

Trusting & Clothed—Yet Banished

Genesis 3:20-24

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Introduction

This ain't paradise.

- That is a pretty obvious statement, isn't it?
 - We live in a world that is full of war, strife, sickness, disease, shortages, storms, broken relationships, death, and all sorts of disappointments.
 - You'd have to be pretty out of it to think that this is paradise.
- In Genesis 3, the chapter we are currently looking at in our sermon series on Genesis, we are told why it is that we are not in paradise...
 - Many people have no clue why the world is the way it is, but right here in Genesis 3 we are told all about it in God's holy word which cannot err.
- This chapter shows us how the entire human race fell into sin in Adam.
 - Adam's fall is not just the fall of a private individual, but it is the fall of the man who is the father of the entire human race.
 - He represented the entire human race so that both the corruption of his nature as well as the guilt of his rebellion is imputed to us all—it is passed on to us all.
 - Interestingly, those of God's people who believe in salvation by their own works (at least partly so) usually see Adam's fall as that of an individual...that it did not bring sin upon us all...
 - but those who see that salvation is all of grace rightly see that the entire human race fell when Adam fell—that we fell *in him* and *with him*.
 - Scripture makes this clear in Romans 12:18-19 when it says:
 - **Rom 12:18-19: Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.**
 - You see how this shows that we not only are punished on account of Adam's sin, but that we are also "made sinners..."
 - That we were given a sinful nature from Adam is seen by the way the Bible shows that we are naturally at enmity with God, must be drawn by God to be saved, are blind until He opens our eyes, are dead in sin until He makes us alive, are unable to submit to God until He enables us, and so forth.
 - That we are punished on account of Adam's sin is seen by the simple fact that we are not in paradise...when Adam was cast out, so were all who would be born of him...

And today, at the end of Genesis 3 (our text is Gen 3:20-24),

- we will see how Adam and Eve (and all of us with them) were banished from paradise,
- but before we see that that, we will see how they believed God's promise and were clothed by God.

Listen carefully now as I read this account to you...actually, I'll begin in Gen 3:1

Gen 3:1-24: Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?" ¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" ¹² Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, "What *is* this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ So the LORD God

said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you *are* cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." ¹⁶ To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire *shall be* for your husband, and he shall rule over you." ¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat *of* it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return." ²⁰ And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. ²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" — ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

May the LORD bless to us the reading of His holy word.

I. Let's begin by looking at Adam's confession of faith in verse 20.

A. This is a wonderful confession of his trust in what God has promised.

1. It says simply that Adam called his wife's name Eve because she was the mother of all living.
 - The name *Eve* means *life* or *living*,
 - and so, as it says, he named her Eve because he believed that she would be the mother of all living—that the whole world would be populated by her.
 - It took faith on his part to believe that because Adam had not yet seen a child born—
 - All he had to go on was what God had told them when He created them...
- But now that he and Eve have fallen, there is an even more important reason that this can be called a confession of faith.
2. That Eve should be the mother of all living was a confession of faith because Adam believed the promise of life that God had just revealed to him and his wife...even though they had fallen into sin...
 - He believed that God would give them children that would live by grace because God had promised to do so!
 - a. This has to do with what we have seen in previous weeks in Genesis 3, so let's do a little review.
 - 1) Adam and Eve both knew that they had sinned by eating the forbidden fruit...
 - They knew that God had told them that they would die if they did this.
 - God had made them so beautiful—they perfectly bore His image—having His love and His service and His wisdom...
 - But now by sinning, they had lost that connection with God and were covered with shame—
 - The glory had departed from them—
 - Instead of beauty, they were defiled;
 - Instead of love, there was bitterness and hate;
 - Instead of service there was laziness and self-centeredness,
 - Instead of wisdom there was folly.
 - They knew that they were guilty before God and so they tried to hide from Him because of their shame...
 - First they made fig leaves to cover their nakedness and then they tried to hide in the bushes when they heard the Lord coming.
 - It was pretty silly, but they knew that they were very guilty and it was a desperate effort to avoid God.
 - They wanted to try to cover up their shame that had replaced the glory.
 - The efforts people make today to hide from God are just as desperate.

