

## WAS THE FALL A BLESSING OR A CURSE?

While some view the fall of Adam and Eve as a positive step in advancement of mankind, the Bible consistently paints this tragic event in the darkest hues (Romans 5:12-19). Genesis 2:17 records God's unmistakable command, ". . .of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it. . . ." Just as clearly we read that Eve ". . .took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Genesis 3:6). Was it good not to keep God's commandment? "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

A uniform Biblical principle is that disobedience brings punishment, not blessing. "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD. . .And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments. . ." (Deuteronomy 11:26-28). Since Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the inevitable consequence was a curse rather than blessing.

Was it necessary for the first human couple to sin in order to have children, as many believe? Absolutely not, in light of the fact that God's command to reproduce preceded the fall (compare Genesis 1:28 and 3:6). Additionally, if Adam and Eve had to sin in order to obey God's command to reproduce, that would contradict the Biblical promise that we will never be placed in a position where we must sin (1 Corinthians 10:13). It is never right to do evil that good may come (Romans 3:8).

God is not in any sense the author of sin. He cannot both approve and condemn sin. ". . .He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:13). He did not engineer the fall. "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (James 1:13,14). Of course, there was one other responsible party to the fall: Lucifer, the devil. He, not God, told Adam and Eve, "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods. . ." (Genesis 3:5). To applaud the fall is to praise the work of Satan.

Paul wrote that Eve fell because she was deceived (1 Timothy 2:14), yet repeatedly the Bible declares deception to be contrary to the will of God (Deuteronomy 11:16; Luke 21:8; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 15:33; Galatians 6:7).

". . .In Adam all die. . ." (1 Corinthians 15:22). The fall brought death, not blessing. However, there is another "Adam," Jesus Christ (verse 45). In Him alone is blessing, the blessing of eternal life in the presence of God.

Lloyd A. Larkin  
lalarkin@burgoyne.com