

Message: **“The Misery & Hope of Fallen Man”**

Text: **Genesis 3:6-24**

A devotional message delivered on October 7, 2009 by

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As we took a look at 3 catechism Q&A's last time, 15, 16, & 17, tonight we want to take a look at the Q & A to 18 & 19 from *A Puritan Catechism*.

Q18. What is the misery of that state whereunto man fell? A18. All mankind, by their fall, lost communion with God, are under His wrath & curse, & so made liable all the miseries in this life, to death itself, & to the pains of hell forever.

Here we have the RESULTS of the fall of man: the Misery of Man's State.

I. LOST COMMUNION W/GOD. [**Gen 3:8**] Adam & Eve flee the presence of God. In one sense, you might call this the birth of atheism. A denial of God must begin w/a fleeing from God's presence; after that will come a fleeing of the knowledge of God's presence; & then, they willfully suppress the truth in their unrighteousness (**Rom 1:18**).

A continued loss of that communion is seen again in **Rom 1:24, 26, 28**, "*God gave them up to uncleanness of the lusts of their own hearts*" (**v24**), "*...gave them up unto vile affections*" (**v26**), & "*...gave them over to a reprobate mind*" (**v28**).

II. UNDER GOD'S WRATH & CURSE. [**Gen 3:17-19**] We see this amplified from the Scripture proofs in our catechism. (1) **Eph 2:3**, NASB, "*Among them we too all*

*formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.” (2) Gal 3:10, “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”*

III. 1. LIABLE ALL THE MISERIES OF THIS LIFE. Although it certainly includes more than this, liable or accountable to all the miseries of this life are exemplified in this: [Gen 3:16]. How is this exemplified? We may be able to see this in 3 ways:

(a) Although Eve sinned “in” Adam as she came from him & “*in Adam all die*” (1 Cor 15:22), she is accountable to her sinful actions as an individual: a curse came upon her.

(b) There is the misery of childbearing; & although it came upon women specifically, it exemplifies the misery upon all mankind because a resultant corruption to the original command of God to “*be fruitful and multiply*” (Gen 1:28). “*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me*” (Ps 51:5); “*The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies*” (Ps 58:3).

(c) This verse also exemplifies the misery of sin that comes from a corruption of God’s original command to “*subdue*” the earth and to have “*dominion over the*” creatures (Gen 1:28). This command was given by God to man, who created them, male & female (Gen 1:27), and “*blessed them,*” and “*said unto them*” (Gen 1:28). They were co-regents in the Garden; however, after the fall, an authority stricture resulted for man to rule over woman; that is, her husband “*shall rule over [her]*” (& a caveat here: man cannot rule over woman in a godly way w/out submission & surrender to the Spirit of God; & even then, thru the corruptions of the flesh, only by God’s grace & mercy do we men, even have moments in that relationship to our wives that is truly Christ-honoring).

Yet, given in our text is so: because a woman’s “*desire shall be to [her] husband*” (Gen 3:16). I believe that it is this verse here that the apostle Paul is referencing when he

states, *“Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, **as also saith the law**”* (**1 Cor 14:34**). Does this mean a woman can’t speak in church? No. Does this mean a woman can’t teach in church? No. How can the aged women teach the younger ones (**Titus 2:3-4**)? It means that women are not to assume positions of authoritative leadership within the church, as **1 Tim 2:12** says, *“But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority **over the man**, but to be in silence.”* Why? Again, we have the reason from our text in **Gen 3:16** as the misery of the fall’s curse cause a woman’s desire to be for her husband. A desire for her husband & not a preeminent & prominent desire for God is what makes the ordination of women as elders in general, & pastors in particular, precarious point in the congregation of saints. **Ps 73:25** is the key Scripture for unfolding this “controversial” issue (I personally don’t see it as controversial because even if I couldn’t explain it, you can’t get by God’s clear command in Scripture; for if we quibble on an outright command, we’ll forsake altogether the issues that require prayerful & thoughtful consideration).

2. LIABLE TO DEATH ITSELF. [**Gen 3:19**] Since the fall, man cannot escape death, cheat death or bargain with it. Death is his wage & due. **Rom 6:23**, *“For the wages of sin is death...”* Sin not only receives death as a wage, but also earns death through its work & in its actions. The word “wages” is a Greek word (οψωνια) that refers to a stipend, allowance, or a daily ration for a soldier in his duties. Therefore, because all that sin does is dead, & death, and because sin is void of life because it’s void of the Spirit, then a life of sin is a miserable existence of daily death and ends ultimately, in this physical world, with the very same thing: death.

3. LIABLE TO THE PAINS OF HELL FOREVER. **Matt 25:41** is our Scripture proof for this part of A18, & it says, *“Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”* [**Gen 3:24**] This verse typifies the torments of hell after the final judgment.

Man is drove from the presence of God. The Hebrew root word (שגר) means to expel,

cast out, put away, or divorce, & can have both temporary & permanent applications. Both apply in Adam's case. He was permanently expelled from the garden, never to return as the angel w/a flaming sword protected the tree of life from being a source of food & hope. Adam was also temporarily expelled from the intimate communion w/God because God pronounced in man's hearing the hope of the promised Seed to come, Jesus Christ (**Gen 3:15**). Likewise, in its permanent application, this verse typifies the utter driving out, expulsion, & casting away of the wicked in final judgment.

The miseries in this life look rather bleak for the hopeless, helpless sinner, doesn't it? Yet, God has not left all mankind hopeless or helpless:

Q19. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the state of sin and misery? A19. God, having out of His good pleasure from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer.

I. Out of His good pleasure, God has ELECTED SOME TO EVERLASTING LIFE FROM ALL ETERNITY. Our Scripture proof for this statement is, **2 Thess 2:13** which says, "*But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*" What does it mean when it says *from the beginning chosen*? Since God is eternal & He is not confined or constrained by time, then the beginning can only be a reference applicable to us & for us. Therefore, since the choosing of God is His decree in eternity according to His good pleasure, then it was complete in Christ in eternity before the *In the beginning* of **Gen 1:1**.

II. This covenant or promise came by grace, by a Redeemer, unto salvation (**Gen 3:15, 21**).

1. Salvation comes by God's grace; God made the sacrifice that is typified of the sacrifice of God in the garden [**3:21**]: (a) God provided the sacrifice Himself; (b) He made the sacrifice Himself; (c) God did all the work to make the skins suitable to those

being clothed; and finally, (d) God clothed them-- & although the commandment of God is to "...put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" (**Rom 13:14**), the putting on of Christ is still a grace that comes only by faith working in love.

2. Salvation comes by God's Redeemer, Jesus Christ, & this also by God's grace [**3:15**]. There is something incredibly interesting in the 1<sup>st</sup> part of this verse. The word "enmity" (אִיְבוּהָ) can also be translated "hostility" or "hatred." The words "I will put" (אֲשִׁיחַ) can also be translated "I will appoint" or "I will ordain." God decrees this to happen according to His marvelous grace & by His good pleasure. Jesus Christ is the promised Seed whose heel would be bruised on Calvary's Cross, & in doing so, crushing the authority of Satan, the "seed of the serpent." (Interesting note: figures of speech, in the very 1<sup>st</sup> prophetic utterance concerning the Christ)

**Rom 5:12**, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"