

Learning From The Fall Of Adam

Don Hatch

Man's relationship with Adam and his fall is profound. The Bible teaches that man had a pristine relationship with God before sinning. The Bible relates the concern God has for His creation. Man came into existence through a miraculous act of God. The physical nature of man was created from the dust and to the dust it will return (Eccl 3:20). The inner spiritual being is an image of God and to God it will return (Gen 1:27; 2:18-25; Eccl 12:7). To consider man apart from a relationship with God is a hopeless inadequate circumstance. The Bible gives special concern to this relationship. God sustains the universe under special physical laws. His fellowship with mankind is due to both physical and spiritual laws. God makes no provision to save a "star fish or polar bear", nor angels but man is different (Heb 1:1-11; 2:16). The Bible is the account of mankind's redemption by the blood of "God with us"- Jesus Christ of Nazareth (Mat 1:18-20; Jn 1:29, 35; Phil 2:1-11). The inner man of mankind is stained by sin. In sin the inner man is dead, killed by sin and needs to be born again [made a new creature] (Eph 2:1-4; Jn 3:1-21; 2 Cor 5:7). The spiritual being in man has a moral nature, freedom of choice, intelligence and does not live by bread alone for he is more than "mere matter" (Mat 4:4). The Bible traces mankind back to Adam not "an atom" (Gen 1:26-38; 2:7, 18-25; 3:20; Acts 7:26; Lk 3:23-37). All races are human beings, not half animal. They all need salvation and to hear the gospel. The great commission teaches that God seeks His **special creation**- man (Mat 28:18-20; Mk 16:15-18; Lk 24:44-50). What the nature of the gospel and needs of man demonstrates is that the "nations need to hear the gospel" (Rom 9:24-33). Man must be under the sovereignty of God and act accountably. The freedoms man enjoys do not set him free to act irresponsibly nor sin. When man misused freedom the cost was a fall from favor with God. Man can become degraded and depraved (Rom 1:18-20).

Man is redeemable. No other being, neither angel, cherubim, seraphim nor animal has this said of them, "Jesus came to seek and save the lost" (Lk 19:10; Heb 2:16; 2 Pet 12:4). Mankind is dead in sin when they come to the age of accountability and sin (Eph 2:1-10; Rom 3:23; 6:23). Man is the object of God's love (1 Jn 3:1-5). Redemption is made possible because Jesus became "God with us"- incarnate (1 Cor 15:45-49). There cannot be any denial of man's freedom and accountability. The importance of the fall of man is that mankind is not so dead in sin that he cannot hear and respond (Rom 10:1-17; Heb 11:6). Evidence of mankind responding to the gospel is overwhelming (2 Thes 1:6-10; Acts 2; 8; 10; 16). The fall does not teach us that we have the Adamic sin upon us (Ezek 18:19, 20). The soul that sins it shall die!

In the fall mankind did not lose its identity or consciousness of the soul's value. Mankind understands that there is something beyond this life (Eccl 3:11). Under God's law there is responsibility for all actions (2 Cor 5:1-10; 2 Tim 4:1-8). There is an appointment made which all will keep. It is appointed unto man once to die and be judged (Heb 9:27). Mankind can communicate with God and God answers requests according to His will (Heb 4:14-16; 1 Tim 2:1-6). God appealed to man's mind and reasoning, before and after the fall. Sin can pervert reasoning and mankind can lapse into a mind that is reprobate. God addresses the mind of man when He tells him how to worship and what to do to be saved. The fall did not destroy man's ability to reason.

In the fall man lost innocence. Guilt is a heavy burden to bear. The breach of fellowship with God can be restored when mankind comes out of sin and seeks God (2 Cor 6:14-7:1). Man has the capacity to overcome Satan and his cohorts (Eph 6:10-20).

Demonstrated in the Bible is the need for man to turn back to God and be converted. What is involved in conversion? The Bible is the pattern for conversion. All sin and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23). Adam's fall teaches that a sinless child of God can be tempted when enticed, drawn away by lust (Jas 1:12-18). Being in fellowship with Satan puts one in the kingdom of darkness (Col 1:12, 13; Jn 8:31-59). We should learn from Adam's fall. All are servants of whom they obey (Jn 8:34-44; Rom 6:16). Hearing and believing God's will for mankind leads to obedience. Obedience always seeks to know what must be done to please God (Acts 2:37, 38; 16:31).

The truth of God exists and opposes error. Denial of God dehumanizes mankind. If the Bible is destroyed we cannot know God's will but we will still know that there is a God (Rom 1:18-20; 1 Cor 2:11-14). Since God is, since God created mankind, since God loves mankind and made abundant provisions for salvation, since man is made in God's image and the object of God's love, **man should love God with all his heart, soul and mind** (Mat 22:34-40). Mankind should love his neighbor as himself, refraining from evil and seek God (Acts 17:27, 28). Since God is God and man is the creature, and since God is the lawgiver, the duty of man is to obey, be accountable and live responsibly. Adam blamed the woman, the woman blamed the serpent. God did not deny the responsibility of each,

but the responsibility of one did not do away with the responsibility of the other. One of the most common irresponsible acts is to deny personal responsibility. Since the time of Adam God has always required faith and faithfulness (Heb 11:1-3; 12:32-39).

