

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
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Sermon Title: God the Redeemer, Genesis 2-3

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**INTRODUCTION:** Last week's message was about the orderly and creative nature of God. During that message, I shared with you several things:

- In the creation story, we see the orderly nature of God. Creation followed an orderly sequence.
- We also see the bold creativity of God. I shared—as beautiful as the earth is today—it was cursed by God due to the sin of people. We cannot begin to imagine what it looked like in its original splendor.
- I pointed out how God told people to rule over the earth, but he did not tell them to rule over each other...Mankind started doing that later.
- And, the takeaway from last week's message was that in God's orderly fashion for you, if you have a need, the supply is already out there...and we need God's creativity at work in us.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 2:1-3 *<sup>1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.<sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.*

This message has two parts. The first part is about the absolute, perfect world we only read about in Genesis 1 and 2. There are two points to this first part of my message:

1. We were created to work.
2. We were created to have companionship.

The second part is about the imperfect world we know all too well. There are three points to this second part:

1. We were created to be sinless, but we said, “No thanks.”
2. The Creator sought out the sinners.
3. The Creator’s grace was underserved.

And, here’s my disclaimer—There is so much more to the Genesis story than I could ever put into one sermon, so I realize I am not doing justice to it all. I’m just giving you the broad brushstrokes, not the details.

## **PART 1—**

### **First, WE WERE CREATED TO WORK.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 2:7-17 <sup>7</sup> *Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*

<sup>8</sup> *Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.* <sup>9</sup> *The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

<sup>15</sup> *The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.* <sup>16</sup> *And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”*

**EXPLANATION:** Life as Adam knew it was conditional. It was based on obedience. And, I want you to notice he didn’t have to do anything to win God’s favor. He didn’t have to do things to earn God’s favor. He just had to avoid doing something. And, sometimes, I think we get that confused. We think to earn God’s favor, we have to go out and do a whole lot of stuff. But, God wants us to be stewards of the world he has put around us. He wants us to be good, strong Christian witnesses, and he wants us to avoid sin.

Adam was created to work—It’s very clear right here in Genesis. Adam was not created to be lazy. Adam was not created to just lie in the hammock seven days per

week and do nothing and let God provide as people like to say... *“I’ll just wait on God. I’ll wait on God and see what God wants to do.”* We have a whole misunderstanding of waiting on God.

**ILLUSTRATION:** You know, a waiter on tables is certainly not standing there waiting, right? There are two different uses of the word “wait” there.

**APPLICATION:** Adam was created to work. Work is good. It’s part of the creation, and we see on the seventh day, God rested. So, it’s important for us to work, and then it’s important for us to rest.

## **Second, WE WERE CREATED TO HAVE COMPANIONSHIP.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 2:18 <sup>18</sup> *The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”*

**EXPLANATION:** I want to stop right there for a second. That’s a pretty fascinating verse. Here’s why: It’s fascinating because Adam, as I’m going to explain in a few minutes had this spiritual reality as strong as his physical reality. God was his companion. God was with Adam 24/7. Adam was with God 24/7. They walked together. They talked together. And, then God said, *It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.* Very interesting...

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 2:19-24 <sup>19</sup> *Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.* <sup>20</sup> *So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.*

*But for Adam no suitable helper was found.* <sup>21</sup> *So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.* <sup>22</sup> *Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

<sup>23</sup> *The man said—*

[“Wow”—the Bible just records it a little differently. Listen to this...Adam breaks into poetry, the first poetry in the Bible and in human existence was Adam’s response after God presented Eve to him—]

*“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”*

*<sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

[Here we have the first marriage counseling in the scripture as well.]

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 2:25 <sup>25</sup> *Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

Next, we have this next section of our message, but before I go into that, I want you to imagine something. We have to use our imagination because there’s really no other way to do it. This perfect world was created by God with this man and this woman who had no cares whatsoever other than to love each other and to have fellowship with God. They really didn’t have inconveniences. They didn’t have any thorns in the ground as they were caring for this planet. It was perfect, and God was with them all the time. It just could not have been any better. Literally, it couldn’t have been any better.

