

Life for Sinners
Genesis 3:20-24

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Introduction: From “dying, you shall die” to “living, you shall live.”

1. Life Praised (Eve’s new name)
 - a. Adam expresses benevolent headship over his wife, delight in his children, and faith in the promise
2. Life Provided (Adam and Eve’s new clothes)
 - a. The Lord provides not only the covering of shame, but also protection from the elements.
 - b. Also, his former glory is covered, polluted as it now is, so that he might not seek to display it. This is in preparation for a better glory. The wonder of the gospel is that he will one day be covered with a greater glory than he originally lost.
 - c. The preciousness of God humbling Himself to the task of a tailor. But more than just providing a means by which we might save ourselves, God now stoops down to us that He Himself might do the saving. The fig leaves had failed, but now since God Himself provides the clothing, they can know that it succeeds.
 - d. God ironically says that man has become one of us, but His plan is actually that one of Him would become a man! We miss the wonder of this when we arrogantly think of ourselves as good, or as judges, or as in control.
3. Life Pictured (Their clothes’ old owner)
 - a. The sacrifice of life for the furthering of theirs in this world, that points to the sacrifice that will bring them life in the next.
 - b. This is not quite the same as sacrifice from Noah onwards, since they do not get to eat of the meat. Substitution *for* is displayed, but participation *in* is not yet displayed.
 - c. We must rest in, relish, and rejoice over both at the table this morning!
4. Life Promised (Paradise’s new path)
 - a. When he has lost the thing signified, he is barred from it's sign as well.
 - b. The two words for stretching out indicate that part of the purpose here is to teach the man the lesson that it is God's extension for stretching that must win the day. He cannot regain wife's for himself. The Lord is the one who is in control. the Lord who has bound The Creation in Hope, does the same for the man oh, so that he will learn that he ought to put his hope in God alone.
 - c. Men’s service now will not be so generally aimed at the Lord, but much more now aimed at the ground. He is put there to serve it. In both his image and his calling man has fallen back to Earth after originally being aimed at heaven. This is something that Jesus undoes for us. When we are heavenly minded for him, we work on the earth as those who are aimed at and along once again to heaven.
 - d. The two signs
 - i. The presence of the cherubim is a reminder that's a great loss has been mens access to and intimacy with the Lord himself, and not so much the earthly blessings of the garden itself.
 - ii. The flaming sword is said to keep the way to the tree - a tree that we will see again in Revelation. The way to life forever with God is not cut off from man. But he can no longer access the former way of doing so. This points us forward to see how God will give life, and of course ultimately to Christ

Conclusion: Don't look back, look forward to Christ. Every one of you has messed up your life in a way that you cannot return to. That way is cut off. But God has provided both atonement and cure. Let the praise of God’s redemption in Christ saturate your life. As a believer, receive every good thing as part of that redemption. Hope only in what Christ has done for you. Don’t be trying to get back to an earthly paradise, but look forward to the greater paradise of the New Heavens and Earth!