

**FBC Missions Conference**

*Theme: 'Set Your Minds on the Things Above' (Colossians 3:1-4)*

Fourth Session Sermon Notes – Sunday, August 15, 2021

**“THE TREE OF LIFE”**

Revelation 22:1-5

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*

- Two trees in the Garden of Eden are: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Adam in the Garden was \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
- The goal was not this \_\_\_\_\_ - it never was intended to be - the goal was the attainment of a consummate \_\_\_\_\_, a new heaven and a new earth, wherein \_\_\_\_\_ dwells forever.

Genesis 2:15-17 *The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*

God puts Adam on \_\_\_\_\_, sets before Adam a \_\_\_\_\_.

- There is but one way to earn the right to eat of the tree of life, and that is through \_\_\_\_\_.
- Man exchanged \_\_\_\_\_ for death, \_\_\_\_\_ for curses.

Genesis 3:22-24 *Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.*

- Man is \_\_\_\_\_ from the garden because he has no right to eat from the tree of life.
- The Tree of Life had become to man a Tree of \_\_\_\_\_ - a Tree of Death.
- Ezekiel wept because he knew they had forsaken all rights to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God!
- God is able to make a river flow in the \_\_\_\_\_! He is able to make life abound in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Ezekiel 47:12 *And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.*

- “In the middle of its \_\_\_\_\_, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life \_\_\_\_\_.”
- “In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river is the tree of life, which bore twelve \_\_\_\_\_, each tree yielding its \_\_\_\_\_ every month.”
- “The \_\_\_\_\_ of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”
- The redeemed of the Lord from every \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ will be there.
- Like Adam and Eve \_\_\_\_\_ the Tree also had been \_\_\_\_\_ from God’s garden, the Tree of Life had become the Tree of Curse.
- Christ is my \_\_\_\_\_ before the throne of God!
- The cross has become for us the Tree of \_\_\_\_\_!

**George Herbert:**

*O all ye who pass by, behold and see;  
 Man stole the fruit, but I must climb the tree;  
 The tree of life to all, but only me:  
 Was ever grief like mine?*

*1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

**Personal Reflection and Discussion Questions:**

1. What was Adam’s goal in the Garden? How was he supposed to attain it?
2. How was Adam supposed to earn the right to eat of the Tree of Life?
3. Why was it merciful and graceful for God to banish Adam and Eve from the Garden?
4. What would happen if God allowed them to stay in the Garden after they disobeyed God?
5. How did the Tree of Life serve as something of a sacrament (a sign and seal of the blessings of eternal life, even confirmation in righteousness)?
6. Why was man banished from the garden? Why the cherubim guarding the way to the Tree of Life? Why the flaming sword breathing out the threat of certain death?
7. Find and read George Herbert’s poem called ‘The Sacrifice’ (1633).
8. How does the vision in Ezekiel 47 point to the power of God’s grace?
9. What is the significance of the Tree of Life’s location, its fruit, and its leaves?
10. What is the point of the Tree of Life in the new Jerusalem?
11. How do the Cross and the Tree of Life become one?