And, then we move to the next part of this message—

## **PART 2—**

### **First, WE WERE CREATED TO BE SINLESS, BUT WE SAID, “NO THANKS.”**

Before Eve and Adam ate of the fruit, they did not know about good and evil. They just existed in perfect harmony with God. And, now today, thanks to them, we have the knowledge of good and evil. We know good and evil. In fact, we are prone to do evil.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 3:1-6 <sup>1</sup>*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”*

<sup>2</sup>*The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,*  
<sup>3</sup>*but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”*

<sup>4</sup>*“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.* <sup>5</sup>*“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*

<sup>6</sup>*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. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

**EXPLANATION:** Again, so much can be said about these verses, but I want to point out to you Adam had resistance before the time of Eve. The tree was there before Eve was created. But, Adam trusted Eve. In fact, he didn't have any resistance at all when she gave him the fruit and he said that we cannot eat it, we cannot touch it because we'll die. What does touching have to do with anything? Well, God knew once they touched it, they'd be hooked. Think about that in relation to sin.

And, when Adam was alone in his relationship with God and no one else, he did not sin, but when he was with someone else, he sinned. Perhaps that's where the saying “You never sin alone” comes from. Even if no one else is around and we choose to sin, others are affected.

Verse 7—

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 3:7 <sup>7</sup>*Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

I want you to remember that Scripture. I'll talk about it in a few minutes, but here's the cycle of sin—

- Something or someone pulls you into sin.

- Something looks filling – *“the fruit was good for food.”*
- Something also looks pleasing—It’s attractive.
- Something will make us smarter—She thought she would gain wisdom, and this is just nothing more than false justification for sinning.
- Then the person shares that something with another person, and the cycle repeats itself.

Do you see the cycle? Let me go through it again:

- Something or someone pulls you into sin.
- Something looks filling or fulfilling.
- Something also looks pleasing.
- Something will make me smarter.
- Then it’s passed onto someone else.

**SCRIPTURE:** James 1:13-15 <sup>13</sup> *When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup> but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

The cycle we see here in Genesis Chapter 3 is repeated again in James Chapter 1. You may remember last week when I said Satan’s goal is to make everything run backwards. There may be a fancy theological term for it, but I prefer to put it in terms everyone can understand—Satan wants everything to work backwards. Whatever moves forward with God, the same thing moves backward with Satan if he gets his way.

**ILLUSTRATION:** I want you to think of it—

- Married couples are to be faithful to each other, but if Satan gets his way and runs things backwards, they won’t.
- Parents are to be in charge of their children, but in some families, children are in charge of their parents.

- Teachers are to be in charge of schools, but if Satan gets his way, students will run the school.

**EXPLANATION:** Where do we learn that Satan wants things to run backwards? Right here in Genesis 3—

- God said not to eat of the tree. Satan said, “Do it.”
- God said they would die. Satan said they would not die.
- Adam and Even looked to God as knowing more than they knew. Satan said they could become like God.

**BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION:** A few weeks ago, I mentioned how everything in the trial of Jesus was illegal. Everything that happened, every single happening in the trial of Jesus before the crucifixion was illegal. And, like today, trials back then had rules—how they were conducted, rules about witnesses, rules about when and where a trial would happen. During the trial of Jesus, Satan made everything run backwards. Satan made everyone believe this was the thing to do even though none of the rules were followed. The people put Jesus on trial even though there were no real courts involved.

**APPLICATION:** There is a modern-day application here which I must point out to you. If you see a system start to run backwards, watch out because Satan has found a stronghold, and he’s probably found it through a weak person. He’s dangled that fruit in front of their eyes, and they’ve lost resistance. They’ve taken a bite.

