

**TWO TREES**  
**CONTRAST BETWEEN THE TWO-PT 3**  
**GENESIS 2-3**

**INTRODUCTION**

For the last two Sunday mornings we have been looking at the stark contrast between **two trees** in Scripture that stand out more than all the rest and **have had more of an impact on all of mankind than any and all of the other trees combined!**

**These two trees that stand in contrast to each other are:**

- 1) **The Tree Of Knowledge Of Good And Evil.**
- 2) **The Cross Of Christ.**

**Thus far we have seen two contrasts:**

1A. **THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A TREE FORBIDDEN FOR MANKIND!**

1B. **THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS A TREE REQUIRED FOR MANKIND!**  
*John 3:14-15–“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*

2A. **THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A PLACE OF DEATH!** *Spiritual Death; Physical Death; Eternal Death.*

2B. **THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS A PLACE OF LIFE!**  
*Spiritual Life Here And Now! Physical Life Hereafter!  
Eternal Life Here And Hereafter!*

***We have spent a message each on these first two contrasts...but this morning let's look at a five more contrasts between these two trees as we wrap up this subject:***

3A. **THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A TREE WHERE MAN COULD NOT FREELY EAT. (2:16-17)**  
**There was a price to be paid for eating of that tree! A great price!**  
Have you ever done something you shouldn't and the moment it caught up with you, you wish you could have a **“redo”**?

If only Adam and Eve could have had a **“redo”**, I'm sure they would have loved that, but there was no **“redo”**!

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1. **Mankind's Eating Of That Tree Was In Conflict With The COMMANDMENT Of God.** People today still are in conflict with the commandments of God, but it is because of sin within!
2. **Mankind's Eating Of That Tree Was In Conflict With The PROVISION Of God!**  
God was so gracious in the abundance that He provided mankind with!
3. **Mankind's Eating Of That Tree Was In Conflict With The WILL Of God!** It was what God said VS. what Eve wanted!

**When mankind disobeys the LORD and partakes in the acts of sin today he is still in conflict with all three of those things:  
Our Sin Is In Conflict With The COMMANDMENT Of God –  
What God calls sin is still sin!**

**What God calls an abomination is still an abomination!**

**When we sin, it flies in the face Holy God!**

**God still asks the question, “Where art thou” through the preaching of His Word so that we might recognize the egregious nature of our sin and what it is doing to us!**

**Our Sin Is In Conflict With The PROVISION Of God!**  
Though we have no personal righteousness, God has provided His righteousness for us in His Son and invites us to eat there! (*I'm getting ahead of myself on this one!*)

**Our Sin Is In Conflict With The WILL Of God For Us!**  
**God places limits on mankind for mankind's own good, not because God is some kind of overbearing ogre!**  
*Jeremiah 29:11– “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”*

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THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A TREE WHERE MAN COULD NOT FREELY EAT.

**3B. THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS A TREE WHERE MAN MAY FREELY EAT.**

**1. The Bible Reveals To Us That God Planned Man's Salvation Before The Creation! (Ephesians 1:3-6)**  
*Ephesians 1:3-6—“3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places **in Christ**: 4 According as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children **by Jesus Christ to himself**, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, **wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**”*

**2. That Doesn't Mean That God Arbitrarily Chooses Who Will Be Saved Or Who Will Be Lost!**  
*John 3:16-18—“16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; **but that the world through him might be saved.** 18 **He that believeth on him is not condemned:** but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

*1 Timothy 2:4-6— “4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”*

*2 Peter 3:9—“God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

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**3. God Knows The Future And So He Knows All Who Will Receive His Offer Of Salvation Through His Son!**  
*Predestination is based on God's foreknowledge and has more to do with what a Believer is *predestined TO* than WHO is *predestinated!**

*Romans 8:29—“For whom he did **foreknow**, he also did **predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”*

**Aren't you glad that God's salvation is to “whosoever will?”**

*Revelation 21:6—“I will give to him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life **freely.**”*