FAMILY CARE
A Message from Our Shepherds

Josh 24:15; "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

It seems the people of old faced some of the same situations we are challenged with today. Only a few among many people chose to serve God. Joshua and his family didn't choose to be like others about them. He took a firm stand and said "as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD". We must follow this good example!

We grow stronger when we are challenged, when things are difficult, and when we do not surrender to demanding situations. When we are faced with family or financial problems, illness, work assignments or any condition that requires us to buckle down and face reality, we become stronger, and Christians also grow stronger in their trust and faith in God. We have no one else to look to for strength and courage to guide us through trying times except our God. He is faithful to us, and He will never leave us nor forsake us. If there is a separation between us and God, we are the ones that move away from God and cause it.

Our Father in Heaven knows all about us; the Bible tells us that He counts the hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30). We should never doubt that God is aware of all the daily issues with which we are faced. Most family fathers are pleased to see their children rise to any occasion. Our Father in Heaven is pleased whenever his children rise and face difficult situations and stand uprightly to the challenges of life on a daily basis. We must not give up and take the easy way out, ever!

If we accept our challenges and do our very best, we know that our God will be pleased with us. When we do His will, keep His commandments, we can know that we have met the ultimate challenge in this world. "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

Do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together when the saints meet! Everyone has a place at Belt Line, everyone who possibly can, should always be in attendance. "Have a great week serving God". Keep in your prayers our sick and shut-ins.

Dean Webb

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us, And cause his face to shine upon us; Selah That thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations. Let the peoples praise thee, O God; Let all the peoples praise thee. Oh let the nations be glad and sing for joy; For thou wilt judge the peoples with equity, And govern the nations upon earth. [Selah] Let the peoples praise thee, O God; Let all the peoples praise thee. The earth hath yielded its increase: God, even our own God, will bless us. God will bless us; And all the ends of the earth shall fear him" (Psm 67:1-7).

My Defender

"I hate them that are of a double mind; But thy law do I love. Thou art my hiding-place and my shield: I hope in thy word. Depart from me, ye evil-doers, That I may keep the commandments of my God. Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live; And let me not be ashamed of my hope. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe, And shall have respect unto thy statutes continually. Thou hast set at nought all them that err from thy statutes; For their deceit is falsehood. Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross: Therefore I love thy testimonies. My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; And I am afraid of thy judgments" (Psm 119:13-120).

Repeatedly throughout the Bible there are military terms used to describe how God protects and defends the faithful. Wickedness is a daunting and dogged foe to the faithful. It is tempting to be “dualistic” [deliberately deceptive in behavior or speech, deceptive and double-dealing]. A double minded individual is unstable in all their ways (Jas 1:8). Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, therefore, unstable in all moral and spiritual actions. The individual who seeks to know and obey the law of God is blessed in countless ways. Stability is the hallmark of a Christian’s life.

Hope is as important to the Christian as electricity is to a light bulb. It is essential as air. Without hope there is a gloomy void called despair. Take away hope and our world would be reduced to a realm of anguish. Hope is not a Pollyanna principle with a tendency to focus in an unconscious level that all things will work out no matter what. Hope sees God in the present and future knowing that He will work out all things for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Rom 8:26-28). To have hope for the future is to fill our lives with godliness in the present. Being justified by faith we have peace with God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Through Jesus we have an access into the grace of God. This sound foundation is our hope. We can rejoice in the hope of the glory of God knowing all things work together for our good (Rom 5:1-11). Hope, steadfastness, approvedness and love are never far from the mind of a Christian. God’s love is given and manifested in Jesus Christ (1 Jn 3:1-5). Hope leads to the fulfillment of God’s plan, eternal life (1 Jn 5:13).

God will hold us up and defend us. He is an ever present help. God’s statutes are wonderful and sought by the faithful. The Bible is replete with the image of the faithful overcoming (Rom 8:31-39). With wisdom that comes from above we see that bitterness, jealousy, factions and confusion are vile. We choose purity, peacefulness, gentleness, mercifulness, and love which are without hypocrisy (Jas 3:13-18). God’s protection of the faithful is abundant. “...But he giveth more grace. Wherefore the scripture saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye doubleminded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall exalt you” (Jas 4:6-13). God is our defender!
Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

February 13, 2011

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

February 20, 2011

Front foyer: Nancy Pond & Roberta Price

Back foyer: Stan & Dorris Selby

Sermon Titles

February 13, 2011

a.m: “Woman At The Well”

Scripture: John 4:1-11

p.m: “God Who Is Our Dwelling Place”

Scripture: Deuteronomy 23:21-23

February 20, 2011

a.m: “Branches”

Scripture: John 15:1-8

p.m: “Excellent Name”

Scripture: Psalm 8:1-9

Contribution Counters

Glen Kelly, Thomas Rathbun

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

SINGING SESSION

The singing class will meet **Sunday** in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** devotional will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

LADIES

The **Ladies Class** is studying the "Parables of Jesus". February 15th Beverly McKey will teach.

