

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

(Pastor prays)

When the heart is broken and the damage is done... when the wrong is committed and the pain is real...what do you do then? When you create the problem and you commit the sin, you have to ask the questions, "What do I do now? Is there a way forward? And, if there is, what is it?"

Is there a road to redemption and, if there is, how do I get on that road? Is there real hope after a colossal failure? Can you *really* find your way home?

I think this text is the beginning of the answer. Next week we get to Cain and Abel, but for today, we are still looking at our first parents, Adam and Eve. They've committed (both of them) a heinous sin and have offended our holy God and now they've been judged but they haven't been killed. They've been punished but they haven't been annihilated, reminding us that a life of sin doesn't have to be the end.

Adam and Eve, like all of us, deserved to die but mercy gave them life. They shouldn't continue to live, but grace offers a tomorrow and, in this passage, you will see the glorious truth of redemption telling us, telling *you*, there *is* a way home. There *is* hope for you.

What I'd like to do for the next few moments we have together is try to convince you not to *cover* your sin, don't *excuse* your sin and certainly quit *hiding* your sin. Let's deal with it. Like God deals with Adam and Eve, let's walk out of here today with a clear path

forward and a concrete hope for tomorrow so that we don't bargain with God, hide from God or turn from God.

Redemption Begins When Running Ends and Its Found in Christ

Let me give it to you in steps –

The First Step Is to Trust God's Promises

We are only three chapters into the Bible and God has already made promises for provision, life and fellowship. Adam and Eve broke that trust, and so God brought judgment that should've been death but God inserted the first Gospel and the first promise after sin. It's back in Genesis 3:15 as God tells the serpent that there's a Savior coming:

*I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”*

This is pointing forward to Christ's suffering and Satan's ultimate defeat. That's a promise for all of those that are in Christ.

Now come forward a bit to our text and Moses tells us something important in verse 20. The man called his wife's name "Eve" because she was the mother of all living. In other words, there was going to be life even though what they deserved was death.

Not only that, now for the first time the woman had a name and that name means something. "Eve" comes from the Greek translation of "Zoe" which means "living," so every time the man would say her name, it would be a reminder of hope and future and redemption.

And for you to genuinely live and experience the purpose God created you for, you are going to have to trust the promises of God: promises like Isaiah 42:3, *a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice...* Or what the Psalmist tells us in Psalm 34:18,

*The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.*

Or maybe you question God's forgiveness. The promise in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

How about the promise in Romans 8? We quote it all the time. Do you trust it? It's a promise. Romans 8:28, *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.* That's an absolute promise that God made to his children who are adopted in Christ.

All of this to say to you: the first part of redemption happens when you trust what God says. Trust God's promises. To *trust* His promises, you have to *know* His promises.

The Second Step Is To Confess Your Own Inadequacies

Let me show you where I get that. It's down in Verse 21. *And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.* There are two theological streams flowing out of this verse and they come together in Christ.

In verse 21, God is going to make them garments to cover them, to cover their shame. But wait, didn't Adam and Eve already do that? Let's go back to the scene of the crime to right after they broke the commandment and ate the fruit. Look what they did in Genesis 3:7, *Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.*

Adam and Eve had already made a covering for themselves, but the covering that Adam and Eve made were inadequate to actually cover their shame. The same is true today. All of the excuses and reasons and explanations are inadequate. You can never pay God back. You can never redeem yourself. The scale is too lopsided. The hole is too deep. There is no "getting right" with God. You are not going to "get your life right." Adam and Eve tried. They made a covering but their silly way of dealing with their shame was pointless. So, Verse 21 is telling us that God does for them what they cannot do. They can't deal with their shame.

Let me put it another way. You can't deal with your shame, but God *can* and God *will* and God *does*. That's the Gospel and it's bound up in Verse 21. Our ways of dealing with our sin are like attempts at pleasing God without Christ. They fall woefully short.

Our attempts at virtue without Christ are fig leaves. It's God who must provide the covering.

Now as you read Verse 21 you're going to realize something. In order for Adam and Eve to be covered and clothed, in order for their sins to be atoned for, something had to die. Verse 21, *And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.* Adam and Eve witnessed the first slaughter of animals, reminding us of what Hebrews 9:22 says, *Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.* And in Verse 21 it is God who provides the animals, God who does the sacrifice. It's God who atones for their sin. It's God who restores the relationship.

Now you might be wondering "What does Genesis 3:21 and the first animal sacrifice have to do with my situation?" Well, you can draw a straight line from this passage to Exodus when God told the Israelites to put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts so the Angel of Death would pass over, to the day of Atonement in Leviticus 16, to the suffering servant in Isaiah 53, to John the Baptist pointing at Jesus and saying "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."

Here in the very beginning of the Bible is the vivid horror and the consequences of sin that the wages of sin really is death. That's why we run to the cross and plant the cross in the middle of our lives. Because at the cross, God made him to be sin who knew no sin so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

(It is) Reminding us of what Jonathan Edwards said, "We contribute nothing to our salvation except the sin that made it necessary." Or as James Montgomery Boice said, "There are really only two religions in the world: The religion of fig leaves and the religion of God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone."

Redemption. Purchased. God purchased for Himself a people, a sinful people, and the currency He used was the blood of Jesus, shed on the cross; and it is by the sacrifice of Christ that sinners are redeemed.

Confess Jesus is Lord, believe God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.

(Pastor shares the Gospel and prays)