

Sermon Outline

PARADISE LOST (3): THE REDEMPTION, GRACE IN JUDGMENT

Genesis 3:20-24

Introduction

- The curse is a constant reminder how disastrous this original sin which causes the world as it is today, and not to put our hope in this present world.
- Redemption is not only promised in word, it is also pictured in deed.

1. God has graciously saved our first parents as a start to fulfilling His promise.

a. Eve was saved (v. 15).

b. Adam was saved:

- Scripture does not explicitly mention it. The same is also true of the salvations of Moses, David, and Peter, but their faith and how God had used them and provided for them are recoded for us. Salvation is always by grace through faith and in no time was ever anyone saved by his own good works.
- Hebrew 11 is not an exhaustive list of the men of faith.
- 1 Cor 15:22, *“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”* This statement does not require Adam to be ultimately condemned. It is not in the interest of Paul to comment on Adam’s salvation.
- Luke 3:38, *“the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.”* Adam is the son of God.
- Matthew Henry’s commentary.

2. What the Bible teaches about redemption from the beginning of the creation.

a. From man’s side, faith and repentance are required (v. 20).

- The name ‘Eve’ means ‘life.’ Adam believed God’s promise: the Saviour would come through Eve to give life to the elect.
- Shorter Catechism Q30: *“The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working FAITH in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.”*
- WCF: *“By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, . . . yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life and that which is to come.”*
- Saving faith cannot exist without repentance. These are not two separate and distinct activities of a renewed heart.

- Acts 11:21, “[T]he hand of the Lord was with them [i.e., the scattered Christians in Antioch], and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.” Those who truly believe will turn to the Lord in repentance.
 - Eve believed that God was going to give her a promised child. Genesis 4:1, “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, ‘I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.’”
 - This is a disappointment. Despite disappointment, Eve continued to trust God. Genesis 4:25, “And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, ‘God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.’”
- b. From God’s side, He must provide the means of salvation, the atonement, and the security (vs 21-24).
- i) Adam and Eve did not ask for garments of skins (v. 21).
 - Adam and Eve made the garments from fig leaves, but that was inadequate covering for sin.
 - God took the initiative and did it for them what was adequate, a sacrifice of an innocent animal.
 - A picture of atonement.
 - ii) Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden and were not allowed to return (vs 20-24).
 - Man has broken the condition of obedience of the old covenant of work, hence lost all title and privilege of life (represented by the tree of life).
 - Man must enter life now by the new covenant of grace and living way of the Saviour’s righteousness.
 - Driving man away from the tree of life, is not an eternal punishment for man, but God’s grace with the hope of regaining the life man had lost through Jesus Christ.
 - God prevents man, His elect, the seed of woman, from ever going to hell. He provides the security of salvation.
 - John 6:35,39: “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst... And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.”
 - WCF: “yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love him in sincerity, endeavouring to walk in all good conscience before him, may in this life be certainly assured that they are in a state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.

Conclusion

- Comparison with Romans Chapters 7 and 8.
- In the contemplation of ourselves as sinners and what we had done in Adam, “*O wretched man that I am!*” (Rom 7:24).
- In the contemplation of ourselves as justified in Christ, we boldly demands, triumphantly,
 - i) Rom 8:33, “*Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*” That is there is no *guilt*.
 - ii) Rom 8:34, “*Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*” That is there is no one condemns us, not even Christ. There is no more *condemnation*.
 - iii) Rom 8:35, “*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?*” That is there is no separation.
- Our conclusion: Rom 8:37, “*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*” Thus, where sin abounded grace super-abounded.
- God’s question to Adam still sounds in the ear of every sinner, “*Where are you?*”