebook and not enough with their face in the book.

You shall not...

⁶ Genesis 3:2-3.

⁷ Genesis 3:4.

[gap in audio]

...and he contradicts what God said, didn't he? He creates his own story.

“For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened.”⁸

Watch this now. “God didn't tell you everything. He left some details out, because by telling you the whole thing you would then be able to do some things that only he can do.” Watch this. So here is the picture. “He is not really for you, because if he were for you he wouldn't keep good things from you.” Come on.

There are some of you that are headed in a direction right now because you have bought into the fact that the devil told you he knows the real deal that God shielded from you. You can't be so narrow minded and you can't be so Bible believing and you can't be so absolute about I won't go here and I won't listen to this and I won't wear that and I won't say that or a little bit of a little drinking and once in a while ain't so bad. As long as you are not drunk.”

Huh? The Bible says:

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”⁹

Proverbs says:

“Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.”¹⁰

Habakkuk said, “Woe to him that giveth to his neighbor strong drink.”

In case you are wondering, God never just said that drunkenness was wrong. God said leave it alone all together.

“Well, I mean, you don't have... everybody drinks a little bit. I mean, it is a wedding. You toast to champagne at a wedding. That is what we do.”

But we forget that when we got saved we weren't the same we no more. We got a new coach. And when you get a new coach you get a new play book and when you get a new play book sometimes you get a new position. And you get a new quarterback and you get a new practice schedule. And you get a new list of standards. And, by the way, out of all the rules and the regulations that God gave me when he saved me, it is nothing to be

⁸ Genesis 3:5.

⁹ Proverbs 20:1.

¹⁰ Proverbs 23:31.

compared to the peace and the joy and the satisfaction. I will take all the rules, because they are nothing compared to all the blessings.

Now Christians give up everything to complain about all they can't do. Why don't you hush and thank God for all you can do? Amen. You can sleep at night and wake up the next day. You have got a roof over your head. You have got a salvation that never goes away even though you keep messing up. You have got a Bible that is preserved and will last forever. You have got a Holy Ghost that will never leave you or forsake you. You have got mansion just over the hillside. Bless God, you have got a God that loves you all the time. You have got goodness and mercy that will follow you all the days of your life. Dressing modestly, coming to church three times, tithing 10 percent ain't that bad.

Hush all that complaining. God is too good to us. And now they are offering. How much did he give to you? You are conversating with the devil.

"Well, do I really have to? Maybe God really did leave it out. Maybe this premarital sex is good. Maybe just a little bit, a little puff and a little party at this club every once in a while." Huh? "I have to click on it and watch it to keep me from actually doing it."

Who are you lying to? Can I tell you a rule to go by? God meant what he said. God never went oops, my bad. That text was meant for somebody else. God knew I was tired. I didn't know what I said. God never came {?} my bad. God has never said, "Oops." And when he said, "Don't eat it and don't touch me," hear me now, God meant what he said.

Lies of deception.

Thirdly, the lure of desirability. Look at this here tree. Could you please take a moment at face value evaluate the senseless logic of Satan? That is not a point, just a intelligent sounding statement. He gives you a perverted appetite. Are you looking? It is all in your Bible, lest ye think I beguile you. Listen. Verse six.

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food..."¹¹

You know, I hear Christians say all the time in so many words, "I got to eat." So that is supposed to be justification for working on God's time. "I got to eat. I got to eat."

Isn't it amazing? I know you got to eat. But you don't got to eat from that tree. Somebody help me preach. All these trees in here and you have got to have this one. See what the devil does? The devil decreases the blessings of God down to zero and increases the one thing God said doesn't touch. Watch me now. He magnifies what is off limits and deemphasizes what is all right.

I have got 66 books in a love letter written from God to me that I have got to read. What in the world do I need some wicked magazine for? Sixty six books. I never met a man

¹¹ Genesis 3:6.

mastered all 66 of them, never met a one. I met some trying, though. I am one of them. I am trying to learn everything I can out of them books. Amen. It is ok, to put *Vogue* down and then and all this other *G Q* and *Sports Illustrated*. Amen. Amen. How many know God will take a sports magazine and put a half naked woman in it?

It is good for food. So you know what it makes me do? It makes me quiet God and question God. Here is where it leads me. Dissatisfied with God's provision and discontent with God's presence, as if to say I am not getting everything I need from God so I must go elsewhere to be satisfied. And if you are looking for something else, you are not hanging out with God.

David said:

“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”¹²

I tell people all the time. Oh, you poor wretched soul. You grew up in one of them narrow minded homes I am glad today that I had a momma and daddy that didn't put a television in my room. And didn't let me get a cell phone at 10 years old and didn't let me stay over everybody's house and do everything and we couldn't watch the television. I am glad. It is ok. Think I am crazy. I have never been to a movie theater.