- 2) But we saw that God came and sought them out.
 - It is always a great mercy when God does this—
 - He would not let them hide from Him because He wanted to restore them—
 - He wanted to show them what they had done and make them face it, but He also wanted to reveal His saving mercy to them.
 - You should be thankful if you are living in sin and you get caught...
 - It is God coming after you...instead of abandoning you.
 - At first, they are so guilty that although they admit that they have eaten the forbidden fruit,
 - Adam tries to blame Eve and even says to God, “the woman you gave me—she gave the fruit to me and I ate,”
 - And Eve blames the serpent, saying that he deceived her.
- 3) But the LORD proceeds to pronounce His judgement upon each for what he or she has done.
 - The proud serpent must crawl on the ground,
 - He must have the woman and her seed turn against him,
 - And worst of all, eventually have her seed crush his head!
 - The woman will experience conflict in her calling—
 - As a mother she will have much sorrow in bringing forth children,
 - And as a wife she will have conflict with her husband.
 - And the man will have trouble in his calling—
 - The earth will not bring forth food to him as readily as it would have—
 - He will have trouble and pain just to produce food...
 - And not only that, but eventually the ground that he was created to subdue and rule over will subdue him...
 - He will return to the dust—he will die!
 - And of course the curse on the woman will also pertain to the man—he too will experience trouble in childrearing and marriage,
 - and obviously she will also experience the curse on the ground and she too will die.
- 4) But as we saw last week, there are some wonderful promises for the man and the woman contained in these sentences of judgement.
 - a) Perhaps we could summarise them by saying simply that despite what they have done,
 - Adam and Eve will still be able to bring forth children for God!
 - This is the glorious thing they were given to do at creation—think of it—bringing forth children that bear God’s image!
 - They will have pain and sorrow bringing them forth and in providing for them, but they will still be able to do this!

- b) And not only that, but in the curse upon the serpent, there is the promise that God will turn the woman and her seed against the serpent.
 - They had joined the serpent (which is Satan) in his rebellion against God, but God says that He will put enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent!
 - That means that some people will be delivered from the rebellion of Satan and from friendship with him!
 - They will be reconciled to God and so turned against Satan!
 - c) And not only that, but verse 15 also tells the serpent that the seed of the woman will crush his head!
 - The seed of the woman is now referred to as an individual—which of course we know from last week’s sermon is Jesus Christ....
 - Satan will crush the heel of the seed of the woman, but he will not be able to inflict a fatal blow!
 - But the seed of the woman will be able to completely conquer the serpent and his seed!
- 5) Do you remember what that means for us?
- a) It means that though Satan can kill us, we will rise again—just like Jesus did—if we are the seed of the woman—
 - that is, if we are among those who have repented of sin and turned against Satan through Jesus Christ.
 - Those who do not repent—though born of the woman, remain as Satan’s seed—as his friends—who will perish with him, being brought to hell.
 - b) It means that God has promised to mankind, even though we are fallen, that we will still bring forth children for Him!
 - When God created Adam and Eve, He had commanded them to be fruitful and multiply—to fill the earth with offspring...
 - Before the fall, these children would have all been beautiful bearers of God’s image—
 - They would love as God loves, and serve as He serves and be full of wisdom and glory—the glory of God would be upon them as it was upon Adam and Eve.
 - But now that they are fallen you would think that God might have terminated their ability to have children!
 - But now God is promising that they will still be able to bring forth children for Him...with great difficulty...but that after much conflict they would emerge gloriously.
 - What a tremendous mercy this is to us!
 - Who could have ever thought that this would still be possible if God had not promised?

