

STUDIES IN GENESIS #17

Written by Calvin Fox

Monday, 01 June 2015 09:37 - Last Updated Monday, 01 June 2015 09:43

Last time we focused on Satan's deception and temptation of Eve. It is too easy for us to be deceived about the meaning of this story in Genesis 2-3 and to give in to the temptation to dismiss the importance of it. That would be a major mistake.

If this story is taken seriously, it would change our entire system of education.

It would change how we go about planning our lives and making all our decisions

The Bible says- Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who obtains understanding.
(Pro. 3:13)

Wisdom is supreme – so acquire wisdom ... acquire understanding!

(Prov.4:7)

What is Wisdom?

In the Bible, Wisdom is a way of viewing and approaching life, which involved instructing the young in proper conduct and morality and answering the philosophical questions about life's meaning. The word translated as "wisdom" can simply mean skill, especially the practical skills that go with designing and organizing a project. In the Old Testament wisdom at one level describes skilled arts, like goldsmiths (Jer 10:9) and artisans, like weavers (Exod 35:25-26) and architects (Exod 35:30-36:1).

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[But] "The major thrust of wisdom in the Old Testament was a code of moral conduct. This is especially represented by the Book of Proverbs, which gives instruction on personal behavior ... The goal of wisdom was to build an orderly and functional society that reflected the moral requirements of God as set forth in the law of Moses."

[In the Bible] The terms "wisdom" and "wise" apply to men and women who represent a way of thinking and conduct that is orderly, socially sensitive, and morally upright. Thus, the major thrust of wisdom in the Old Testament was a code of moral conduct. *Source Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*

And where can we find Wisdom?

Pro. 2:6 the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.

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Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Psalm 111:6 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

Psalm 51:6 you delight in truth in the inward being and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Job 28:12 "But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? 13 ... it is not found in the land of the living.

15

It cannot be bought for gold, and silver cannot be weighed as its price.

20

"From where, then, does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding?

23

"God understands the way to it, and he knows its place.

24

For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.

28

And he said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom...

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Eccles 2:26 For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy,

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (See the story of Solomon)

But this is the Problem. The Temptation was to be autonomous from God and His Wisdom

Adam & Eve were deceived into believing that they could have the wisdom of God without God, - specifically, without obedience of His law ---simply by eating the so-called “apple”

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Gen 3:6 -*When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.*

The temptation was to be like “god-with-the-knowledge-of-good-and-evil”, ie- to be as wise as God- to seek and possess the wisdom that belongs to God alone

This is what God said about the King of Tyre, ... *"in the pride of your heart you say, "I am a god; ...but you are a man and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god.*

Ezekiel 28:2

Seeking autonomy (seeking to think, to have knowledge & wisdom, apart from God and the Law of God, like Adam and Eve or the King of Tyre) has been [Man's] deceit and sin ever since. This led to substituting error for truth.

Job 28:28 Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom;

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Psalm 51:6 You teach me wisdom in my heart

Psalm 111:6 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom

In particular, Wisdom is found primarily in the Law of God- Yes the Law, the first 5 Books of the Bible

Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple; see
Psalm 119

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Baltimore has serious social problems. [Of course all cities do] There is much clamor for Government to finance all kinds of programs to solve the problems.

Band-aids!

There are 2219 churches in Baltimore listed in the yellow pages of the phone book.

Many have effective ministries aimed at solving the problems.

But these efforts are not enough

Deut 4:1 "And now, O [People], listen to the statutes and the rules that [the Bible] teaches you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the [City] that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. 2 ... keep the commandments of the LORD your God.... 6 Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding