

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship



"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ."

Col. 1:28

"The Curse: Man"

Gen. 3:17-19

Aug. 31, 2025

Gen 3:14-15

14 The Lord God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
Cursed are you more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you will go,
And dust you will eat
All the days of your life;
15 And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel."

1. **The serpent (animal).**
2. **Satan.**

Gen 3:16

16 To the woman He said,
"I will greatly multiply
Your pain in childbirth,
In pain you will bring forth children;
Yet your desire will be for your husband,
And he will rule over you."

1. **Her children** – childbirth and child-raising.
2. **Her husband** – a fight for headship and control.

Gen 3:17-19

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it';

Cursed is the ground because of you;

In toil you will eat of it

All the days of your life.

18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;

And you will eat the plants of the field;

19 By the sweat of your face

You will eat bread,

Till you return to the ground,

Because from it you were taken;

For you are dust,

And to dust you shall return."

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- This verse states the reason for the curse – Adam obeyed his wife and not God.
- Husbands should seek the advice of their wives but never obey it when that advice leads to the disobedience of God's Word.
- Don't be too hard on Adam for this. Every time we listen to the world and do what it says and do not obey God's Word, we sin just like Adam.
- Adam disobeyed with his eyes wide open. He was not deceived like Eve. He was not sold "a bill of goods." He didn't listen to a sales pitch. He knew what he was doing.
- Adam saw that Eve did not die when she ate of the fruit. Did that, along with the appeal of knowledge of good and evil, justify his disobedience? "I guess God was wrong or was just bluffing."
- Adam's reasoning calls into question the character of God.

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- So, God curses the ground.
 - The ground doesn't feel anything but Adam does.
 - This hits man right where his sphere of responsibility is – his work, his job, his way of making a living.
- “toil”** תְּעִבָה *itsabawn* (its-tsaw-bone) - labor, pain, sorrow, worrisome. Same word as vs. 16 – “pain in childbirth.”
- Just to eat, man will suffer pain, sorrow, worry.
 - Every single day of your life.
 - Where is the retirement? Man needs to work.
 - Will I ever retire?

18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;

And you will eat the plants of the field;

- Why will there be pain? Because your work, your job will fight back. Nothing will come easy. It will require “blood, sweat, and tears.”
 - Growing plants will not be easy. The ground will produce that which will make it difficult.
- “thorns and thistles”** – that which crowds out, chokes off, robs the good plants of water and nutrients.
- If not kept in check, they can greatly diminish or totally ruin a crop.
 - Weeds take time and effort and seem such a waste of time.
 - **“thorns and thistles”** represent all that goes wrong in trying to work, do your job, make a living. It is all that is working against you.

Murphy's Laws of Time Management:

- Nothing is ever as simple as it seems
- If you mess with something for long enough, it will break
- If you try to please everybody, somebody won't like it
- Nothing ever works out exactly as you expect
- Whatever you want to do, there is always something else you have to do first
- If you explain something so that no one could possibly misunderstand, someone will
- Nothing is certain until it has happened
- If everything is going according to plan, then it is a sure sign that something is about to go wrong
- The only predictable thing about your day is that something totally unexpected will happen

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Because from it you were taken;

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And to dust you shall return."

In fact we even have established laws that speak to the curse –

- 1951 Edward Murphy and aerospace engineer came up Murphy's Law.

Murphy's Law: "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong."

Peter Principle: "In a hierarchy, every employee tends to rise to his level of incompetence."

"If two wrongs don't make a right, try three."

Humphrey's Law: The user will never know what they want until after the system is in production.

Dilbert Principle: "the most ineffective workers are systematically moved to the place where they can do the least damage: management."

Ps 127:2

2 It is vain for you to rise up early,

To retire late,

To eat the bread of painful labors;

Ecc1 2:11,22-23

11 Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.

22 For what does a man get in all his labor and in his striving with which he labors under the sun?

23 Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is vanity.

Ecc1 3:9-10

9 What profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils?

10 I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men with which to occupy themselves.

Ecc1 2:18-21

18 Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me.

19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity.

20 Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun.

- **Think about this:** How long did Adam live? 930 years. That is a long time to work under the curse.