- b. Now you can see how Adam's faith is seen in naming his wife Eve...
 - Adam has just heard this sentence from God, and he has heard the promises within those sentences...
 - He has heard the promise that he and his wife will still be able to bring forth children for God—children that will repent and turn against Satan—children that will eventually conquer Satan!
 - And Adam has believed that promise!
 - He names his wife Eve (living) because he believes that, despite the fall, she will be the mother of all living!
 - She will bring forth this godly seed to fill the earth!
 - She will bring forth a kingdom of righteousness that will be victorious over Satan.
 - Even though Adam and Eve have brought death upon all mankind, by God's grace they will still be able to bring forth life—children that live in the fullest sense!
- B. Adam's faith is the same in essence as the faith you must have to be saved...
1. You too must believe God's promise that He will establish a kingdom of righteousness in the seed of the woman, Jesus Christ in particular,
 - And that He will conquer Satan after a great conflict and arise with His whole kingdom of righteousness to fill the whole earth with those that truly and gloriously bear the image of God.
 2. Now we have the full revelation of Jesus Christ...
 - He has come and we have the revelation that God has sent Him to establish this kingdom of righteousness and to destroy the Devil...
 - And that holy apostles have told us that Jesus procured righteousness for us by bearing our sins on the cross so that we could be pardoned...
 - And we see that He gives us the Holy Spirit so that we can and do turn against Satan—that is how He puts enmity in our hearts so that we want to break away from Satan and return to God!
 3. And so if any of you want to be a part of this righteous kingdom, then you must repent and trust in the promise of God concerning Jesus...
 - You must believe the promise that God will establish this kingdom in the crucified Lord Jesus—
 - that both forgiveness and life will be granted to you through Him...
 - And that if you believe, you will receive the blessing of life.
 - The faith that names the woman Eve is the faith that believes what God has promised, and that faith was accounted to Adam for righteousness...
 - and that faith is still accounted to everyone who believes for righteousness.

TRANS> And that brings us to the second thing we are shown in this passage...

II. We see that upon believing, Adam is clothed by God with righteousness.

- Verse 21 explains how God Himself clothes both Adam and Eve...It says:
 - **Gen 3:21: Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin and clothed them.**

A. These clothes are full of significance.

- They are much more than a mere means to keep the elements out...
- 1. This is apparent because of the way that Adam and Eve's nakedness has been spoken of in this account all along—
 - Ever since the last verse of chapter 2, it has been emphasised.
 - a. In Gen 2:25, they are described as being naked and not ashamed.
 - They were not ashamed because they were filled with the glory of God as His image bearers—there was nothing to be ashamed of!
 - His glory was seen upon them.
 - b. But in Genesis 3:7, we find them covered with fig leaves and yet now they are ashamed...that is why they resort to the fig leaves.
 - They are ashamed because the glory of God's image was no longer upon them—they were covered with shame and were trying to hide it.
 - But their efforts to cover themselves were wholly inadequate...
 - c. Because this matter of nakedness and covering has been so prominent, such a focus in this portion...
 - it makes it obvious that when we are told that God made clothes for them in Genesis 3:21, there is more to it than providing protection from the cold and the wind!
 - 2. By clothing them Himself, God provides a covering that is completely adequate to cover their shame.
 - a. God is the only one who could provide such a covering.
 - As we have seen, their shame was not before each other, it was before God—it was shame on account of their sin before Him.
 - Their fig leaves and bushes did nothing to take away their sin.
 - But now Adam has trusted God's promise for life...
 - And God provides a covering for Him.

TRANS> What a great mercy this is!

- b. It is also significant that God uses animal skins to cover them.
 - That means that animals have been killed to provide these clothes for them.
 - This was the first recorded instance of death—and it was a death to provide a covering for the sin and guilt of Adam and Eve.
 - It must have been quite a shock for Adam and Eve to see death for the first time—all that they might be clothed by God!

- In chapter 4 we find Cain and Abel offering sacrifices.
 - There is no mention of God having instituted this, but it is certain that He did or they would never have done it...
 - It was likely in connection with this provision of clothing that the LORD instituted animal sacrifices for sin—
 - He was beginning to show them that Christ must die to atone for man's sin.
3. This symbolism is used throughout redemptive history.
- a. Animals are slain so that man can be pardoned—provided with an atonement to cover his sin and guilt...
 - And the promise is given that God will provide the sacrifice...
 - And of course this refers to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and the blood that He shed for sin.
 - b. In Isaiah 61 we have that confession of faith that we confessed today in which we say,
 - **Isaiah 61:10: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness...**
 - c. In Jesus' parable about the wedding feast, the king finds among his guests a man who does not have a wedding garment and he casts him out.
 - By this, Jesus shows that we must be clothed with the righteousness that God provides through Him if we are to come before God.
 - d. In Revelation 3:18, Jesus counsels the church of the Laodiceans to acquire white garments from Him...
 - **Rev 3:18: "that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed."**

TRANS> So you see that clothing is used all through the scripture to refer to the covering that God provides for sinners who come to Him in faith.

