

M i s s i o n D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Invisible War **Genesis 3:15**

Keywords: Gospel, Seed of the Woman, Hope, Salvation, Spiritual Warfare

PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

SermonAudio Blurb: In the midst of God's judgments due to the actions of Satan, Adam and Eve there is the first word that He is not finished. This verse is often called the Protevangelium which simply means the first gospel. Here is where we see much to fear and even more to rejoice if our hope lies with the grace and glory of God. And if it is properly understood then many things that occur now and throughout history begin to make more sense as we see how God's plan unfolds and how Satan seeks to resist.

I. Introduction.

- A. Within this passage we have seen already the judgment of God.
 - 1. Upon the serpent/Satan.
 - 2. Upon the woman.
 - 3. Upon the man.
- B. Remember what is meant by a curse in the bible.
 - 1. It is the antonym/opposite of "to bless."
 - a. Normally it is done by a person who is invoking God's judgment. It is also very serious. To seek God's judgment is not something to be done lightly—God takes it quite seriously.
 - b. Now, here in Genesis 3 what stands out is that it is not man who is pronouncing the curse, but God Himself.
 - (1) Therefore, the effectiveness of the curse is guaranteed.
 - (2) There is no reason to think that God will intervene on their behalf, for God is the One who is cursing.
- C. But judgment alone is not all that is about this passage. In the midst of God's judgment is grace.

II. God's Grace.

Preached on April 7, 2019

M i s s i o n D e i l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- A. We need to look carefully at verse 15 today. This passage is the first time we see genuine hope after sin entered the world. It is the first mention of the gospel, the good news.
 - 1. As you look at those words, you have the privilege of having the rest of the Old Testament and New Testament to help you understand the words.
 - 2. But consider the early people, Adam, Seth, Noah. They did not have the written word and surely these words caused them to ponder long and hard about the promise within this curse.
 - 3. It is also important to remember this when you read the bible as it deals with the nature of revelation and how it progresses.
 - 4. It seems, at times, that the Lord is please to veil Himself in mystery. I believe that often it is to weed out the lazy person and bless the diligent. How often I have chastened myself for discovering things in the Word of God that were always there, it just required a little effort, humility, and patience to discover it.
 - a. Paul said in Romans 11:33-36, “*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*”
 - b. Proverbs 2:1-5, “*My son, if you will receive my sayings, And treasure my commandments within you, Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will discern the fear of the LORD, And discover the knowledge of God.*”
 - c. 1 Peter 1:10-12, “*... to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which*

M i s s i o n D e i l o w s h i p

We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- things into which angels long to look."

5. My prayer is that we might again renew our hearts to diligently study together the Word that it might reveal to us the riches of our God.
- B. The curse.
 1. There would be an enmity put between the serpent and the woman.
 2. At this point it is confined to the serpent/Satan and Eve.
 3. God was raising up a sense of divine indignation in the woman's heart against this liar, the father of all lies. She would recoil from him from that point on. His deceit would not find an easy resting place in her again.
 4. It is here that we see the beginnings of grace. Not only did God not come in with His wrath, but He even built an emotional fence around Eve. But that grace is only beginning to be displayed.
- C. The expansion of the curse.
 1. The enmity is to be beyond merely Satan and Eve. It involves generations of people.
 - a. There will be a war that will be ongoing between the devil's seed and her seed.
 - b. What we have is a statement of the struggle that continues even through to this day. The struggle is against the children of Satan and the children of God.
 - (1) John 8:44 — "you are of your father, the devil." Contrasted with Jesus who is doing the things belonging to His Father.
 - (2) 1 John 3:8 — "the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning." In other words, there is no neutrality in this life.
 - (3) The term "your seed/offspring" is a unique term in the bible. It is often carries in key passages a double reference.
 - (a) The reason is that it is written in the singular. It is used to speak of many as one because it is looking at them not as individuals but as a whole.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- (b) It means offspring. Those who will be born from you and your line.
 - (c) But it also can refer to a very specific person in that line of offspring.
 - (d) This is most obvious in the promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:7 where God made a great promise to him about his descendants, or seed.
 - i) It speaks to the nation of Israel.
 - ii) But Paul picks this up in Galatians and shows that the ultimate seed/ancestor of Abraham was Jesus Christ.
 - (4) But it is important to grasp that this is not only about Jesus; rather it is about a great and invisible war that each of us is part of.
- D. Unfolding the relationship between the two seeds (**slides go up here**).
1. There are Five players in this passage. And what it is describing is a massive war. A clash between two realms, God's and Satan's
 - a. Satan. (A)
 - b. The woman. (B)
 - c. The seed of Satan. (C)
 - d. The seed of the Woman. (D1)
 - e. The Seed of the Woman. (D2)
 2. The first clash was between Satan and the woman (A vs B). The second clash is one between the seed of Satan and the seed of the Woman (C vs D1).
 - a. What makes it even more interesting is that then this seed of the woman becomes a singular person, a “he” and this man goes back to do battle with Satan, not with the seed of Satan. (D1 vs A)
 - b. That battle is a decisive battle. Satan bruises his heel but He bruises the head of Satan.

