

Man and the Two Trees

Spiritual significance of the two trees in Genesis 2 and its relevance to our Christian life today

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:9, 16-17, 3:6

1. God's purpose in creating man and the means by which His purpose is fulfilled.
 - a. God created man in His image according to His likeness that man would express God (Gen 1:26).
 - b. After creating man, God put him in front of two trees with the intention that man would eat of the tree of life (signifying God's divine & eternal life) and live by this life in order to fulfill God's purpose. (Gen 2:8-9, John 10:10b, John 6:57, 63).
 - c. The two trees in the garden in Eden signify two sources of living, which issue in two results. God's first commandment to man was regarding which tree to eat from, in order to care for the source by which man would live (Gen 2:16-17, Deut. 30:19).
2. Corrupting of man's nature through his fall
 - a. In man's fall, the problem was not only disobedience but the bigger problem was one of being constituted with the nature of sin by eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, signifying Satan's nature, which issues in death (Rom. 5:12). Every part of man's being became damaged.
 - b. Man's spirit was deadened in offenses, losing the function to contact God. (Eph. 2:1-2). In his mind, man became an enemy of God and alienated from God. (Col. 1:21). Man's body became the dwelling place of sin, the body of sin and death (Rom. 7:20, 6:6, 7:24)
 - c. Instead of expressing God, man became an expression of Satan, through indwelling sin (Mat. 16:23, Rom. 7:18, 20).
3. Receiving of the divine life and nature through salvation
 - a. The Lord put on human nature (John 1:14) and through the cross the Lord dealt with the serpentine nature within fallen man (John 3:14, Rom 8:3, Heb. 2:14)
 - b. Through His resurrection, God has made us alive together with Christ, enlivening our deadened spirit with Himself as the life-giving Spirit, that we could receive Him as life and become partakers of His divine nature (Eph. 2:5, 1 Cor. 15:45, 1 John 5:12-13, 2 Pet 1:4)
4. Our living and walking today
 - a. Our old man has been crucified with Him that the body of sin might be annulled (Rom 6:6). Paul – "I am crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live but it is Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). We must simply follow the Lord in the spirit, and through the Spirit, experience the flesh being crucified with its passions and lusts (Rom 8:13, Gal. 5:16, 24, Matt. 16:24)
 - b. Fruit of the Spirit are the result of taking God as the source of life and walking by the Spirit. (Gal 5:19-23). Works of the flesh result from taking the knowledge of good and evil as the source (Gal 5:19-23, Rom 8:6).
5. Eternal consummation
 - a. Overcomers eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God (Rev 2:7)
 - b. New Jerusalem (a symbol of the mingling of God with man) will have only one tree — the tree of life signifying God as the eternal portion for all of His redeemed (Rev 22:2, 14)

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:16-17 And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make oneself wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

John 10:10b I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

Deut 30:19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live,

Rom 5:12 Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and through sin, death; and thus death passed on to all men because all have sinned

Eph 2:1-2 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins, in which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;

Col 1:21 And you, though once alienated and enemies in your mind because of your evil works,

Rom 7:20 But if what I do not will, this I do, it is no longer I that work it out but sin that dwells in me.

Rom 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but to work out the good is not.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

1 Cor 15:45b the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

1 John 5:12-13 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.

2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.

Gal 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal 5:24 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Gal 5:19 And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are such things as fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city