*Revelation 22:17— “And the **Spirit** and the **bride** say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**”*

*John 6:37—“Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”*

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**4A. THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A TREE THAT SATAN DESIRED MAN TO PARTAKE OF AND GOD DIDN'T. (Genesis 3:1-5)**

**1. This Tree Was In Harmony With Satan's Character.**  
*Satan, through the serpent, was “**subtil!**” (sly, cunning, crafty) (Satan is all about disobedience and defiance of God!)*

**2. This Tree Was In Harmony With Satan's Will— To Be Like God!**  
*Isaiah 14:13-14—“For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will be like the most High.***  
**When Satan got Eve to listen to him rather than the LORD, it was his “in Your face” moment with holy God!**

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THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A TREE THAT SATAN DESIRED MAN TO PARTAKE OF AND GOD DIDN'T.

**4B. THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS A TREE THAT GOD DESIRES MAN TO PARTAKE OF AND SATAN DOESN'T.**

*John 6:35*–“Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”

The LORD even wanted the Pharisees, the Scribes, and the Sadducees to come and continually invited them to come, but they would not!

*John 5:40*– “*And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*”

Satan will go to great lengths to keep a people from partaking of the LORD’s salvation! His desire is to keep man *distracted* and *deceived*!

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**5A. THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A TREE THAT WAS PLEASANT TO THE SENSES. (Genesis 3:6)**

Satan always gets us looking at sins good points.

1. With Alcohol–Satan wants you to see the relaxation and forgetting your troubles! The “fun” VS the chains of addiction, the broken homes and the destroyed lives!
2. With Drugs–The high, the feel good moments VS the robbing you of your of freedom, you wealth, your health, and your dignity!
3. With Immorality–Its your body, everybody’s doing it, it feels good, its fun VS disease, unwanted pregnancy, destroyed lives.

**5B. THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS A TREE THAT IS REPUGNANT TO THE SENSES. (Isaiah 53:2-6)**

Put yourself at the scene of the cross:

1. We See The Gory Death Of Our Savior. (Blood)
2. We Hear The Cry Of Death From Our Savior.  
(As The Wages Of Our Sin Was Being Paid For!)
3. We Smell The Stench Of Blood And Death!

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**6A. THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A PLACE OF SEPARATION FROM GOD FOR MAN. (Genesis 3:7-8)**

**6B. THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS A PLACE OF RECONCILIATION TO GOD. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)**

**7A. THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WAS A PLACE OF NAKEDNESS. (Genesis 3:7, 10)**

Mankind was stripped of his innocence!

Mankind was stripped of his righteousness!

**7B. THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS A PLACE OF CLOTHING THE BELIEVER IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST! (Genesis 3:21; 2 Corinthians 5:21)**

**Conclusion**

**The Tree Of Knowledge–The living tree that brought forth death!**  
**The Cross Of Christ–The dying tree that brought forth life!**

**The Tree Of Knowledge–A place of disobedience unto death!**  
**The Cross Of Christ–A place of obedience unto life!**

*Romans 5:19*–“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

Jesus did what Adam did not do and what we could not do because of our position of being *in Adam*! Jesus Christ, the Son of God fully obeyed His Heavenly Father!

So in the last three weeks we have seen these seven contrasts between these two trees!

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We all came into this world as partakers of the *Tree Of Knowledge Of Good And Evil* and all that we have seen that it brought on us by our being *in Adam!*

There is no need in denying it! Scripture records it and our sin nature proves it!

Those who have believed on Jesus Christ and His finished work on the Cross have been made partakers of *the Cross of Christ* and all that it purchased on our behalf! Again Scripture records it and God cannot lie!

If you haven't come to Christ and become a partaker of His Cross, please come today!

If you have come to Christ, seek to live your life for Christ by the power of His Holy Spirit!

*Colossians 3:1-4— “1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”*

*Galatians 5:16— “Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”*