M i s s i o n D e i F e l l o w s h i p

We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- (1) The verb for both is the same and it means to bruise or crush.
- (2) So we have a battle being discussed. One in which there is one who is injured, but is not defeated. While the other one is destroyed, having his head crushed. One suffers, the other is destroyed.
- c. In the midst of this curse there is a tremendous promise. The seed of the woman is guaranteed to win the battle.
 - (1) It is not merely an age-old battle between the two, with no victor.
 - (2) God had determined that the battle will occur. He sets the rules and He determines those who shall participate. And He determines the outcome.
 - (3) And at some point in time the victor will not be Satan, rather the “he” who is part of the Seed of the Woman.
- 3. So who is the seed of the woman? What is represented in all of this?
 - a. On the surface we could say that it is speaking of all of mankind. She and Adam were to be fruitful and multiply. Obviously there were no others on the earth at the time. But this does not seem to be proper, since the bible clearly shows that not all of mankind is at battle with Satan or his seed.
 - b. But there is a better way of seeing this. It goes back to the doctrines of election and Christ, specifically Adam theology that we learned about in the creation of man and woman.
 - (1) In Matthew 25 we learn about the day of judgment yet to come. There, humanity is separated by Jesus. Humanity is referred to as either sheep or goats.
 - (2) John 10:11ff speaks of the fact that humans as a whole are sheep. But not everyone belongs to Jesus. There are sheep that are specifically Jesus’ even before they believe.
 - (a) The ones for whom He came, for whom He died.
 - (b) How does a person become a sheep of Christ’s? It is by the sovereign pleasure of God.

M i s s i o n D e i l o w s h i p

We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- (3) John 6 speaks of coming to Christ because of the work of the Father. “All who the Father has given me” “No one can come to me unless the Father has granted it.
- (4) God has been, since the beginning of time, separating out for Himself a people for His own.
 - (a) “Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name” (Acts 15:14).
 - (b) “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).
- (5) **And there is a battle that occurs with these people.**
They are the seed of the woman. And if you are in Christ, you are part of that seed.
 - (a) This is why the bible talks about the battle we too are embroiled in.
 - (b) John 15:17-23.
 - i) The “world” is the seed of Satan.
 - ii) They hate those who belong to Jesus.
 - iii) And the reason? They hated Jesus first. And they hated God the Father.
 - (c) We see this battle in the Old Testament as well. With Abel and Cain (1 John 3:12, who was of the evil one).
 - (d) With Noah and the rest of the world.
 - (e) With the prophets, as they stood against the evil of humanity, calling people to repent, confronting sin, and pronouncing judgment by God.
 - (f) The Old Testament from Genesis 4 to the end is nothing but the unfolding of this invisible war and

M i s s i o n D e i l o w s h i p

We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

the building up toward the coming True Seed who would crush Satan.

