

The Knowledge of Good and Evil

Scripture

“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.” (Ge 3:22-24 AV)

Devotion

What happened when man took and ate the forbidden fruit? The knowledge of good and evil was not the understanding of right from wrong. If that were the case, how could God give Adam a prohibition in the first place? Giving a prohibition presumes the hearer understands the command.

Therefore, this knowledge must be something more than knowing right from wrong. The answer is found in the God’s comment, “Behold man has become as one of us.” Clearly God was not declaring man omniscient or omnipotent so how did man become like God? I would suggest that man had made himself out as God and became a judge of right and wrong, good and evil. Of course, man in his fallen state, judges everything from a sinful viewpoint rendering his judgment untrustworthy.

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death” (Pr 14:12 AV). Man was incapable of clear judgment once he had disobeyed God. Perhaps if he would have eaten of the tree of life before he fell things would have been much different, but only God knows the end of that. The fact is, he did eat the forbidden fruit and condemned all of mankind under the curse of sin.

Salvation requires man to repent of his sins. This means man must allow God to be judge of right and wrong. He must come to understand his sinful, hopeless state and submit to God Almighty. This only happens when God regenerates a man by the quickening of the Spirit.

Praise God that He gave us His Son, Jesus Christ the Righteous. A promise of a Savior was given to us in the very beginning (Gen. 3:15, 21). Now by His indwelling Spirit we are able to see and love the truth again. We are able to submit our lives to Christ. We are able to die to ourselves, mortifying the flesh and its sinful passions all because of the grace of God.

Let us take time this day to praise God for His love. Without it we all would be lost and without hope in this world. We did not deserve God’s mercy, but many have received it. Those who have ought to proclaim the glory of God to all. Have you received His grace? Then surely you can bow before Him this morning and thank Him for the blessings of salvation.