- It is a wonderful thing—it is a great mercy from our God!
 - It is the righteousness of Jesus Christ that is imputed to us and without which we are covered with sin and shame.

B. What wonderful assurance this God-wrought covering is to us...

1. It is a covering that He provides to all who trust in Him.
 - And because it is provided by God; that makes it certain that it is sufficient to cover all our sins before Him!
 - How foolish it would be for us to think that we could provide a covering that would hide our sins from God!
 - We must trust in Christ whom God has provided for this purpose.
 - We are assured in Hebrews 10:14 that by one offering Christ has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.
 - His death is sufficient to cover all of our sins—nothing else is needed!
 - Are you resting in this provision from God?

2. If you are, it enables you to know that you are pardoned and accepted by God.
 - Hebrews 10:19-23 speaks of this blessed assurance...
 - **Heb 10:19-23: Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.**
 - We are no longer naked when we are trusting in Christ.

TRANS> And so you see that Adam and Eve were trusting and clothed before God.

- They believed and God covered their sin and guilt.
 - They did not yet know the great price that the Son of God would have to pay to provide a covering, but they trusted in God for life and He clothed them with the righteousness of Christ.
 - What mattered was that the covering was adequate before God—and He saw it as based on the cross.
- But we see that even though Adam and Eve were believing and justified,
 - They are still driven out of Paradise...

III. We need to understand that in this world, both believers and unbelievers are banished from paradise.

A. Man is driven from the garden because he is not fit to live in Paradise

1. We are told that Adam and Eve were driven out because, the LORD says,
 - **Gen 3:22: “The man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil.”**
 - a. We have seen this in previous sermons—that by eating from the tree, man was aspiring to sit in God’s seat...
 - He was already like God in the way that he was supposed to be like God—he was His image—a true reflection of His goodness and righteousness and love...
 - But he wanted to be like God as to His authority and independence.
 - Instead of submitting to God’s will, he wanted to be in the position to decide what he would do without asking God.
 - b. And obviously as one who is challenging his Maker’s will,
 - He is not fit to live in the Garden of Paradise his Maker had provided for him.
 - Paradise is for the man who delights to do God’s will, not the man who wants to do his own will.
 - It is surprising that God was even willing to provide food for Adam at all—if he wanted to be like God, he could provide for himself.
 - But certainly he would not be allowed to remain in paradise!
- And we are given a second, but related reason that Adam is driven from paradise.

2. We are further told that man was removed from the garden, as God says in verse 22:
 - **lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.**
 - a. We have seen before that the tree is not magic...
 - It is not as though by eating it, Adam would then automatically live forever and God has to stop him...
 - No, it is similar to the confusion of languages at Babel because if the man were to go on, nothing would be restrained from him...
 - The tree was a pledge of God's promise of eternal life in paradise if Adam and Eve were to continue doing the will of God.
 - It was a tree to encourage them that they would live forever in paradise if they continued in the Lord.
 - It was like a sacrament.
 - b. So to put this in the language of our sacrament, God is here fencing the table.
 - God refuses to confirm life to the one who has forfeited life by his apostasy...
 - He is making it clear to man that he can no longer obtain eternal life by doing his own obedience...
 - He has transgressed and he can no longer be one who has personally done the will of God...
 - Now he must have righteousness from elsewhere because he can no longer have it by his own works.
 - It is inappropriate for him to have the pledge of life from God because it has become impossible for him to meet the conditions.
 - That is why we are to fence the Lord's Table and not allow those who do not have a credible profession of faith to partake.
 - It is a mockery to provide them with a pledge from God that they have life if they are without saving faith and repentance.
3. And so you see that man is driven out and kept out by force because of his unfitness to remain in the garden!
 - Verse 23-24 explains how he is driven out:
 - **Gen 3:23-24: Therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.**
 - a. Man must suffer the consequences of his transgression...
 - 1) If he does not repent—if he stays united to Satan in rebellion—he must at last have his head crushed...
 - By being cast out of paradise, it serves as a reminder to him that he needs to be reconciled to God.
 - We are so hard hearted that if we were left in paradise, we would assume that all was well until the day of judgement!

