

Seeing God's Promises through Your Pain Genesis 3:8-21

- I. We live in a sin-stained world under a God who confronts sinners (vv. 9, 11, 13a, 16-19)**
- A. Christ in the garden and confronts the sinners and judges as representatives
 - B. Adam & Eve affected where it hurts most
 1. Adam – pain/toil in work; Eve – pain/toil in family
 2. Death included in the curse – “*return to the ground*” (v. 19)
 - C. Recognize sin. Know that you will have trouble/tribulation. Prepare your heart.
- II. In the flesh, you will cover your sin, shift the blame, and try to run from God (vv. 8, 10, 12, 13b)**
- A. Attempt to cover sin by own works (v. 7); Blame game...even blaming God!
 - B. Strong dose of irony in verse 8 → man/woman *hid* from God's *presence*
 - C. Confess sin regularly. Take responsibility. Run to, not from God. Can you hide?
- III. But, God sees all of your sins and graciously judges them (vv. 16-19)**
- A. God gave them time before judging them – long enough to make belts (v. 7)
 - B. Man and woman judged but not cursed like Serpent and ground
 - C. “*all of the days of your life*” (v. 14 vs. v. 17) → God's Provision
 - D. Grace in God's questions to them (drawing them to recognition/repentance)
 - E. See the grace of God in chastisement...big picture and the end result
- IV. At the same time, God has extended a gracious promise to you, His children (v. 15)**
- A. Identification of Messiah is key → Messianic view held very early → Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, etc.
 - B. If you miss it, you miss the gospel!
 - C. Promise of conversion/regeneration → “*I will put enmity between...*”
 - D. Promise of atonement in Christ → “*He shall bruise you on the head*”
 - E. Promise of final victory → **Romans 16:20**
 - F. Do you believe God's promise in the midst of your toil?
- V. Throughout life, God points you to his promise in tangible ways (v. 21)**
- A. Physical signs – snake (sin, defeat), thorn/thistles (curse) → It is no coincidence that Christ wore a crown of thorns
 - B. Another sign – garments (victory, imputation)
 1. Skins required sacrifice of animal (beginning of animal sacrifices; type of Christ's sacrifice in v. 15)
 2. Represents the imputed righteousness → Isaiah 61:10, Galatians 3:27
 - C. Sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are signs and seals of God's grace to us
 - D. Take the sacraments seriously. Allow them to point you to Christ. Realize that Christ has given you signs and seals to bolster your faith in Him, even in the midst of your troubles.
- VI. Therefore, even in the midst of your troubles, take heart, Christ has overcome the world (v. 20)**
- A. Adam and Eve's faith
 1. Adam here verbally confesses his faith in God's promise
 2. “mother of all the living” – Mother of the sons of God who live through Christ
 3. Eve's faith is in 4:1 and 4:25 “*God has appointed me another [seed, Seth]*”
 - B. Whose seed are you? If you are connected to Christ, the sin-bearing Messiah, then...
 - a. Recognize and confess your sin; do not run from Him
 - b. Welcome God's confrontation and chastisement
 - c. Let the sacraments properly point you to Christ and His promise
 - d. No matter how fierce the battle, cling to the promise of God in Christ
 - e. **John 16:33b**