

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;... 2 Peter 1:2

You Shall Know the Tree by Its Fruit

The True Difference Between a Christian and a Born-Again Christian

Pastor Anthony Trezza

Genesis 2:9, 16-17 Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ... **16** The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; **17** but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

- Adam had never seen death before, he had to accept this by faith
- Just like we have never seen eternal life
- But by faith we accept that if we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we will never die

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

So, what really happened in the Garden?

Genesis 1:12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and *trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind*; and God saw that it was good.

- First there is a distinction made between vegetation and fruit bearing trees
- This is important to take note of, for this is the key to everything
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- **The Fruit Contains the Seed, that Contains the Tree, that Produces the Fruit, that Contains the Seed, that Contains the Tree, That Produces the Fruit**
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- This is the cycle of life that cannot be broken
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- Once Adam took in that fruit, he took in the seed, that contains the tree, that produces the fruit, that contains the seed that produces sin, that produces death
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- This is the cycle of sin and of death that Adam brought into the world
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- And this cycle cannot be broken by any effort of man

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

- **It was a seed that brought us into this cycle of death**
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- **And only a seed can get us out of it**

1 Peter 1:23 KJV - *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible*, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

- **The terminology we use of eating fruit, is that we are eating the flesh of the fruit**

John 6:53-57 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. **54** "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. **55** "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. **56** "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. **57** "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, **so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me.**

- **It was fruit that brought us into the cycle of death, And only fruit that can break that cycle**
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- **Jesus is that fruit and the cross is the tree that bore Him**

1 Peter 2:24 KJV - Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

- **The Cross is the Tree of Life whose fruit contains the incorruptible seed of God, and whose leaves are for the healing of the nations...**
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- **We have all been born by the seed of fallen man, and that produces sin, which produces death**
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- **We must be reborn into a brand-new life that produces the fruit of Christ, that produces life**

John 3:3 Jesus answered (Nicodemus) and said to him, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again* he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

- **Nicodemus knew very well what Jesus was saying, he just could not comprehend how this could happen...**
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- **The only way to break the cycle of death that Adam released into the world is by being born all over again**
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- **Only this can break the curse of sin and of death, and only this will release us into eternal life**

Matthew 3:1-2 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, **2** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 3:7-8 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** "*Therefore bear fruit* in keeping with repentance;

Matthew 3:10 "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; *therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit* is cut down and thrown into the fire.

- You can keep cutting down the tree with whatever ax you choose
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- But it will only spring back to the same sinful tree it has always been
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- You can cut down that sinful tree and cover up its roots with religion, good works, going to church, and even calling yourself a Christian
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- But it will only grow back again producing the same old fruit that contains the corruptible seed of sin

Matthew 7:16-18 "You will know them by their fruits.... 17 "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. **18 "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.**

- Do You Get This?
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- If one goes through this life having never been Born Again - they can only produce Bad Fruit
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- No matter how many good works they do- to deny this is to deny the power of the cross
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- While Born Again Christians, who have been reborn by the incorruptible seed of God, can only produce Good Fruit – **not good works- good fruit.**

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God *practices sin*, **because His seed abides in him;** and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

- I didn't say this, God did

The word Practices – GK- poy-eh'-o- It means: To Bring Forth

- When one is Truly Born Again, or re-born by the incorruptible seed of Christ,
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- The resulting tree that they become can only Bring Forth good fruit,
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- Because they have received the seed that contains the tree, that can only produce good fruit

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- It has nothing to do with our flesh nature, our flesh nature has been born from the seed of Adam
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- It has everything to do with our new man which is born from the seed of God
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- This seed of God produces a new life
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- And this new life demands great accountability

Ephesians 4:22-24 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, *which is being corrupted* in accordance with the lusts of deceit, **23** and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and *put on the new self, which in [the likeness of] God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

- **Let us not be like Adam, who chose not to believe God**
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- **He rebelled and set his eyes on the fruit of sin and of death**
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- **Let us allow the incorruptible seed of God's word to transform us into the image of Christ**

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.