- 2) If man does repent—if he turns against Satan and turns to God in faith to be restored as Adam has done—he still must have his heel crushed.
 - He still must bear the pain and the sorrow of this fallen world.
 - Jesus told us that we must enter His kingdom through much tribulation.
 - It was even necessary for Christ Himself to be in the fallen world that He might bear the curse for us.
 - Now that we are fallen, paradise is on the other side of the cross...
 - The seed of the woman must suffer and bear the cross and then be received in God's everlasting habitations of paradise.
 - b. And so God makes it clear that anyone who tries to obtain paradise by his own works will meet with a flaming sword.
 - He will not be able to enter until sin has been paid for in full...
 - And even now that Jesus has paid it in full, we must wait with patience until He brings us in at the time that He has appointed.
 - We still must finish our course in this world where we labour to bring forth sons and daughters for God's kingdom...
 - both by physical birth and by helping to call men to repentance and faith in Jesus that they may enter the kingdom of righteousness.
- B. Consider how this *being cast out of paradise* applies to you...
1. It explains why none of you are in paradise at this time...
 - We were banished because our first father Adam was driven out and was not allowed to return—
 - No one of you can obtain paradise by your own works.
 - We have failed and we cannot obtain life in that way.
 2. Being excluded from paradise and put into this world of pain and suffering is meant to humble you...
 - All of your sufferings and hardships are to help you remember that you are unfit to live in God's garden.
 - You need the salvation that no one but God can provide.
 - If you try to obtain paradise without Christ as all false religions do, you will meet with a flaming sword.
 - Don't attempt to come in your own righteousness—come as one who is trusting in the cleansing that Christ provides.
 3. All of this ought to lead you to bear your sufferings with patience.
 - It is due to your own sin that you are unfit for paradise.
 - God is very faithful to remind you of this by putting you in a world of pain and suffering, and you ought to be thankful for this.
 - If He had left us in paradise, not one of us would have seen our need for repentance.
 - He afflicts us in mercy that we may see that we must look to Him and to His provision through Jesus Christ for our salvation.

4. In Jesus, you will be given complete pardon immediately, but you will not be immediately freed from pain and suffering in this world—
 - Not at all—if anything, your pain and suffering will increase!
 - So don't be surprised when suffering comes to you as a believer.
 - As Adam and Eve were told, in pain and sorrow we must bring forth children for God's kingdom...
 - Our privilege is that we can still do this at all—we must not complain that it is hard.
 - Our Saviour was the one who had suffer the worst of it, and we should cheerfully fill up what sufferings remains to be borne...
 - It is a great privilege to bring forth sons for God's kingdom, both by bearing children for Him with our spouse as well as by doing our part in making disciples.
 - Yes, we can only enter the kingdom through much tribulation,
 - but after you have suffered a while, you will be brought to glory through the merit of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
 - You are already fully pardoned, but you must suffer.
5. But I must warn any of you that refuse the salvation that God has provided in Christ,
 - You are still in league with Satan and you will be completely conquered and subdued when he is.
 - You hate the very idea of doing the will of God, and you are bitter because of the sufferings that God has appointed for us in this world.
 - But I want you to know that they are nothing compared to the sufferings that will come when you join Satan in Hell.
 - Do not be embittered about the sufferings of this world—do not let them drive you away from God—
 - Let them rather humble you and show you how much you need His saving mercy.
 - It is a marvellous thing that there should even be saving mercy for sinners like us...
 - But there is—God has provided it and you dare not go on another day without it.