The 19th Annual Open Forum at the Granbury Street Church of Christ, Cleburne Tx. has the theme "Fellowship In Crisis". Panelists will be Rick Brumback, Roy Lanier, Jr. Mark Hanstein, and Phil Sanders. It will be held February 12th. (12:45-4:30 PM). The panelist answer questions of vital importance to our brotherhood.

Teens

•**The teens** went to the shut-ins Sunday [2/6]. They did a wonderful work and we appreciate them.

•**39ers Breakfasts** in the annex will be hosted by the teens March 5th. They ask all who are planning to come to sign up on the sheet in the foyer. The breakfast will start at 8 AM.

Investment In Others

As you read the New Testament this year make your cards that list various items we do in the name of the Lord (Gal 6:1-10; Col 3:17). On the back side of the card write the names of those you are going to contact this year. Other passages to consider Mat 25:31-46; Mat 7:12. *The parable of the Sower is about sowing the seed of the kingdom in the hearts of mankind (Luke 8:4-21; Matthew 13:1-23). No greater kindness can be shown other than telling them of Jesus' saving grace. Investing a few moments of time in sowing the seed in the hearts of our friend will guarantee a harvest in the future.*

Christ's Haven

Fill a sack and put it in the office area. Pick up for groceries will be Feb 15th.

NEWS OF THE SICK

•**Dorris Selby** had a bad fall at home. She is suffering from multiple bruises.

•**Mary and Charles DiPalma** are suffering from profound health problems due to the extreme air pollution. These are great missionaries overseas. Remember them in prayer.

•**Glen and Kuin Tattersall** will be visiting the States reporting on their work. They plan to be here in June/July. He will be scheduled to tell us about their work.

•**Richard Renfro** will make a report on the work in South Africa February 20th.

•**David Tarbet** from White Rock will present a lesson on March 13th.

Publications

Each month we receive several publications. They are placed in the back and front foyers. Three are the *Christian Courier*, *Spiritual Sword* and *Gospel Minutes*. They are filled with good information. A way to evangelize is to read the publication and then leave it in the hospital, restaurant or elsewhere for others to read. This is one way to "pique" an interest in others.

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Richard Renfro asked us to see if we could find Bibles to send in the Mission Printing Sea Container. Mission Printing is trying to send 500 Bibles in each container. If you have one or more **King James or New King James** Bibles at home that you would like to donate please put them in the box in the foyer. Also if you would like to make a contribution in money for purchasing Bibles please see an elder.

AREA-WIDE PROGRAMS

Two programs which have encouraged thousands of listeners are the **Truth in Love**, Sunday 7:30am KFWD [TV] and **In Search Of God’s Way**, Sunday 7:00am KDFI [TV]. If you have the time, tune them in. You will hear timely and spiritual lessons from Eddie Parrish and Mack Lyon. Mack Lyon’s book “**Church of Christ Who Are They**” is a good booklet to give to a friend. It is in our tract rack.

LORD’S TABLE/MORNING FEBRUARY SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- James Gilliam
- Brandon Howard
- Glen Kelly
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer

Rear Table

- Bobby England
- Brent Howard
- Roy Martin
- Derrol Allen

- Dean Webb
- Darrell Allen
- Stan Selby

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Garl Latham
- John 4:1-11

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Mike Garrison
- Glen Kelly

LORD’S TABLE/EVENING

- Bill Paschall
- Stan Selby

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Thomas Rathbun
- Deuteronomy 23:21-23

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Darrell Allen

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Jerry Baker – Jerry McKey

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	84	90	82	100
A.M. Worship	154	156	145	150
P.M. Worship	83	70	75	75
Wed. Class	80	75	75	75
Ladies Bible Class	21	21	20	25
Contribution	\$4819	\$6680	\$5056	\$5553

Be sure and mark your calendar –

- Ladies’ Class February 15th –Beverly McKey will be the teacher. She will combine several parables.
- Christ’s Haven will pick up groceries (2/15)
- Granbury Street Church of Christ’s Annual Open Forum February 12th
- 39ers Breakfast- the teens March 5th- 8:00am I the annex.

MISSIONS

Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Malaysia
Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
Glen & Kuin Tattersall – Australia
Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko – Russia
Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
Hyderabad Church of Christ - Hyderabad, India
Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX
Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching
Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India
Rohan & Sandra Jones Capetown South Africa