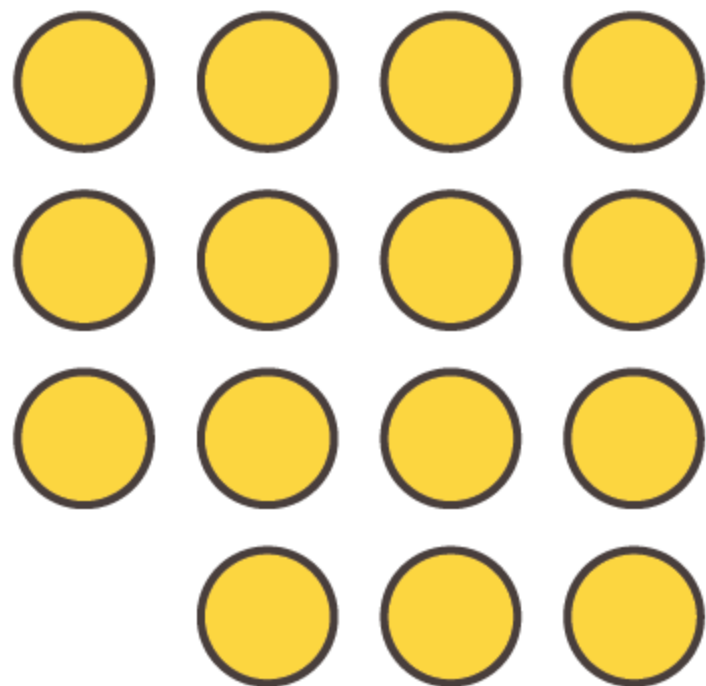


# GRACE LOVES the least



God's kindness shines most brightly as he reaches out to those that are least considered.

**Message Series Jan. 8–Feb. 26**

[www.chelten.org](http://www.chelten.org)

**Chelten – a church of hope**

God's kindness shines most brightly as he reaches out to those that are least considered.

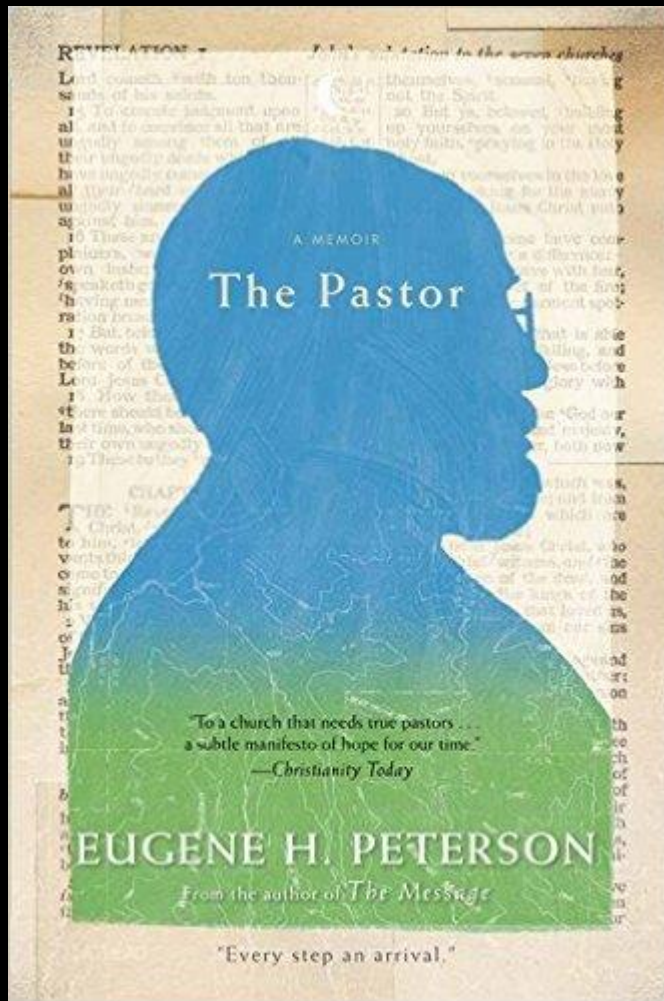
Message Series Jan. 8–Feb. 26

# There is Still HOPE

A pink flower with green leaves is growing out of a white circular cutout in the letter 'O' of the word 'HOPE'. The background is a dry, cracked, brownish-yellow earth with some dry leaves and twigs scattered around.

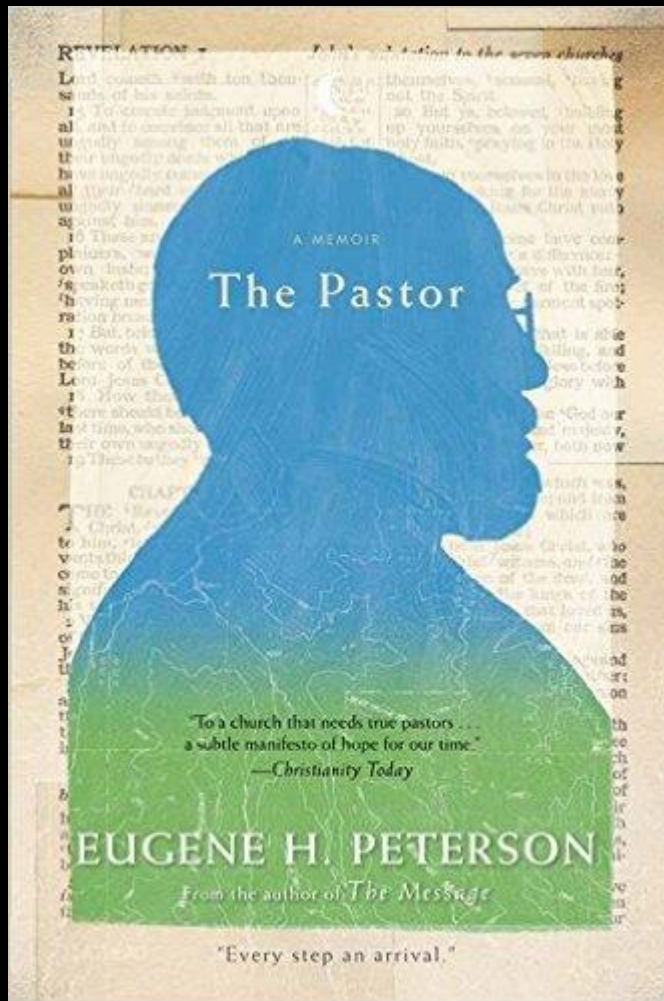
Message Series  
March 2017

# Evil Invades the World of 'Very Good'



“Oh, you Protestants. You are so naive about evil. You know everything about sin, but nothing about evil—the prevalence of evil, the persistence of evil in holy places, like this monastery—and like your congregation. The mystery of evil.”

# Evil Invades the World of 'Very Good'



You make cartoon characters out of evil so that you don't have to deal with it in your own households and workplaces, crouching at the door every time you open it. Or else you deny it and label everything that is wrong with the world as a sin you can name and then take charge of getting rid of."

Evil Invades the World of 'Very Good'

Evil is Constant, Unyielding  
Opposition to God  
at Every Point in His Universe

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

*Genesis 3:1-3*

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

*Genesis 3:4-7*

# Evil Attacks God

- invites you to doubt God and his goodness

“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”

