

Deciding on Salvation!



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If there is anything on which we must know the *truth*, it is on *salvation* so we will be *rescued* from the horrors that this wicked world will soon go through. It wasn't always like this—as before Adam sinned, his *situation* was perfect—*Spiritually* he was *right* with God and had close *fellowship* with Him; *Physically* he knew no sickness, pain, or death; *Materially* he was provided with everything needed; and *Socially* he enjoyed peace, contentment, and satisfaction. What changed all that!

The lyrics give a profound message: *Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night; Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light. Out of my sickness into Thy health; Out of my want and into Thy wealth; Out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee—that is our decision—we choose our own destiny!*

Adam disobeying God overturned every blessing of God. *Spiritually* he was no longer *righteous* before God—and became a *slave to sin*. That sounds familiar. *Physically* he experienced sickness, pain, and death. *Materially* he had to work hard to provide his needs. *Socially* his peace and rest were gone—both were now replaced with stress and discord.

If we are deciding on salvation, then we *reverse* what Adam decided. We can have the restoration of the inheritance given up *because* of disobeying. Paradise was *forfeited* by Adam, but *regained* by Jesus Christ. Luke 4:18 “*The Spirit of*

the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”

Adam was innocent when first created—he had no knowledge of good or evil. As the prophet addressed the king of Tyre, so the same could be addressed to Adam Ezekiel 28:15 “*You were blameless in all you did from the day you were created until the day evil was found in you.*”

Adam was created as an adult, yet like a child, had no consciousness of being unclothed. Genesis 2:25 “*They were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*” Adam did not *know* good from evil, but he had the capacity to *do* one or the other. He was *not programmed* to do one or the other—he had to *choose* as a free moral agent—like all of us.

The *choice* was between two trees side by side in the middle of the Garden—the Tree of *Life*, and the Tree of *Death*. Genesis 2:9 “*And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*” God made it clear—the tree of *death* had to be *avoided*.

Adam *chose* to eat the forbidden fruit—but had no idea of the consequences of that decision. It was, certainly, the most pivotal decision and decisive act in all of history—its effects continue to this very day. The immediate *result* was the immediate *loss* of innocence! Adam became conscious of two things—he was *unclothed*, and he knew *right* from *wrong* Genesis 3:7 “*The eyes of them both were opened.*” God said Genesis 3:22 “*The man is become as one of us, to know good and evil.*”

The *main* problem was that Adam and Eve were now *programmed* to practice *evil* instead of *good*, because their natures were *converted* to one

that wanted to *sin*. Genesis 6:5 “*GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*”

Adam became a slave to sin and to Satan—the serpent to whom he *had* listened and obeyed. Romans 6:16 “*Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?*”

Another result was being *alienated* from God. A *separating* wall was now between Adam and God—he could not speak with God and lost the right to approach Him. Genesis 3:24 God “*Drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*” Jesus gave us that right back Ephesians 2:14 “*For Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.*”

Just as God warned, Adam died spiritually and cut himself off from the Source of life. Romans 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.*” Adam acquired the nature of sin. Now his subsequent separation from God, was passed to all his descendants ever after. Romans 5:19 “*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners;*” We are Romans 3:9 “*all under sin.*”

Everyone is born with the knowledge of good and evil; born with a sin nature; born slaves to sin; born separated from God and spiritually dead. This is the legacy of Adam. Our tendency to sin alienates us from God, because He cannot co-exist with sin. Isaiah 59:2 “*Your iniquities have separated between you and your God.*”

The *lifestyle* of this sin nature is dreadful. No matter what level of education we have, we cannot comprehend nor understand spiritual matters

1 Corinthians 2:14 “*Because they are spiritually discerned.*” We reject them, and the result of rejecting a life of *faith* and *trust*, is a life of *sin* and *evil*. We are constantly Ephesians 2:3 “*Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind*”—we are “*by nature the children of wrath.*”

No matter what culture or color; nation or location; male or female; rich or poor; whether from a religious or non-religious group, the results of rejecting God’s plan applies—we are condemned to die. John 3:36 “*The wrath of God abideth on him.*”

We cannot make *amends* with God, because we cannot make ourselves *pleasing* to God. We are Ephesians 2:12 “*In this world without God and without hope.*” It is not a *trivial* matter but a *major* problem—our fate is the Lake of Fire! Salvation of our *soul* then, is an absolute *must!* We have to get *rid* of the *sin* nature that sins, and be reconciled to God with a *divine* nature that *trusts* Him.