Oh, you poor wretched soul. Don't be sorry for me. I am doing just fine. I want you to understand something. Listen to me. I am glad I can go to bed at night and not toss and turn with all those wicked thoughts that I have been scarred with. I am glad to be today having never tasted alcohol, never smoked a cigarette. I am glad to have met my wife as a virgin at the altar. Oh, you poor wretched soul. No, I feel like getting some pom poms and doing a flip if I could right now. I am enjoying the Lord, because I have got a whole bunch of friends that got played and came back and told me it wasn't... it wasn't good like it looked on the menu.

Don't confuse advertisement with actuality. I have tasted a whole lot of sandwiches that didn't taste like they looked on the menu, juicy burger. That ain't no juicy burger. That is a piece of horse. Melt in your mouth. How about break your tooth? To die for, no, it will kill you. You keep going off commercials. The devil makes money off of advertising. Amen. The devil makes his move off of advertisement. Hey, God doesn't win off of advertising. He wins off of actual performance. He has never proposed something that wasn't real and I want you to know. Not only was salvation everything God said it was, it was all that and a bag of chips, amen?

Super size. Extra large bag. All you can eat. Here. What is wrong, Eve? God don't feed you? What God is starving you? Watch it when lost people start telling you, now you poor thing. You had better be careful about going to all that church, reading all that Bible. You go home and tell some of your friends {?} watch it {?} got you. Next thing you know you will be in Sunday school and in the Sunday school they call you out in the

¹² Psalm 37:25.

middle and ask you to read out loud. Did they give you envelopes for tithing? Listen to me. They come out of the water. When they hit that hallway back there with them envelopes. I am not dry yet. That is all right. It is the inner box. Take the envelope.

Tithing... Listen. The best ... the biggest beneficiary from tithing is you, not us. We are trying to take... God doesn't need your money. He owns the cattle of a thousand hills. Do you really think your 10 percent pushes him over the top and he is thereby able to finance his operation? We are not getting you to tithe for you, for us or for God. You are tithing for yourself that you can prove God now that with... that he might not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing. That there may not be room enough to receive it.

The biggest winner in tithing is you. The biggest loser in tithing is when you don't.

So ye shall not die. You have got a perverted appetite and now you have got a pleasant appeal. The tree was to be desired, pleasant to the eyes. Don't judge every book by the cover. And not everything that glitters is gold. It may be gold today and silver tomorrow morning. I wish you would understand the legitimacy of what I am saying. There are people in here today, you young people. There are adults in here today that would stand up and beg you not to get played like they did.

What a glorious ... what a glorious sight it was to be at that wedding yesterday and watch... Pierre will be 33 this year. {} He waited on the Lord. And God didn't give him scraps. He gave him the best. He looks better standing beside her. I didn't think I could ever be able to say that. Yesterday during the reception they were playing a CD. He is playing the violin. She is playing the piano. They are making instrumental music honoring the Lord together. See, God knows how to do it right. You go running after the relationship you want to. One preacher says, "I would rather go through life wanting something I never had than having something I never wanted."

And, folks, trying to must make it happen. You are going to plan your life out. I am going to find. I am getting me some marriage. By this time this year so help me God I am going to be down that aisle if I have got to buy me a husband. He may not have no job, no car, no teeth, but he will marry me. Why? Because I told myself I wouldn't be single at this age.

You don't have a right to tell yourself nothing.

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"¹³

Your job ain't to tell your self. Your job is to listen to what he tells you. Amen. I know it is not... I know that I shouldn't be doing this, but have no choice, for a Christian's sake. I have got to eat.

The perverted appetite, a pleasant appeal, watch it now. Personal aspiration.

¹³ 1 Corinthians 6:19.

“...and a tree to be desired to make one wise.”¹⁴

Now, Eve, tell the truth, sister. You didn't just eat it because you were hungry. You ate it for what you could get out of it, because the devil lied to you and told you if you do it you are going to be smart like God, amen. And instead of being smart enough to know you are not meant to be smart like God, you got outsmarted and ended up dumb anyway. And a lot of Christians get played by the devil because they want more.

I can't wait till I get that car. As soon as you get it, you are planning on the next one.

I can't wait till I get that raise. As soon as you get a raise, I am planning on the next one.

I can't wait till I buy that outfit. As soon as you get it, you are ready for the next one. Why? Because you are never satisfied. Nobody is satisfied like Jesus does it. Amen. I said nobody satisfies like Jesus. He made you with the void so he could be the only one to fill it. Come on, now. Amen. And now all of the sudden she has got personal aspirations. Hey, this wise like God thing sounds ... watching when you pride and your personal aspiration become the locomotive for your wrong decisions.

Let me try to bring this thing on around. Number four, the lunge into disobedience.

“...she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”¹⁵

Number one, silly choice. What makes it silly? Anything contrary to what God says is silly. I don't care how many people are doing it or wearing it or going there. I don't care how normal it has become to society. If God ever said, “Don't, it is still don't.” Come on. Silly choice. She eats. She is so pretty. He is...

“Adam, I brought you some fruit. Don't you love me, honey? Cook your favorite meal.”

