

Genesis 3:1-6

THE FASCINATION OF SIN

Text: Genesis 3:1-6

1 “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, Hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the Garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the Garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the Garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die. 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”



When the eloquent serpent, called the devil, began his enticing practices on the first mother [Eve] of the world, he labored frantically to separate her from God by trying to make her morally blind. He raised the question, "What's wrong with this?" What is so bad about that?"

If we are not conscious of WHO is asking the question, and WHY, we are most likely to be led into a trap. There is no danger in asking "What is wrong"

when we wish to find out **what is right**. But satan is not concerned about what is right. His purpose is to focus your attention on the forbidden. Here is where all sin begins.

It is the devil's joy to make sin **fascinating** and to lure us into investigating and nibbling at it. He asks in such subtle "innocence", "What is wrong with this tree?" When the serpent turned her eyes to the forbidden by questions, it made the devil appear to be only ignorant, wanting light and truth. He flattered her into thinking she was so intelligent and had all the answers as he stooped down to look up to her for guidance. This flattered her heart. She was delighted with the opportunity to give helping assistance to a puzzled person.

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There is a fascination in the forbidden, simply because it is forbidden.

This same old serpent, satan, is still pulling the same old trick, because he has two motives behind it all. The first motive is to get your mind on evil - the forbidden. There is a fascination in the forbidden, simply because it is forbidden.

ILLUSTRATIONS: God has given us a thousand enjoyments to enjoy; but satan would have us allured through the eye. The eye-gate is the door to the soul.

A. Some of you have heard of the FISH FROG which is well-named "the Sea Devil." It is so named because it is supposed to allure and catch little fishes by means of wormlike whiskers at its mouth -- like a cat's whiskers. The innocent fish, seeing the worm, finds out too late it was a trap for his life.

If we all only knew the many dangling pleasures that are in and **at** the devil's mouth to get us fettered and chained, we would be spared many a heartache. The devil is out to get you at any expense.

Look at the high price that he was willing to pay Jesus if only He would bow down and worship him. (Matthew 4:9; Luke 4:5-7)

B. It is notable that nearly all POISONOUS FUNGI are scarlet or speckled. But the wholesome ones are brown or grey . . . as if to show us that things fascinating to the eye are dangerous.

How many clubs, parties, shows, TV programs and other forms of entertainment look so well dressed to appeal to the eye and to get to the heart.

C. The RATTLESNAKE is justly dreaded. Mr. Murray says: "When the piercing eye of the rattlesnake is fixed on birds, terror and amazement render them incapable of escaping. While involuntarily keeping the eyes fixed on those of the reptile, birds have been seen to drop into its mouth as if paralyzed. Squirrels will descend from trees and run into the mouth of the expecting devourer."

Among the men on the New York Central Railroad whose duty it was to examine the bridges was Mr. Northup. He passed under a bridge one day to examine its condition, and saw upon the abutments a large black snake charming a bird on the opposite side. He paused to look at the snake, standing between it and the bird. He caught the eyes of the snake and began receiving the fascinating power proceeding from the snake. Mr.

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Northrup seemed riveted to the spot. Looking intently at the snake, he was held captive until one of the other men saw his situation and hastened to kill the snake and thus relieved his perilous situation. Had he been alone, no doubt the snake would have succeeded in charming him, and then would have crawled slowly to him, coiled about him, and choked him to death.

Many a precious young girl or lady has fallen into the trap of some handsome, well-dressed servant of the devil. She loved the thrill of the attention. The fascinating pleasures were but to bait her soul. Now she lives in remorse, disgrace -- fighting back bitter tears or hatred of the one who led her into a life of misery and regrets.

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Oh, the fascination of sin! Satan is out to wreck and ruin your life. **He doesn't care who he uses as long as he can get you to look and become fascinated.** Then you are ready for the next stop in his scheme which he has to pull.

Never forget it. The eye is the gate to the soul.

Satan has used many an unsaved girl or woman with bleached or dyed hair, painted face, eye-appealing jewelry, to catch the unsuspecting fellow. His eye is captured. He looks at tightly fitting clothes for their eye appeal. He also is allured by that which takes less imagination and is more fascinating - the scanty clothing worn to catch the eye. Less and still less clothing is worn to expose more and more of the body. He may be captured, trapped, only to live in misery when he commits adultery with her in his heart or with his body.

Matthew 5:28: But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Galatians. 5:19: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,"

The Bible declares: ***"[How] can two walk together unless they are agreed?" (Amos 3:3)***

2 Corinthians 6:14b: "What fellowship has light and darkness, or righteousness with unrighteousness;"

What harmony hath Christ with evil?

If it takes eye appeal to win the love of another - it will take the same to hold him. Then if something comes along a little more beautiful or handsome - the eyes are again fascinated. The results are broken homes, shipwrecked lives, and precious little children who suffer for it.

