

**Christian Students @ SAC
College Meeting - Fall 2022
Week 4**

**BASIC LESSONS ON LIFE
LESSON THREE
GOD'S INTENTION IN MAN
(2)**

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:8-9, 16-17; Rev. 2:7; 22:14; John 6:35a, 57b

II. GOD WANTING MAN TO RECEIVE HIM AS LIFE BY THE WAY OF EATING

God wanted man to receive Him as life by the way of eating.

A. Eating Being the Unique Way to Receive Nourishment Organically

Eating is the unique way to receive nourishment organically. To receive anything organic, there is no other way except by eating. What you eat becomes your organic nourishment.

B. God Being Man's Real Food

Eating is the unique way, and God is the unique food to man. God is the reality of our food (Col. 2:16-17).

C. To Receive God by Eating Being to Have God Assimilated into Man's Being Metabolically

When the Lord Jesus came, He said, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35a), and "He who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me" (v. 57b). The tree of life is seen in Genesis 2 at the beginning of the Bible and in Revelation 2 and 22 at the end of the Bible. This tells us that the whole concept in the Bible is that man has to eat God, to take God in organically, and to assimilate God metabolically so that God may become his "fibers," his "tissue," his very being. The food that we eat eventually becomes our being. We become what we eat. We are a composition of the food that we have assimilated. God today is our food in the same principle.

In Revelation 2:7 the Lord Jesus promised the church in Ephesus that to the one who overcomes, He would give to eat of the tree of life. The last promise in the entire Bible is a promise of the enjoyment of the tree of life, which is Christ with all the riches of life (22:14).

III. GOD FORBIDDING MAN TO EAT THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

God did not say anything to Adam regarding the tree of life, but God did say something regarding the tree of knowledge. God forbade man to eat the tree of knowledge (Gen. 2:17).

A. God's First Commandment to Man

God's first commandment to man was related to his eating. He charged man not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

B. Eating—to Receive Something In—Being Critical to Man

Eating is critical to us because eating is to receive something into us. If you eat the right food, you will receive the nourishment. If you eat something poisonous, you will die. Parents hide all the poisonous things from their children and keep them out of their reach. Even the chemical and drug factories put a warning label on certain things to show that they are poisonous, or they may put their drugs in special containers that cannot be opened by children. What man takes into him is critical. It is a matter of life or death. Eating is critical to man.

1. After Man Was Created, God Not Asking Man to Do Anything

After man was created, God did not ask man to do anything. God was concerned only about what His created man would eat.

2. God Only Charging Man Not to Eat Wrongly

God only charged man not to eat wrongly. How man would turn out and what man's destiny would be was altogether dependent upon what he would eat.

C. To Eat the Tree of Knowledge Being to Receive Satan as an Evil Life into Man's Being

When man ate the tree of knowledge, he received Satan as an evil life into his being. All these points regarding God's intention in man are altogether not according to man's natural concept.

D. God's Forbidding Commandment Being a Warning to Man

1. Indicating God's Greatness in Dealing with Man

God's forbidding commandment was a warning to man, indicating that God was great in His dealing with man. Only a small man forces people to accept his opinion. No one who is great or honorable will coerce people.

2. Indicating God's Love to Man

God's forbidding commandment to man also indicates God's love to man. Because God loved man, He warned man not to eat the wrong thing.

3. Indicating God's Desire That Man Would Eat the Tree of Life to Receive God into Him as His Life

God's warning to man concerning not eating the tree of knowledge indicates three things: God's greatness, God's love, and God's desire. God's desire was that man would eat the tree of life to receive God into him as his life.

God did not force man to take what He wanted man to take, but He left this decision up to man. His warning man indicates that, on the one hand, He was great and, on the other hand, He was loving. He did not force man to do what He desired. This shows that He was great. Yet He warned man not to take the wrong thing, and this implies that God had love. He put man mainly in front of two trees, and He warned man not to take the tree of knowledge. This surely implies that God wanted man to take the tree of life. Thus, God's warning indicates His desire. God wanted man to take the tree of life, that is, God Himself, into man as man's life.

Question: What is the best way to show that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil represents Satan's life?

Answer: The Bible shows us that in this whole universe there are only two sources. Satan came in to seduce man to partake of the tree of knowledge. This means that Satan captured man by getting man to take him in. This is a big thing in the Bible. The tree of life and the tree of knowledge actually are the two controlling lines through the sixty-six books of the Bible.

In the families, in the nations, and even in the churches, God is here as the tree of life, and Satan is here as the tree of knowledge. Which way would you take, and whom would you contact? If you contact God, you get life and you depend upon God. If you take the tree of knowledge, you get Satan. If you get Satan, you become independent from God. To become independent means to rebel. The more you take the tree of knowledge, the more you rebel against God and become independent from God. When you take the tree of knowledge, you become one with Satan, who was and still is a rebel. If you take the tree of life, you are one with God and become dependent upon God.

These two principles are with us today, but most people always take the tree of knowledge. It is very rare to see persons who would take the tree of life. Even in our daily life, we have to admit that we take the tree of knowledge. [When you argue with someone, you are taking] the tree of knowledge. The more we argue about who is wrong and who is right, the more of the tree of knowledge we eat. As a result, we become deadened and independent from God. Then we have to repent and confess. We have to get the cleansing of the precious blood, and the blood brings us back into contact with God. When we contact God again, we become dependent on God. The next time we are tempted to argue, we should say, "Lord, if You do not debate, I will not debate. If You do not argue, I will not argue. I am one with You." We all need to live a dependent life of the tree of life and turn away from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.