

## The Fall Part 2

The Wages Of Sin

*Genesis 3:7-24*

*Memory Verses: Romans 6:23*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

God loved Adam and Eve. They were without a doubt, the apple of his eye. Of course in keeping with correct theology, God is about God's glory above all, but when it comes to anything other than God himself, we are beloved and highly favored. Just look at God's love for the first two of us. He was so generous and so good to Adam and Eve that he let them have 99.99999% of everything that there was to have. There were no rules against 99.99999 repeating of all things. Do you want to do this... do it. Do you want to do this... do it. Do you want to eat this... eat it. Do you want to go there... go. Enjoy all of this because I have created all of it for you! They were given absolute paradise... utopia!

But instead of enjoying paradise for what it was, they inevitably gravitated towards the only thing that was set aside for God himself and off limits for them. God made one rule, just one rule... don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In this hand they had everything they could ever want or hope for and in this hand they had the one thing they were not allowed to have and would kill them, and just as with all human nature, they chose poorly. But, just like we said last week, if instead of Adam and Eve it had been you and me, we would've done the same thing!

We would've taken the fruit, and because of that their sin is attributed to us as our sin, because in Adam and Eve, all of humanity sinned. A key verse for us here is **Romans 5:12**. We have all sinned because sinfulness is our nature. Rebellion to God is in our nature. Disobedience to God is in the fibers of our being. There is a gnawing in the mind of all humans to turn from good and yearn for disorder, chaos, and debauchery. And if we are like Adam and Eve in their sin, then you can be sure that we will share in their punishment... which by all means is substantial!

I guess one of the questions that has to be asked up front is this. Maybe you've never asked it. You have most likely known of the original sin and the attribution of it to all humanity. And you have most likely known of the punishment of sin and the curse. But let me ask you this... Why is the punishment of sin so substantial? Why is it so consequential? If we were honest I think many of you think, or perhaps have thought... what's the big deal? There is no way that the wages of sin equals the sin

itself. In other words, the punishment doesn't equal the crime. And one of the things I want us to understand this morning is that you are correct. Because the punishment should be so much worse than it is... because the crime of our sin is so much greater than you understand. Today we will look at the enormity of our sin, the reason it is so egregious, and the reason our punishment, thou more than we can carry, is less than we deserve. **Thou the wages of our sin is more than we could ever bear, it is still less than we deserve**. Look with me this morning starting in **Genesis 3:7-24**.

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to recognize this morning is that.... **The wages of our sin is so extreme because of the greatness of the one we are sinning against!** I assure you, our punishment for sin certainly fits the crime... and then some. Let's look at **verses 8-13** again and hopefully come to an understanding of why sin is so evil and demands such an extreme consequence. Notice that this is the first time that Adam and Eve have tried to hide from God. **This is very significant because this shows us the severity of sinfulness. The whole purpose of God creating us was to bring himself glory. Everything, including and especially us, was created through Him and for Him. God wanted a relationship with us. A special relationship that he couldn't have with the angels. A special relationship that he didn't even have within his triune godhead. We were created to have a free will that would recognize the vast goodness of God and choose to obey him rather than our own sinful desires. And when we disobeyed him and took of the fruit of the forbidden tree we clearly showed him that we did not care for him as much as we cared for ourselves. The perfect relationship that obedience had fostered in the garden was now a broken relationship with man hiding from the presence of God. And it is this broken relationship that broke God's heart. You need to understand this... sin breaks relationship between us and God. Look at **Isaiah 59:2**. Because of our sin we have separated ourselves from God. Just imagine how you would feel if you had given everything you could to make someone feel loved, to feel special, and to feel welcomed. You grew in your relationship and you loved them dearly and you felt that they loved you dearly. But then they betrayed you and hid from you? How would you feel? We have broken relationship with and betrayed a good and benevolent God who loved us.**

But he is not just a benevolent God... he is a holy God! You need to understand this. God is holy, meaning he is set apart from us. **Isaiah 55:8-9** tells us plainly that God is on a completely different plane than we are. He is more set apart from us than space is from the ground. Meaning, there is no fair comparison as to how close we are to God... we aren't even in the same atmosphere. When we sinned against God, we weren't just sinning against a good friend, though he is, or a fatherly figure, though he is, or some deity, which he most certainly is. We were sinning against the most High, the

most Holy, the most sacred, being in all of space and time! The most Holy of Holies, had created us in love, embraced us with relationship, and provided us with every luxury in paradise, and we turned our back on him the first chance we got! Think of medieval times with peasants and nobles, kings and commoners. Say some lowly peasant walks out of his cottage and as he passes other peasants he doesn't even recognize them. No wave, no nod, no good morning... nothing. Has he sinned against them? I don't think so. He has no obligation to recognize people. In fact, he might be doing them a favor by just letting them alone and be on their way. Especially if they haven't had their coffee yet. But then the King's entourage comes down the road and as the King's carriage comes by everyone bows low to the ground showing honor for the ruler of their kingdom. This same peasant who didn't recognize anyone else bows down too. He most certainly recognizes the king. Why? Because if he doesn't he'll be recognized for dishonor, disloyalty, or disrespect. He could find himself being publicly shamed, or worse, thrown in jail or killed. With the other peasants he doesn't even need to recognize them... but with the king he must bow or face punishment? Whats the difference?

