**Genesis 3**

**Introduction**

I. We study the Bible to improve our knowledge of God and of ourselves in relationship to Him.

II. Genesis 3 is the saddest, most heartbreaking chapter in the Bible, and it gives us knowledge of ourselves and our God

**The Passage**

I. The context of the fall is the bliss of the garden

= “naked and unashamed” (Genesis 2:25)

= state of freedom from self-consciousness, competitiveness, jealousy, envy, irritation, annoyance, or resentment

II. The temptation

 A. Satan’s motivation = spite. Knowing that he has already been condemned to eternal

punishment after his failed attempt to overthrow God in heaven, it is speculated that his intention, out of spite, is to destroy the next most perfect thing that God has created, namely, Man and the rest of creation with him.

B. Satan’s strategy

1. “Did God really say . . .” Satan twists a statement God made granting nearly unlimited freedom to man into one of restriction by stating it in the negative, “You must not eat from any tree . . .”

2. “You will not surely die,” is a bald-faced untruth, and a direct contradiction of God’s word.

3. The lesson here is how easily we might accept a lie if it’s packaged with enough truth around it.

 C. The Fall

1. Eve’s pride (the root of sin). Eve believed Satan’s lie because it agreed with something inside her that she wanted. “You will be like God” is a pretty compelling premise, and speaks directly to that part of us where all sin begins—our *pride*.

2.Adam’s silence and sin

a. Adam was “with her” while this happened, saw her select and eat the fruit, and watch the change take place in her.

b. If she was deceived, his sin was perhaps worse in that it was a more open, conscious rebellion against God (consider that as a helpful perspective on Paul’s words in 1 Tim 2:14). Notice that the New Testament always refers to the fall of “man” and “Adam’s sin” rather than Eve’s

 D. The immediate results of the fall

1. Their eyes were opened . . . to their own nakedness! They try to cover themselves

a. Awareness of their exposure now leads to guilt, shame, defensiveness

b. They are now driven to hide from each other those parts of themselves which had been perfectly natural and innocent just moments before

2. They try to hide from God

a. Surely they knew God well enough to know they couldn’t hide from him, and yet they tried anyway, driven by their guilt.

b. “Shame, remorse, fear—a sense of guilt—feelings to which they had hitherto been strangers disordered their minds and led them to shun Him whose approach they used to welcome.” - *JFB*

c. “Who told you that you were naked?” a devastating question.

3. They blame God and each other

a. Adam blames God and throws Eve under the bus

b. Eve blames the serpent

c. Just like us: we back away, cover up, and shift blame.

 E. The Judgment of God

1. It is here we see the nature of the fall’s effects on every one of us, as God burdens the aspects of our lives from which we tend to derive a great deal of meaning.

2. For the woman, he makes childbirth a stunningly painful experience, and he introduces into the marriage an unhealthy hierarchy and power struggle

-Prior to the fall, God did *not* command Adam to rule over his wife; they were designed as a single entity—one flesh. “She was not made out of his head to surpass him, nor from his feet to be trampled on, but from his side to be equal to him, and near his heart to be dear to him.”

2. For the man, the ground is cursed and his basic subsistence—his vocation—becomes a painful endeavor.

3. Physical death is also pronounced by God: “For dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”

4. The serpent is cursed

a. Enmity between you and the woman and your offspring and hers

1) The spiritual offspring of Satan can be those who openly reject God and his Messiah (see John 8:42-44)

2) The offspring of the woman are those who believe and who become children of Abraham

b. God prophecies a time when the offspring of the woman will crush the serpent’s head (= Christ’s victory on the cross)

F. The mercy of God

1. “The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”

2. God graciously and effectively covers their nakedness in a way their fig leaves never could

3. This is the first animal sacrifice in Scripture, instituted by God as a “covering” for Adam and Eve, foreshadowing the method of His future worship and the ultimate means of His redemption of His chosen—the sacrifice of His own son whose blood covers us fully and makes us acceptable in God’s sight, so that we can stand before him without shame.

**Conclusion**

I. “We cannot not sin.” (Augustine)

II. The only cure for our sin is the sacrifice of the sinless Christ, whose shed blood satisfies the wrath of God and covers our sin.

III. You cannot hide from a holy God, and you don’t have to. Trust in Jesus’ death for you and you are fully clothed to experience communion with your Creator.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What from Sunday’s message struck you as a new aspect of the fall that you had not considered before or had not considered as fully as you are now?

2. What kind of God is revealed in Genesis 2-3? What do you learn about him from that story, and how do you feel about what you learn about him?

3. Adam and Eve’s first instinct upon sinning is to cover themselves, hide from God, and shift blame for their actions. Human beings have been doing that ever since. We cover and hide in busyness, image management, religious activity, comparison-making and many other ways. What are some of the ways/ techniques you are tempted to use to cover and hide your own sense of inadequacy, guilt, and shame from God and others?

4. In the end, God graciously covers Adam and Eve with animal skins, which is a beautiful foreshadow of the way he ultimately covers us with the blood of his sinless son, Jesus. How specifically can we live daily in that covering? How practically would your life be different if you lived with a full awareness that your sin and inadequacy is fully covered in Christ?