

## **THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT**

(Genesis 2 and 3)

An Article by

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### **KEY TEXTS:**

Psalm 84:11 - "For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly."

Creation is a very familiar story. Probably, the most important aspect of this story relates to God's commandment that Adam and Eve should not eat of the fruit of the tree of life. As God says: "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17) God will not forbid anything except for our own benefit. Obviously, without a knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve will be entirely free of guilt. Their action will be pleasing unto God, because they will act only in pure innocence.

There are two important trees in the garden of Eden: (1) The tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2) The tree of life. If they ate of the first tree, then they cannot eat of the second tree. The timing of partaking of both trees must be left in the hands of God. God in His great wisdom will lift the ban at the appropriate time, if this was required. Adam and Eve required patience and obedience, and they must trust in the outworking of God's plan for their life. Unfortunately, they did not exercise these virtues, they listened to the Serpent (who represented the fallen angel - Satan) instead of God. They believed in Satan, and they disobeyed God. The rest of the story is well-known - God was displeased with them and sent them out of the good garden - usually called "paradise" or Eden.

The story of the forbidden fruit is a typical example of God's relationship with mankind: God is the Law-Giver, and mankind must live according to His law or forfeit their relationship with God. God's law, however, is to make us perfect. All His commandments are wrapped up in grace, so that when we accept to live by them, then blessings of obedience follow. There is always a consequence for doing something wrong - when we do something wrong it causes us pain, grief, disappointment even though sometimes certain kinds of wrong-doing seems profitable. The fact is, wrong-doing costs: it affects our relationship with God; it affects our relationship with one another; it also affects our own peace of mind, our emotions, our health, etc.

The story of Adam and Eve did not result in any good outcome until the death of Christ Jesus on the cross when He paid the price for all our wrong doing.

### **QUESTIONS**

What are the characteristics of the forbidden fruit?

Why did Adam and Eve believe the story of the Serpent?

What major lessons do we learn in the fall of Adam and Eve?

**Further Study: Exodus 20:1-17; Luke 10:25-37; John 15:1-17**