

LOVE THAT PASSES KNOWLEDGE

Lesson 1 – Mankind Acquires Knowledge



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Purpose of study:

- a study of knowledge and love
 - man's acquisition of knowledge
 - God's love in the presence of man's knowledge
 - the love we should exhibit.

The beginning of man's history:

Genesis 2:19-20

Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. 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. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.....

Adam had

- A great amount of knowledge and intelligence
- He was able to communicate with the Father directly
- He was free from sin allowing access to the Father:

Genesis 3:8-9

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. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

**But their knowledge was
limited:**

Genesis 2:25

***The man and his wife were both naked,
and they felt no shame.***

Adam and Eve's knowledge level

- **No awareness of any wrong associated with nudity**
- **They were innocent like a little baby**

One restriction

Genesis 2:17

but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

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What did God mean by “die”?

- Separation from the presence of God
- Physical death.

Consider the conversation between the serpent
and Eve:

Genesis 3:1-7

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'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 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.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 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. 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.

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The serpent's words

- “You will not surely die.”
- “Your eyes will be opened
- “You will be like God, knowing good and evil

Genesis 3:22-24

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." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 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.

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What did God mean?

- Adam and Eve had become “gods”
- As we judge, God allows the same judgments to come on us.

Psalm 82:1

God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgment among the "gods":

Matthew 7:1-5

*"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. **For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.** "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

Is all knowledge bad?

- No.

Hosea 4:6

*my people are destroyed from **lack of knowledge**.*

Joshua 1:8

*Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. **Then you will be prosperous and successful.***

Is all knowledge bad?

- No.

Ephesians 1:15-20

*For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may **give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better**. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,*

Jesus walked in the Spirit of knowledge:

Isaiah 11:1-5

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the **Spirit of knowledge** and of the fear of the LORD-- and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.*

Consider how the fall came about.

- Lust or covetousness

Genesis 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. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

- They gained knowledge of good and evil

Genesis 3:7a

Then the **eyes of both of them were opened**, and **they realized they were naked**; ...

Consider how the fall came about.

- Man judged himself, and then tried to cover his sin

Genesis 3:7b

... so they sewed fig leaves together and **made coverings for themselves.**

- Man experienced fear

Genesis 3:8-10

*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. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and **I was afraid** because I was naked; so I hid."*

- *Not willing to take responsibility and blaming others for our sins*

Consider the fruit of tree of Knowledge of good and evil.

- Covetousness
- Lust
- Knowledge about the flesh
- Judgment
- Covering up
- Fear
- Blame others

No wonder God put man out
of the garden.

Genesis 3:22

*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.**"*

Why was God concerned about Adam and Eve eating from the tree of life?

- This act of disobedience created the sin nature
- They would have established this sin nature for eternity
- They would never have been able to again be in the presence of God.

A born-again process was needed to reestablish that fellowship. That process was a part of God's plan – His Son Jesus.

Questions?

Next Week: