


CURSE ON MAN – GENESIS 3:17-19

¹⁷Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. ¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return." (Ge.3:17-19)

THE CAUSE

Genesis 3:17

“Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it: ’” (Ge.3:17)




- The cause was that Adam chose to do what his wife wanted rather than what God wanted.
- Rather than Adam ruling by example (obedience), he followed Eve's example of disobedience.
- For Adam there was no deception and no ignorance. No excuse!
- Adam made a premeditated, willful choice to follow his wife's desire and disobey God.
- Eve ate and she wanted Adam to eat.
- Adam bought into her desire because he believed that it was important to her and that it would bring about some benefit to him.
- The penalty for disobedience was death (Ge.2:17). They deserved to die. Yet God was gracious and they didn't die.

THE CURSE

Genesis 3:17-18

“Cursed is the ground for your sake” (Ge.3:17)
“In toil you shall eat of it” (Ge.3:17)
“Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field” (Ge.3:18)




- The curse doesn't actually fall on the woman or the man. It falls on their sphere.
- The curse comes on the woman indirectly through childbearing and through her relation to her husband.
- The curse comes on the man indirectly through the ground.
- Man, the king of the earth, becomes the slave of dirt (work). Dirt becomes his master.
- Man is going to have to battle to get what it will yield to him to survive (v.17, “In toil [sorrow] you shall eat of it”).
- All human labor is in view here, not just work of agriculture.
- All the curses are a reminder of their disobedience, and to make salvation attractive to them as they struggle.
- All of this is to help the woman and the man see what sin does, and then to cause them to long for a better situation, and ultimately deliverance.

THE CONSEQUENCE

Genesis 3:19

“In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return” (Ge.3:19)



- Here is how it's going to be in life. Hard work! Both man and woman have their own sorrow.
- You are going to do that until you return to the ground.
- Are we all trapped in Ecclesiastes, vanity of vanities, all is vanity?
- Is there any hope of being delivered from this?

THE CONFIDENCE

²³And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ (Cl.3:23-24)

- Work becomes an environment in which I can demonstrate my salvation.
- Work takes on a completely different perspective from the curse view.
- The curses are mitigated in Christ. When you work for Christ you find meaning with eternal purpose.