4. Now those who are of the seed of Satan, they are best represented by Satan himself. He is their champion, just like Goliath was for the Philistines. So too, for the seed of the Woman. There was One who is the champion.
 - a. It is that person who is the final victor over Satan.
 - b. The promise is a full one.
 - (1) You must grasp the battle set before you as a follower of Jesus.
 - (2) It is a great battle. And on the enemy's side it is a violent battle. We see it in Nigeria and in China. And we are beginning to see it in America.
 - (3) But beloved, we do not fight it with violence. We fight it with truth and a faithful exhortation to one another to stand firm in "the faith."
 - (4) And we do not fight alone. Rather, we stand firm because we know who our Lord is. And as Grayson taught last week, we stand firm because it is our Father in heaven who is our power to keep us from stumbling and to stand in his presence for all time.
 - c. So, like so many things in the bible, there are various levels of meaning, like concentric circles. There are these various battles, but at the core is the key one. Where Jesus destroys Satan.
 - d. Martin Luther made a wonderful observation with regard to this passage.
 - (1) This does not identify of which woman the savior would be born.
 - (2) Here we have God mocking the tempter showing him his futility of action. All along the devil thought he was destroying the work of God. And all along God was sovereignly working over, through, and around Satan for His own purposes and glory.

M i s s i o n D e i l o w s h i p

We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- (3) From that moment on Satan was doomed. But by whom he did not know. When? No knowledge.
 - (a) But the dread of this birth would haunt him.
 - (b) It would cause him to stir up the heart of Pharaoh to kill the babies in Egypt.
 - (c) It moved him to cause the Medes and Persians and Babylonians and Greeks and Romans to persecute and ravage the people of Israel.
 - (d) Herod's heart would be moved to murder the many innocent children in Bethlehem.
- e. But to no avail, for God's will cannot be resisted. He has His champion, who is His Son. But a champion unlike the ones loved by mankind of this age.
 - (1) Born of a virgin. Born in weakness, lying in a manger.
 - (2) Born in anonymity.
 - (3) Hated and despised. Arrested on false charges. Beaten, spit upon and mocked. Skin torn from his body.
 - (4) And killed upon a cross.
- f. This champion is our Lord and Savior.
 - (1) He alone could destroy the works of Satan.
 - (2) *The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.* (1 John 3:8).
- g. Now, when did this crushing occur?
 - (1) In one sense, it occurred here in Genesis 3. The curse was by God Himself. There was no hope of having it removed. God had spoken.
 - (2) In another sense, it was in the first coming of Christ.
 - (a) *The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. "Behold, I have given you*

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and
over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will
injure you. (Luke 10:17-19)*

- (b) “... and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been (perfect tense) judged.” (John 16:11)
 - (c) But this is incomplete to be sure. To not see this is the simply ignore the Scripture.
 - i) Christ is asking the Father in John 17:15 to keep the elect from the power of the evil one.
 - ii) He is still the prince of the power of the air in Ephesians 2.
 - iii) And he is still deceiving the nations in 2 Corinthians 4:4 where we read, “... *the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*”
- (3) There is a yet future time where the judgment will be completed (Revelation 20:1-10).

III. Conclusion.

- A. We are part of the battle beloved. Either we are for God or against Him. We either are victors or destined to be defeated. But I tell you the truth, if you are in Christ, you are truly more than conquerors.
- B. Sin is in the world. But Jesus destroyed the power of sin in the lives of all who place their trust in Him.
- C. We have a powerful enemy in Satan and he seeks to do only evil upon us.
- D. But we also have the grand promise that Jesus is our eternal champion and because of this we cannot lose.
- E. Let us therefore press on with one another in our walk with Christ. Let us encourage one another and pray for one another.

M i s s i o n D e i l i n g F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Small Group Questions

- How are ways you see this battle playing itself out around you?
- What are common ways that you find yourself forgetting that this battle is always raging around you? How can we as a church help in remembering this and help one another to stay in the fight?
- How does the reality of the gospel strengthen you in this fight?