*Genesis 2:16-17*

# Evil Attacks God

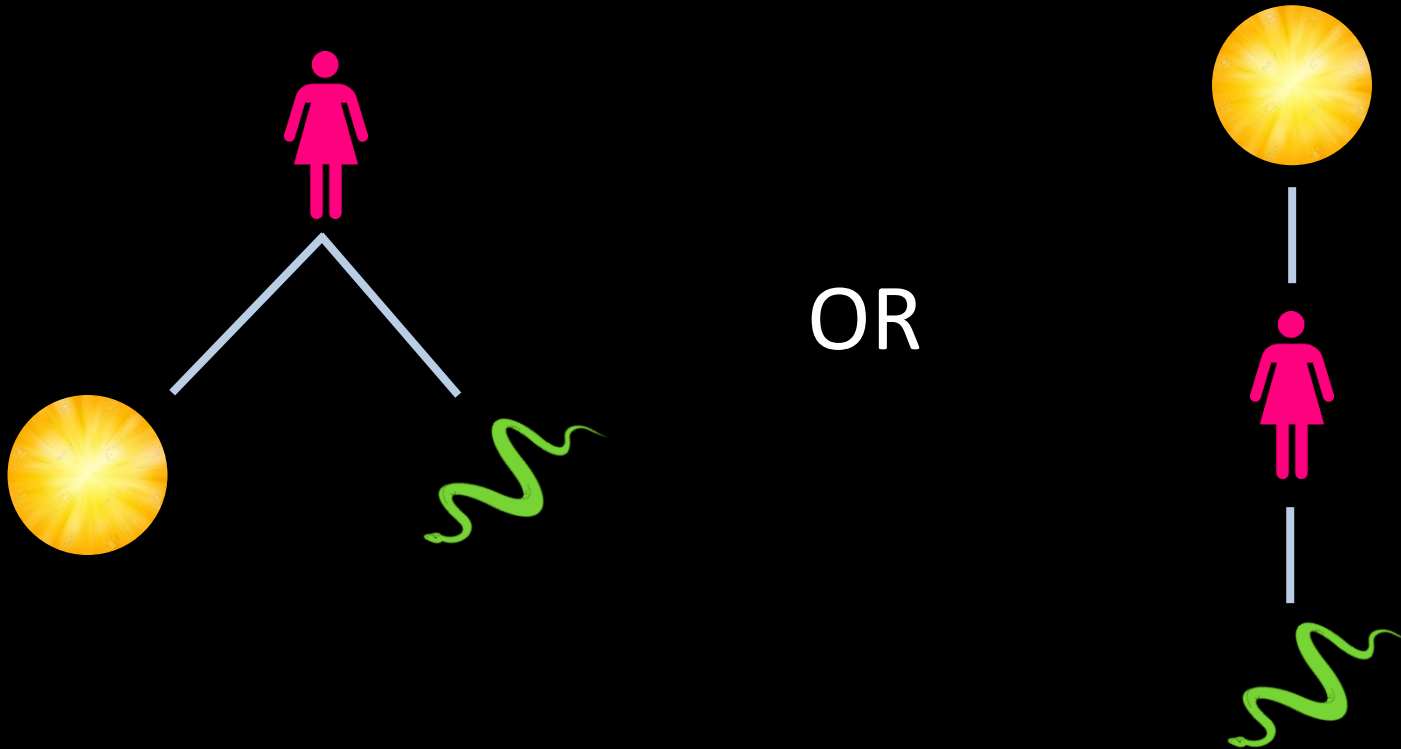
- invites you to doubt God and his goodness  
(by making you think he's stingy)
- invites you to dismiss what God says  
(by making you think he's holding out on you)

# Two Worldviews in Conflict

Either:      God is good AND eating is bad

Or:          eating is good AND God is bad

# It All Comes Down to Faith and Trust



... and she decides to trust herself

# Results of Self-Faith and Self-Trust

- they know Good AND Evil
- but not like God does
- they are filled with shame

# God's Response

- he talks to them again to bring hope

“And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel.”

*Genesis 3:15*

# God's Response

- he talks to them again to bring hope
- he promises that the Snake-crusher will come
- he absorbs the cost to cover their shame

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

*Genesis 3:21*

