



# Northside Proclaimer

*Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord*

1 Thessalonians 1:8

**Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!**

**April 5, 2015**

## **“The Image Tarnished”**

*Bryan Garlock*

In the Garden of Eden, man was given a simple task. He was to keep the garden and refrain from eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2.15-17). Once God gave His commands, both Adam and Eve began to exercise free will, though the two did not surrender to sin immediately. They were first drawn and enticed by their desires. Once they yielded to such desires sin was conceived and spiritual death followed (James 1.13-15). Therefore, they tarnished the image that God had given man.

After God instructed His creation, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die” (Gen. 3.3), “...the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate” (Gen. 3.4-6). Eve not only succumbed to her desires, but she also became friends with the Serpent.

In connection with these events, John wrote, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2.15-17).

Eve exemplified all three attributes of loving the world instead of the Father. When she saw the fruit was edible (“desires of the flesh”), beautiful (“desires of the eyes”) and that had power to give her wisdom (“pride of life”) she took of it; sin was conceived and brought forth death.

It was the sin of Adam that led to the demise of all mankind. Paul wrote, “...just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...” (Rom. 5.12). Further, “...because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man...one trespass led to condemnation for all men...by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners...” (Rom. 5.17-19). Finally, “...in Adam all die...” (1 Cor. 15.22). Paul taught, as James did, that death is brought about by sin. Since everyone sins and falls short of the glory of God (Rom. 3.23), death spreads to all men. Therefore, what happened to Adam and Eve in the garden happens to each individual living today.

Many claim that man is wholly depraved, having contracted a sinful nature from the sins of Adam. It was not his nature, but his relationship to God that was changed by his sin (Isaiah 59.1-2). God has created man in His image (Gen. 1.26) and is the giver of each individual's spirit (Zechariah 12.1; Ecclesiastes 12.7). To be continued on back...

Northside  
church Of Christ

25 Greenfield Pike  
Hillsboro, OH 45133

churchofchristatnorthside.com

Visit Us On Facebook!  
Facebook.com/northsidehillsboro

Bryan Garlock  
Office: 937.393.3634  
Cell: 478.256.0325  
preacher@churchofchristatnorthside.com

## Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us
- Men's Bible April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30 PM
- Kid's drill cancelled
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.

### Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Apr 5 Judg 16-18  
Apr 6 Judg 19-21  
Apr 7 Ruth 1-4  
Apr 8 1 Sam 1-3  
Apr 9 1 Sam 4-8  
Apr 10 1 Sam 9-12  
Apr 11 1 Sam 13-14

It cannot be true that we inherit the sins of one man or his sinful nature; God does not give each person a debauched spirit. Doing this would make God directly responsible for man's sins, which He has forbidden. Therefore, as Adam and Eve corrupted the image they were created in, so all those who sin corrupt the same image.

We see then that God is not the creator of sin (1 John 1.5; James 1.13; Heb. 6.18). Since He has not and cannot sin, it did not originate with Him. Sin could exist, not because God could sin, but because He made creatures that could and would sin. It is interesting to note that sin did not originate with man either. Before Adam sinned, there was already a sinful creature in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3.1-13). In order to deal adequately with the origin of sin, it will be helpful to deal with the originator. This creature is the embodiment of sin; he is the father of lies (John 8.44). Since he has exercised his free will in complete opposition to God, he is now wholly depraved. It was this person who persuaded Eve to sin first, then to lead Adam into sin.

"Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning..." (1 John 3.8). The Scriptures teach that the devil is a sinful creature. Further, it would seem that certain angels followed Satan in rebellion against God (1 Tim. 3.6; Matt. 25.41). They were created by Jesus (John 1.1-3; Col. 1.16), and were accountable to God as "ministers" (Heb. 1.14). As all men are subject to the Law of Christ, the angels too are under God's law. Since the Creator "...did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell..." there is indication that their sin was inexcusable. Consequently, their punishment was swift and severe (2 Peter 2.4; Jude 6; Matt. 25.41). Therefore, sin did not begin with mankind, but with the devil and his angels.

Sin not only tarnishes the image of God in us, but it also deceives and desensitizes us so that we never seek to restore the image without an invitation from Him who created us (Rom. 1.18-32; Eph. 4.17-19; Matt. 11.28). Moses recorded, "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6.5). God spoke, "...the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth..." (Gen. 8.21). Solomon in all his wisdom wrote, "See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes" (Ecc. 7.29). David wrote, "The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies" (Psalm 58.3).

Sin has always ravaged and assaulted our Father's creation (Gen. 6; Rom. 1). This was evident from His decision to destroy the world with water initially and to destroy the world with fire eventually, but the moment the image was originally tarnished, God set in motion a plan that would woo man back to Him. His eternal purpose was revealed and would be fulfilled by the offspring of the woman (Gen. 3.15). He would bestow His wonderful grace and mercy upon mankind though it would take thousands of years. When the time was right God would send His Son to provide the means of restoration of man to His image. Paul wrote of this eternal purpose of God, "...those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified" (Rom. 8.29-31).

Man was created *on* earth but *for* heaven (1 Peter 1.3-5). Therefore, God restores what man tarnished by delivering us from the domain of darkness and transferring us to the kingdom of his beloved Son (Col. 1.13-23). BG