We are not essentially *good* with just *some* imperfections. God *cannot* accept us on those terms. Any *imperfection* deserves the flames! Isaiah 64:6 “*We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.*”

Whatever we *think* we are of our own opinion or the opinion of others, we are *disqualified* from Heaven—disqualified not *only* because of sins we have committed, but also because we are alienated from God from our birth, and without any right to enter His presence.

Eve was deceived *first*—Adam then *followed*. It was a conscious, deliberate, and willful act. This disobedience resulted in his innocent nature being re-programmed by the fruit—Adam acquired a guilty nature prone to sin. Every form of life brings forth offspring Genesis 1:24 “*After his kind.*” Thus, all of Adam’s offspring are born *after his kind*—Genesis 5:3 “*In his own likeness, after his image.*”

Enslavement to self and sin is total. The apostle explains this unconverted nature—Romans 7:21 “*When I would do good, evil is present with me—23 warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin.* 24 *Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*”

Deliverance from sin and from all the consequences of Adam’s disobedience is possible only through a believing faith in 25 “*Jesus Christ our Lord.*” The only way to *reverse* the damage caused by rejecting God’s Word and accepting Satan’s lie, is to place our faith in the atoning Blood of Christ.

Satan would not have victory over Adam forever. God said to the serpent Genesis 3:15 “*From now on, you and the woman will be enemies, and your offspring and her offspring will be enemies. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*” There would be conflict between good and evil. Jesus only was born without sin; He alone could provide the innocent blood that could atone for the sins of the world. Salvation of the *soul*—is by a choice of the *will*.

Consistent with his self-centered *nature*, Adam tried to repair the damage in his self-centered way. They Genesis 3:7 “*Sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*” In spite of this covering, they knew *how* they looked. Adam said Genesis 3:10 “*I was afraid, because I was naked.*” Physically they may have been *covered*, but spiritually they were *naked*.

Revelation 3:17 [You] “*Do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.*” Only God, in His great love and mercy could offer a plan that would change our future. His advice Revelation 3:18 “*Buy white garments so you will not be shamed by your nakedness.*” Nothing we could do can ever atone for our spiritual nakedness—only a believing *faith* in the Blood of the Lord Jesus.

Salvation must be *purchased*—and at a very *high* cost of a *life*—Hebrews 9:22 “*Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins.*” The garments of skin symbolized the shedding of blood. God’s plan of redemption required the giving of a life and the shedding of its blood—but the blood could not be *tainted* with sin. *That* can only come from One!

Jesus had not yet arrived on the scene when Adam committed the sin, but animal sacrifices Colossians 2:17 “*Are a shadow of things to come.*” The seed of the woman would be bruised in the heel in the process of crushing the serpent’s head. Acts 4:12 “*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*”

The decision to trust on the precious Blood of Christ for everything in life is of major importance. Atonement by Blood is the only means of reconciliation. Colossians 1:19-20 “*For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and by him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of his blood on the cross.*”

This plan was possible by Revelation 13:8 “*The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*” It originated from God and costs us nothing—but the paradox is that our entire life must be given to Him. Salvation is a gift but high in cost! John 3:16 “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son.*” We, however, have to decide to *believe* and put our *faith* in His Blood—so we can have “*Everlasting life!*” We decide on our own salvation!



www.fcqchurch.org

*Be on our free mailing list—contact:

PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

info@fcqchurch.org

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