I am embellishing a little bit, because she got deceived. He just plain dumb. He wasn't even... he didn't even see the commercial and still bought it. Huh? And there are some times we are just dumb. We just buy stuff that doesn't make sense, spend stuff that we don't have, go places we know was crazy. Don't some time you need to tell the truth and ... oh, Lord, I didn't know what happened. I just... no, you planned it for weeks. You bought a ticket. You know it was wickedness there and you know a bunch of sinful folk are going to be there. You not only went, you went there. They told you it was away. You took a page and sat there until it bust. Come on that is how I know.

They got a table for us down there in Foolishville.

¹⁴ Genesis 3:6.

¹⁵ Ibid.

See, why you should have never talked to him in the first place? Silly, a silly choice. Then it is immediately accompanied by sure conviction.

“And the eyes of them both were opened.”¹⁶

Listen to me. You can do your best at trying to tune God out when you are about ready to say it, but the moment you do, God comes blasting back in.

Remember what I told you? Remember I told you not to go? Huh?

Isn't it amazing that God didn't have to show up right there and say, “You are naked.” They instinctively knew. And they didn't have anything different on than they did before they ate the fruit. But they had stepped outside the umbrella of God's protection because they had disobeyed his command. And that is why engaging in any activity outside the confines of God's authority always is accompanied by guilt. You can take something between two unmarried people and it is vile and sneaky and put it between two married people and it is sanctioned and sanctified. What is the difference? The Word of God.

Evil concupiscence. It means taking something that was intended to be good and make it bad. Sure conviction, serious consequences. I will hasten. I don't have time to elaborate. The consequence of death, desolation, devastation, distress, departure. They died spiritually. They began their death physically. Desolation, ground is going to be messed up. Distress. You are going to have pain at child birth. Devastation. You have got to deal with the fact that you have lost it for mankind and departure, out the garden you go. And as fun as your sin is, it will take you further than you want to go. It will keep you longer than you want to stay. It will cost you more than you want to pay. And I hate to tell you this. I don't care how much of a financial guru you think you are, sin is always out your budget.

I checked my account. It said I had enough in there. Bounce, bounce. And after you go your way what you lose is so much more than what you gained. Bye, bye. Out of the garden.

And how many of you know even though you have asked for forgiveness for silly choices, you still pay the consequences. And some are still paying it today.

Now let me close with this. The Lord of deliverance. Thank God for his compassion. He came calling.

“Adam, Adam, where art thou? You can't fix your nakedness. So I am coming to find you.” The call of God.

“You messed up. It wasn't my fault. It was her fault. It wasn't my fault it was his fault.”

¹⁶ Genesis 3:7.

No, it is your fault and sin is always your fault. But God said, "I am going to kill a beast and shed some blood." He made them coats of skin thereby to be divided for God and for them. The coat, the beast was sacrificed as an offering to God and the blood shed was used as a payment for their sin and the skin from the beast was used to clothe them and aren't you glad that all the times in life that you have sinned and fallen into nakedness that there is a God that when the devil has played our worse than you thought you could be, there is a God bigger and greater and stronger and more awesome than the devil. And when the devil talked you into being naked, God knew how to put some clothes on you.

And he made provision. Thereby, sinful man can have his sins atoned.

Here we are thousands of years later, some six to 10,000 years later, same devil running the same game and getting the same results.

But, pastor, I didn't mean to do it? The devil made me do it.

"... greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."¹⁷

He can't make you do anything, but when you have got God in you.

Genesis 3:15:

"... it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."¹⁸

I talked about that last week. I will not go back where God promised a conquest. He says, "Satan, you are talked them into something that played them real good. But when I get to Calvary, I am going to bust your head." And thank God he did, stripping Satan of all power when it comes to his children.

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.¹⁹

And God said it gets rough and it gets tough and you get weary and it gets hard, but you just walk in the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ and when you get to heaven it will be worth it all.

By the way, it is worth it all now. Hey, we have got to leave here today. We are going to the wicked world where Corinthians says that the god, lowercase g, of this world, referring to the devil, has blinded the minds. Some of you here today are not saved. You

¹⁷ 1 John 4:4.

¹⁸ Genesis 3:15.

¹⁹ 1 Corinthians 15:57-58.

are not sure if you died today that you would go to heaven. Do you know why you are lost? You are lost because Eve got played and Adam bought into it and because of that every man and, boy or girl, that has ever been born was born in sin. We are all born dying, separated from God. You can't save yourself and you weren't born saved. But there is a God who came calling for you. And he has said your name.

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”²⁰

“...whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”²¹

“...whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”²²

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”²³

Put your name in the whosoever. It applies. Jesus Christ laid on the altar whereby he shed his blood for you. And if you will confess your sins Christ will take the blood of Christ as payment for your sin and will take Christ's righteousness and clothe you in it. And this, the nakedness of sin will be covered by the righteousness of Christ.

I urge you today. Don't get played by the devil.

Our Father, I thank you...

²⁰ Matthew 11:28.

²¹ Revelation 22:17.

²² Romans 10:23.

²³ John 3:16.