

The LORD God placed man and woman in the garden of Eden. He had commanded the man, Adam, saying, "*From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.*" (Gen. 2:16-17). In chapter 3 we are introduced to the Serpent, who is said to have been "*more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made,*" (Gen. 3:1). The Serpent enticed the woman, Eve, to partake of the fruit of the one tree of which God had said that they must not eat. The first sin had been committed. The second sin was committed when Adam also ate of the fruit of the tree. The Bible tells us, "*Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.*" (Gen. 3:7). Innocence had been lost. God's will had been given second place to the Serpent's beguiling and to man's desire.

In verse 8 of that text we are told that the two of them tried to hide from God among the trees of the garden and in verse 9 there is a most profound question that God asked Adam. "*Where are you?*" Oh, what a profound and perfect question. Now, if we believe that God didn't know where Adam and Eve were, then we fool ourselves. Our God is now and has always been omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. He knew full well where Adam and Eve were hiding. Why then, the question?

Adam and Eve were created innocent and sinless. They were spiritually pure when they were placed in the garden. Once they had committed transgression of God's command, that all changed. Then, where were they? Where were they spiritually? Where were they in respect of how things had been before they had sinned? That was the question. "Adam, *now* where are you?"

That is the same question that each of us must answer. We are born into this world innocent. We do not inherit the sin of Adam when we are born. For God has said, "*The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.*" (Eze 18:20). Just as Adam was innocent until he transgressed God's law, so are we. Until the time in our lives when we know right from wrong, good from evil, what is sin and what is not, we are sinless. But once we reach an age of accountability knowing right from wrong, we, like Adam, have to bear our own responsibilities and consequences for our own sins. Paul has said, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Rom. 3:23). Once that happens there is no way in which we can rid ourselves of that sin burden; other than by God's grace and mercy.

In His mercy and by His grace He sent His only Son, Jesus, to live on this earth. He lived a perfectly sinless life. He became the only perfect sacrifice for your sins and mine. He was killed on a Roman cross, an innocent man, so that we could have forgiveness of our sins through His death.

How have you answered the question that was posed to Adam? That question is no less important for any of us than it was for Adam. Have you received the gift of forgiveness and salvation that God has given through His Son? How do you answer the question, "Where are you?"

If you would like to know more about God's word come and join us for our "Open Bible Reading" each Thursday evening at 7 pm. "*For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*" (Rom. 15:4).