

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"The Test Of Man's Obedience"
Genesis 2:15-17
Study-10

It's one of the basic truths of life, that obedience brings blessing and disobedience brings judgment. day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Genesis 2:4-25 is "The Beginning of The Fall Story"

Thought Of Our Passage: God Created Man Giving Him A Task, A Home With Abundant Provision, And God Then Tested His Obedience.

- 1. Verse 15 Man Was Given A Task:**
- 2. Verses 16-17 Man Was Given A Sacred Trust:**

1. Verse 15 Man Was Given A Task:

Genesis 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man Context – Moses is giving details to the account of creation in **Genesis 1. Genesis 2:4-25 Details Of The Account Of Creation Of Genesis 1: (Not A Contradiction But Complementary) Genesis 2:7-8**

LORD God – Yahweh–Elohim the name **Yahweh** – *"the gracious God willing to reveal Himself to man and hear prayer, the covenant God, who redeems His people"* **Elohim-** *"The all-powerful God, the creator of the universe"* **LORD God –**

"put"- or "placed" comes from the word **"rest"** **Psalm 95:11 My rest."** Adam was enjoying the true Sabbath rest that comes from a relationship with God.

Genesis 2:9

The Doctrine Of Work: to cultivate it (serve it) and keep it. These two verbs are used throughout the **Pentateuch (5 Books of the Law)** for *"spiritual service."*

cultivate it (serve it) *"describes the worship and service of the Lord, highest privilege a person can have."*

keep it. *used "in keeping the commandments, to take heed to obey God's Word."*

Colossians 3:23-24 (Our Worship, Keeping His Commandments)

Man Was Given Specific Tasks: Gardener: and Guardian:

Gardener: cultivate it work the earth. Work the soil, plant, nurture the plants.

Before Sin, Both God And Adam Worked. Adam's Work Was God's Purpose And Adam's Calling; Not Stressful Or Difficult. Sin's Result Was The Curse That Made Work Difficult: Genesis 3:17-19

Guardian: and keep it. *"Guard it, protect it, park keeper, estate manager" Exercising careful and loving stewardship over it. Keeping it beautiful and orderly with every component in place and in harmonious relationship with the whole.*

Mankind Has Been Given Guardianship Over God's Planet.

Work Is Necessary In Supporting And Sustaining Life. Paid Employment, Not Entitlement: 2 Thessalonians 3:10-13; 1 Timothy 5:8

Work Is Necessary Because There Is Great Profit In All Labor: Proverbs 14:23 In all labor there is profit, But mere talk leads only to poverty.

In Our Labor There Is Creativity And Engagement With The World On Behalf Of God: Our Witness as believers, ethics, thankful hearts, serving God!

Genesis 1:1-3; Genesis 2:9

Therefore, when we work, we resemble God.

As believers we are gifted by God to bring order to this formless world through our works in labor: Matthew 11:28-30

2. Verses 16-17 Man Was Given A Sacred Trust:

Genesis 2:16 The LORD God – Yahweh–Elohim commanded the man saying, the first time we see the word "commanded" in the Bible.

1st Covenant - is *"a binding arrangement between two or more parties that governs their relationship."*

The word "**command**" is introduced at this point because it's God who makes the terms of the agreement. God is the Creator and man is the creature, a "royal tenant."

Liberty/Freedom: "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; "may eat to the full" Genesis 2:9

Liberty and Life Are Found In God's Gracious Law:

Liberty/Command - "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

Life/Command - Genesis 2:17 the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Genesis 2:9 the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, God gave no restrictions to Adam regarding the tree of life. **Adam and Eve were to have their lives centered in God! "Tree Of Life"**

Genesis 2:17 but from the tree of the knowledge "*tree of the knowledge of everything*" The knowledge that God has. (Problem, man is not God)

God Determines Good & Evil: knowledge of good and evil moral choices. Only God can define what is **Good**. **Mark 10:18 No one is good except God alone.**

Evil – rejection of God, it is the exchanging of God for a substitute. It is calling evil good, when God calls evil, evil. (Rejection of God, Substitute For God)

Wisdom and understanding belong exclusively to God alone:
Romans 11:33-36

"Adam and Eve desired wisdom apart from God, (His Word & Will) and in direct disobedience to God's command." Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3

Genesis 3:5 you will be like God,

The 1st "Shall Not" (Negative): you shall not eat, there is the command that there was one tree that they could not eat from. (God's Love To Forbid)

Proverbs 6:20-23

"There were superabundant resources on the one hand, and a single prohibition on the other hand."

God Designed A Test Of Obedience: (Moral Test) Man had a will and God was testing man to see if man would yield his will to God. Man's will should be used to obey God by choice!

Romans 7:7 I would not have come to know sin except through the Law;

(God did not make a mechanical man, He made a moral man)

for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.” Death – “separation” “moral, spiritual, and later physical death would result” Adam lived for 930 years; another death other than physical. **Romans 6:23**

The Very Act Of Disobedience Was The Sin:

Note this one negative commandment is set together with man’s freedom.

“Freedom without bounds can become a destructive license which binds instead of liberates. True liberty is only found within bounds.”

Genesis 3:8 LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,

When Adam and Eve were not walking with the Lord but were alone. What did Adam and Eve have to go on? His Word.

The Basis For Obedience Is A Genuine Relationship With God As Adam & Eve Had: 2 Timothy 1:12; 1 John 5:3; John 3:36

Application:

1. Before Sin, Adam Worked. Adam’s Work Was God’s Purpose And Adam’s Calling; Not Stressful Or Difficult. Sin’s Result Was The Curse That Made Work Difficult.
2. Adam And Eve Sought A Knowledge By Detachment, A Knowledge Based On Supposed Human Autonomy, A Knowledge Grasped Through Disobedience, And The Results Were Disorder And Death.
3. When We Break God’s Commandments By Crossing A Known Boundary, It Results In Diminishing Freedom Rather Than Enhancing Our Well-Being. “It Is A Boundary Within Which There Is Freedom.”