

Exit from Eden

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Genesis 3:20-24.

B. Subject: understanding man.

II. The story of Eden is a prototype of temptation and restoration—we all live in and reproduce the episode since we are all children of Adam.

A. Death enters the scene—a sense of self-awareness accompanied by shame, guilt, fear, defenselessness and then a loss of freedom.

B. Repentance follows death—God leads the guilty pair back from the path that they have come.

1. It consists of the source of temptation—it arises from within.

2. The pair acknowledges their disobedience.

C. Grace is then manifest.

III. What brought Adam and Eve around.

A. Adam acted in faith naming the woman Eve—mother of all the living.

1. Adam changes his wife's name in response to God's promise.

2. She was originally just "woman."

3. Her new name is "life."

4. This is an act of faith because he saw life even though his sin brought death.

5. A name change signifies a change of character.

6. Man can only repent and believe in response to the problem of human evil.

B. Adam and Eve were clothed by animal skins by God.

1. This is a picture of being clothed by the righteousness of Christ.

2. Clothing is required for man's benefit.

3. Clothing is important for man because it is an expression of the inward man.

4. God cleanses us through this clothing.

C. Man knows good and evil by relating it to himself, but this is wrong.

1. Man seeks to know good and evil wrongly.
2. God's response is to bar the way to eternal life physically and so force man to find it spiritually.
3. The way to the tree of life that is healing is to drink from the well of living water that is Jesus Himself.

Application questions:

1. How does the story of Eden symbolize the spiritual death that Christians suffer from today?

2. What does the clothing of Adam and Eve represent?

3. How does faith restore the believer? What is the "tree of life" that heals us today, and why is this important as an object of our faith? Explain.