Outward adornment, when used to fascinate another, is a poor substitute for inner loveliness and virtues. That is why the apostle Peter tells us in 1 Peter 3:3-4:

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1 Peter 3:3-4: ³ "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; ⁴ But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

That is why the Apostle Paul says what he does in 1 Timothy 2:9:

1 Timothy 2:9: "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array."

True character and simplicity in attire which comes from loyal obedience to the Holy Word of God is sneered and scoffed at today. But, this is nothing new. If we would go back to our Bible, God would teach us **the wiles** of the devil, and

would put something in our souls to say "NO" to the enemy of our soul. We would take a firmer stand against the forces of hell that are bound on destroying us in time and for eternity.

Ephesians 6:11: "Put on the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

When the devil got Eve's eye fascinated, he then began to work on her by scoffing at the Bible. He wanted to rout out, like a hog, the precious Word from her heart. Satan knows it is the Word of God that keeps us from sin. Thus, he hates the Bible. If he can get us to doubt, question, wonder about it -- it will not be long before he has us coming his way. *"Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee."* (Psalms 119:11) Satan then added to what God said and took some away in order to confuse her mind.

Then he stopped asking questions, which were only a subterfuge to get her attention. He then began to tell her in a professional manner what she ought to do; that God is not as good to her as she thinks. He says: "If you will do as I direct, you will be smarter than ever -- even to becoming a god." No woman -- or man -- will ever be very smart listening to the devil. His 'smart' talk can lead our souls *into* Hell, but never out.

In this third chapter of Genesis, we have condensed facts of the various

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consecutive steps which lead downward to separation from our wonderful Heavenly Father. The starting place is the eye-gate. The eye is the camera, and our mind becomes the film.

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thoughts of rebellion and disobedience. He uses the same tactics today on both children and parents. He will continue to succeed until we are wised up and resist him in Jesus' Name.

James 4:7: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

1 Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Everywhere we look, the devil has something to catch the eye and to entice us to sin. He has glamorized sin to make us morally blind, until

"all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

Romans 3:10b: "There is none righteous - no, not one."

These are true Bible facts.

The Bible not only sets forth how sin enters the heart (Mark 7:21-23), but also tells us how to get it out. (Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9)

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How Sin Gets In:

Mark 7:21-23:

²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²² Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: ²³ All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

How to Get Sin Out:

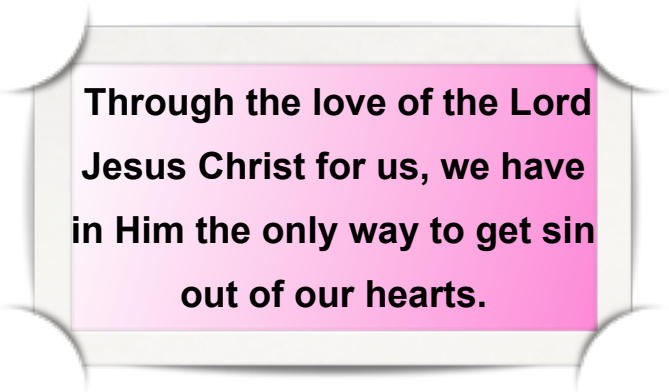
Proverbs 28:13:

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

1 John 1:9:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

All the way through the Bible you will find how sin fascinates and gets into the heart. To help us be on our guard, God not only instructs us but also warns us of its consequence. Through the love of the Lord Jesus Christ for us, we have in Him the only way to get sin out of our hearts. Listen, neighbor -- this is Good News. It is the Gospel. It can mean a New Life for you.



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God Promised a Deliverer, a Saviour, to redeem us and save us from our sins in the same chapter of Genesis 3:15. He is to be the seed of the woman. Dozens of Prophecies tell of His Coming. Romans 5:15-17; Galatians 3:19.

Romans 5:15-17:

¹⁵ But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the Grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by One Man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. ¹⁶ And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. ¹⁷ For if

by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:19:

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the Promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

On December 25, we will be celebrating His birthday. The devil has stepped in again, trying to disguise this great occasion by substituting Santa Claus and turning our minds away from Christ to buying and receiving gifts. This is to get our eyes *off* Jesus.

Will you believe Jesus and receive Him? You will *never* be sorry.

John 1:12:

But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name:

CONCLUSION:

Sin fascinates us and turns our backs on the Lord. Jesus came to turn us back to Him and start us Heavenward. Accept Him today as your Saviour. You who know Jesus as Saviour, Lord and Master, live by His Word. Respect it - obey it. Hold highest regard for its sacred contents from cover to cover. You will then live a happy, strong, spiritual life -- a successful life -- and in the end receive ***Everlasting Life.***

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