At this point, Adam and Eve were hopeless. Satan got his foothold. Life as they had known it in their pristine and perfect garden was about to change forever. Fellowship with God in the garden as they knew it was about to change forever. They really messed up. They had really blown it. But, here’s what happened—

### **Second, THE CREATOR SOUGHT OUT THE SINNERS.**

They didn’t seek him out for a remedy. The Creator sought out the sinners. Look in verse 8—

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 3:8-20 <sup>8</sup> *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”*

<sup>10</sup> *He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”*

<sup>11</sup> *And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”*

<sup>12</sup> *The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”*

<sup>13</sup> *Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

<sup>14</sup> *So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.*

<sup>15</sup> *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

<sup>16</sup> *To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”*

<sup>17</sup> *To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it, “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.*

<sup>18</sup> *It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.*

<sup>19</sup> *By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

<sup>20</sup> *Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.*

**EXPLANATION:** Adam and Eve would no longer live in the pristine garden created for them to manage. They would have to live in a cursed world. They would have to face the elements in ways they had not known up to this point.

Adam and Eve were people as God originally intended. Listen closely to this...I want you to learn something this morning— They were physical beings who had souls. Simultaneously, they had a spiritual self as real as their physical selves. They

lived in the “Shekinah glory” of God, which is his continual presence—a personal relationship as real as the people sitting next to you. So, they walked with him in the garden physically and spiritually. I realize I’m speaking about something here I don’t even fully understand. And, in that relationship, they trusted every single word of God. They did not question him. They did not think he didn’t have their best interests at heart. They didn’t wonder about any of it. They knew God was their creator, and they had an intimate, daily, continual walk and talk—a very thorough relationship with him. He was their most cherished relationship.

And, then Eve was led to believe God was withholding something from them and they’d be better off deciding for themselves if what he said was true.

When they ate of the fruit, their spirits died, and they became spiritually dark because their spiritual side died. They had once been physical selves and spiritual selves at the same time, but now the only thing that stood out to them was their physical selves. Where they once had spiritual senses, now they had five physical senses: sight, touch, smell, sound, and taste. They were instantly in a world where awareness was different and lesser than the way they had just known. They were exposed. That was the realization of their nakedness. They were different from the rest of creation around them. This 24 hours, seven-days-a-week spiritual side died. They had cut God out of the picture, and they hid from God.

And, as we read about the development of human society in the Bible, we see mankind became mostly focused on the physical—kingdoms conquering kingdoms, people conquering people, and all the selfishness that comes with that.

Rather than coming to God for a remedy, which they could have done, they hid from God. *Let’s camouflage ourselves. Let’s get a bunch of leaves and sew them together and hide. We’ll camouflage ourselves, and maybe God won’t see us. Maybe you’ll forget about us.* But, in the Scripture, we see God set the stage for what we see throughout the rest of the Bible, and here it is—God seeking out people, God seeking out his wayward children.

God provided for them with skins of animals. Something innocent had to die—again we see throughout scripture, the sacrificial system where animals paid the

price for the sins of people and ultimately the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to pay for our sins.

### **Third, THE CREATOR’S GRACE WAS UNDESERVED.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 3:21-24 <sup>21</sup> *The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.* <sup>22</sup> *And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”* <sup>23</sup> *So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.* <sup>24</sup> *After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

**EXPLANATION:** Two trees—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life. They had eaten of neither, and then they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And, God in his grace, took them away from the tree of life lest they live forever in this sinful state with no hope of redemption. So, God banished them from the garden for their own good. They were punished, but they did not die physically. They died spiritually. It was a spiritual death, and this spiritual death required redemption to be reconciled with God. God, in his mercy, kept them from reaching out their hands and taking the fruit from the other tree and living forever in the state you know.

The tree of life makes another appearance in the Bible—Revelation 22, the last chapter of the Bible. There will be a day when all believers can go to the tree of life because it will all be done as we know it. And, there will be a whole new reality and a renewal of this life in the garden.

**CONCLUSION:** You know, God is seeking you out today just like he sought out Adam and Eve in the garden. Do you know Jesus was the sacrifice for your sins so that you could be reconciled with God? God, in his mercy, gave Adam and Eve animal skin furs for clothing because they would have to face these harsh elements in a way they had not known, which means something innocent had to die—the first

sacrifice. Something innocent had to die for them to have what they needed, and so God reached out of heaven to his wayward children and extended grace to them.

God is reaching out to you today. Because you've heard his Word, you're without excuse. We know we're sinners. I don't think anybody here would say they're not a sinner. We know we need to be reconciled to God. We know this, and we know Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

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