

Focus: The Consequences of The Fall: The Bad News**1. Quick Review:**

- a. Kerygma → Proclamation:
 - i. The Goodness of Creation
 - ii. Sin and its Consequences
 - iii. God's Response to Sin
 - iv. Our Response to God
- b. Series so far: The Goodness of Creation

2. This week: The Fall; The Consequences of Sin (aka The Bad News)

- a. The Fall
 - i. Revelation 12:9 → Satan; the Devil; *the deceiver of the whole world*
 - ii. Genesis 3:1 → *the most subtle of all creatures*
 - iii. Genesis 2:15-17 → the *shamar* given to the man by the "LORD God" (YHWH)
 - iv. Genesis 3:1-3 → the first accusation of "God" (Elohim)
 - v. Genesis 3:4-5 → "*If God really loved you...*"
 - 1. His strategy: *God is suspicious. He is not good and he doesn't care about you.*
 - a. *You don't need him. You can find happiness without him.*
 - vi. Genesis 3:6 → The Fall: *I don't need God to tell me what is good and what is evil.*
- b. Relationships are broken (Gen. 3:6-8)
 - i. Man and God: They hid from him.
 - ii. Man and woman: They experienced shame for the first time.
 - iii. Man and creation: Chaos enters. Fear of creation enters.
 - iv. Man w/ self: We develop diseases of various kinds. ... We die. (Rom. 6:23)
- c. Something far worse: Spiritual Slavery
 - i. Romans 3:9 - "*All men are under the power of sin.*"
 - ii. CCC 407: *By our first parents' sin, the devil has acquired a certain domination over man..*
 - iii. Romans 7:15, 19 - "*I do not understand my own actions, for I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ... For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.*"
 - iv. All people die. Nobody beats death. We are utterly helpless against it.
 - v. *Death is so great, so aggressive, so pervasive, and so militant a power that the only fitting way to speak of Death is similar to the way one speaks of God. Death is the living power and presence in this world which feigns to be God.* (William Stringfellow)
 - vi. *The controlling metaphor here is slavery and freedom. ...either one lives in service to sin and remains in spiritual bondage, or lives in obedience to God and enjoys liberation from Sin's captivity. It is a stark either/or: no fence-sitting, no third option.* (Scott Hahn)
- d. An image for your reflection.

Reflection Questions and Homework

1. What do you think about this?
2. Can you notice the strategy of Satan in your life: accusations, flattery, divisions, temptations, discouragement, etc?
3. **Read: Genesis 21-22; Exodus 12; Luke 1; Luke 3; Matthew 26:26-30; John 19:31-37**