Get this... it's not necessarily the act of sin itself that demands such severe punishment, but the station of the one who is sinned against. **Sin is the most evil thing we could ever do because God is the greatest being we could ever offend.** The wages of sin is proportional to the greatness of the one whom we sin against. The greater our God the worse the wages of sin. It's as simple as that. An I assure, you the wages are still less than we deserve. **Thou the wages of our sin is more than we could ever bear, it is still less than we deserve!**

The second thing we need to recognize is that... **The wages of our sin is shame.** Look with me again at **verses 7 and 10.** Before sin, there was no shame, because there was nothing to be ashamed of. Everything was good. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience, shame also entered into the world. Even shame for things that we should not be ashamed of. Adam and Eve were married by God for each other. Who cares if they were naked around each other. But their nakedness was now shameful even though it wasn't sinful. What does this teach us. It shows us that **our sinful nature gives us a shameful disposition.** It means we instinctively feel guilt for the sin that lives in us whether we are acting on it or not. We know there is something not right with us. We see this in men like Isaiah who was a prophet for God, though he had not said anything blatantly sinful towards God that we are aware of, when God was in his presence, he exclaimed, have mercy on me God for I am a man of unclean lips. Now ever single man, woman, and child, feels the weight of their sin. Even if we can't express the way it feels, we know it is there... always aware of its evil.

And if given the full weight of our shame, we could never bear it... and yet we deserve it and more. **Thou the wages of our sin is more than we could ever bear, it is still less than we deserve!**

Next, **The wages of our sin is a cursed creation.** In **verse 17** God tells Adam that because of his sin the earth is cursed. What God created as good in chapters 1 & 2; the land, the sea, the air, the stars, the plants... were all cursed. None of it was perfect anymore. **What was once eternally good, would begin to decay over time. There would now be thorns on plants to prick your fingers. The earth would no longer simply give up its good fruit, but now the land would have to be cultivated through hard work and painful labor. And not just the earth would feel this pain. The animals too would be cursed. They would become beasts of burden, hunted or domesticated. They would now live long lives of work and eventually die. And of course, the form which Satan took in the garden, the serpent, would be cursed above them all. Perhaps once a great and majestic talking dragon, now a slithering little snake. But the greatest of curses was reserved for mankind. Yes they would feel the burden of the curse of the earth and the curse of the animals. They would have to hunt, they would have to work the land, they would be pricked by thorns, and they would be hunted as prey by Lions and Bears. They could die from a snake bite or a spider bite, or some bacterial infection. And childbearing would become very painful for women. And marriage would become more of a struggle. Sin is a poison that destroys all that God created as good.** The curse is too much to bear... but it is still less than we deserve. **Thou the wages of our sin is more than we could ever bear, it is still less than we deserve!**

Lastly, **The wages of our sin is a death.** **Romans 6:23** is a key verse for us a Christians. The first part clearly states that the wages of sin is death. Death to our relationship with God. Death to a pure heart. Death to a good earth. And ultimately Death to humans. Look at **verse 19** again. We will return to the ground. Because of our sin, we will die a physical death. Our perfect bodies, meant for eternity, as they grow older and decay, will one day cease to function. They are destined for the dirt. To keep us from living forever we were kicked out of the Garden and away from the tree of life. Look at **verses 22-23.** I find this very interesting. Somewhere on this planet there is a tree of life in the middle of a garden being protected by angels. But it is invisible to us and unreachable. As Gandalf would say, "until the time comes, the way is shut."

In this life, unless God intervenes, we will all taste death. So you ask, is this physical death, which we will all face, the wages of sin? Yes and no. We all die physically because of our sin. But we don't all have to die spiritually. **Revelation 21:8** tells us that there is a place of punishment reserved for those who ultimately deny God's salvation. It is the second

death. This second death is the ultimate wage of sin! And guess what... you can't bear it! **Because of your sin you will die physically and you will die spiritually and then spend eternity in Hell! And you deserve all of it!**

### Application

But hold up Shevi... that is as extreme as it gets. You said that our punishment was in proportion to the greatness of the one who we sin against. Yes, I did, okay? But you said we deserve even more than what we will get. God is holy, and we will spend eternity in hell. What else is there? This is as bad as it could get. So what gives? Okay, but that's not the whole story is it. Yes, you fully deserve, a broken relationship with God, you fully deserve shame, you fully deserve the curse, and you fully deserve physical and spiritual death. But what you don't deserve is the second part of **Romans 6:23**. We deserve hell, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. You see, though you deserve the full wages of your sin, God in his infinite mercy and grace, has provided you a way of escape.

### Conclusion

That way of escape is Jesus. You were destined for hell. You were going to drink the full wrath of God. But as you were about to go over the cliff into eternal destruction God threw out a life preserver. He sent his only Son, Jesus, to come and take the wrath of God on your behalf. Jesus took the wages of sin on himself on the cross so you could escape. Now you no longer need to pay the wages of sin... because Christ paid it for you. **John 3:16**. And that is why I say **Thou the wages of our sin is more than we could ever bear, it is still less than we deserve!** Because we most certainly don't deserve a way of escape. We certainly don't deserve a second chance. We certainly don't deserve Jesus.