

**Sermon**  
**Rev. Tom Tyson**  
**THE FALL DOWN**  
**July 10, 2016**

**Sermon Text:** Genesis 3:1-6

**Proposition:** The temptation and fall of our first parents consisted in the questioning and contradicting of God's Word, and the committing of what that Word prohibited, which leads ultimately to mankind's need of a Divine Savior.

**1. The questioning (vv. 1-3)**

a. The Tempter addresses himself to the woman in order to remove the difficulty he faces.

b. The Tempter sows doubt in the mind of the woman, and she demonstrates her willingness to yield.

**2. The contradiction (vv. 4,5)**

a. It was, on the surface, a flat contradiction of the Word of God.

b. But it goes further and moves on to the slandering of God Himself, accusing Him of greediness.

**3. The committal (v. 6)**

a. The woman now sees the tree entirely apart from the Word of God., and concludes that eating it will not kill her.

b. Her actual eating of the forbidden fruit springs from her heart that coveted what God forbade.

**Conclusion:** Salvation is a matter of divine and sovereign accomplishment, changing the sinner's heart and enabling faith in Jesus Christ, the 2nd Adam, who by His atoning death raises up those who fell down.

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## Biography

Rev. Tom Tyson received his bachelors of divinity degree from Westminster Theological Seminary, and was subsequently ordained on December 23, 1960 by the Presbytery of Ohio and installed as pastor of the Wayside OPC in Grove City, Pennsylvania, a position he held for four years. From 1964 to 1971, Rev. Tyson was pastor of two Reformed Church of New Zealand congregations. He returned to the OPC in 1971, first serving for nine years at Trinity OPC in Hatboro, Pennsylvania, then nine years at Knox OPC in Silver Spring, Maryland. In 1989 Rev. Tyson was called to become the general secretary of the Committee on Christian Education, a position he held until 2000.

As general secretary, Rev. Tyson discovered that he had many opportunities to preach and teach in churches throughout the OPC. He passionately spoke to congregations about what the OPC was, how to sing in worship, and the importance of catechism training. His zeal for teaching the catechism developed into a Ministerial Training Institute of the OPC class that he continues to teach to seminarians and pastors. As editor of *New Horizons* in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Rev. Tyson oversaw substantial upgrades in the magazine. At times the magazine featured opposing sides of an issue debated in the OPC.

After eleven years at the helm of the Committee on Christian Education, Rev. Tyson stepped down August 31, 2000 to take up his new calling as Regional Home Missionary for the Presbytery of Philadelphia. He retired in 2005 to Shermans Dale, Pennsylvania.

Active in retirement, Rev. Tyson and his wife Jean returned once again to New Zealand in 2015 to serve the Hastings Reformed Church of New Zealand. They returned from New Zealand in December 2015 and have settled in Southern Maryland, attending worship at Grace and Peace Presbyterian Church.

Married in 1957, the Tysons have six children, twenty-two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.