Gen 5:5-32

5 So all the days that Adam lived were **nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.**
 6 Seth lived one hundred and five years, and became the father of Enosh. 7 Then Seth lived **eight hundred and seven years** after he became the father of Enosh, and he had other sons and daughters. 8 So all the days of Seth were **nine hundred and twelve years,** and he died.
 9 Enosh lived ninety years, and became the father of Kenan. 10 Then Enosh lived **eight hundred and fifteen years** after he became the father of Kenan, and he had other sons and daughters. 11 So all the days of Enosh were **nine hundred and five years, and he died.**
 12 Kenan lived seventy years, and became the father of Mahalalel. 13 Then Kenan lived **eight hundred and forty years** after he became the father of Mahalalel, and he had other sons and daughters. 14 So all the days of Kenan were **nine hundred and ten years, and he died.**
 15 Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Jared. 16 Then Mahalalel lived **eight hundred and thirty years** after he became the father of Jared, and he had other sons and daughters. 17 So all the days of Mahalalel were **eight hundred and ninety-five years, and he died.**
 18 Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and became the father of Enoch. 19 Then Jared lived **eight hundred and nine years** after he became the father of Enoch, and he had other sons and daughters. 20 So all the days of Jared were **nine hundred and sixty-two years, and he died.**
 21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. 22 Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were **three hundred and sixty-five years.** 24 Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.
 25 Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and became the father of Lamech. 26 Then Methuselah lived **seven hundred and eighty-two years** after he became the father of Lamech, and he had other sons and daughters. 27 So all the days of Methuselah were **nine hundred and sixty-nine years, and he died.**
 28 Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and became the father of a son. 29 Now he called his name, which the Lord has cursed.³⁰ 30 The Lamech lived **five hundred and ninety-five years** after he became the father of Noah, and he had other sons and daughters. 31 So all the days of Lamech were **seven hundred and seventy-seven years, and he died.**
 32 Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Eph 6:5-9

5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; 6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers; but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.
 7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.
 9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Col 3:22-4:1

22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,
 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.
 25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.
 1 Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

Gen 3:17-19

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- You say, "I am not in agriculture, I don't work with the ground."
- Yes you do. Everything comes from dirt. Machines, computers, cars, trucks, bricks, cement, clothing, paper, glass, plastics, people, etc., etc. and it is all cursed.
- Is there anything that can lessen the curse on man and his toil?
- Yes. Like with the woman, who through living a godly life and raising godly children, is preserved and finds joy and fulfillment under the curse, so the man, through his godly example at his place of work or his godly Christian business that he owns, lessens the curse and finds joy and fulfillment under the curse.
- "The Curse, the Cross, and the Coming of Christ"

Working for the Lord is hard work and long hours
but

you can't beat that retirement program.

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• "sweat" comes in many forms – exhaustion, fear, worry, mental fatigue, anxiousness, insomnia, headaches, depression, stress, etc.

• You "sweat" just to eat, just to sustain life.

• For some in this world, their lives are spent to just buy a loaf of bread or get a couple of eggs or ????

• We live in a country where the curse has been somewhat mitigated or lessened. Through industrial progress and inventions we do not feel the full force of the curse.

19 *By the sweat of your face
You will eat bread,
Till you return to the ground,
Because from it you were taken;
For you are dust,*

And to dust you shall return."

- The only thing that will stop the pain and sweat will be death.
- Man, then returns to what he was made of in the first place –the ground.
- All men, born into this world, are deserving of immediate death because they are sinners.
- The fact that Adam and Eve did not immediately die was the grace and the mercy of God.

The question is not why do people die,
the question is why are any people allowed to live.

- God doesn't need any reason to execute a sinner at any time He chooses to have it happen.
- Nadab and Abihu, Uzzah, Korah, Dathan and Abiram, 10 million in the flood, Ananias and Sapphira.
- The fact that you and I are living right now, is proof of God's grace and mercy. We should be dead.

Summary of the curses:

- Adam sinned by eating and now will suffer in order to eat.
- Eve manipulated her husband and now will be ruled (abused) by her husband.
- Satan destroyed the human race and now he will be destroyed.

Application

1. The curse has had a profound effect on man. Think what your life would be like without it.
2. Be careful little ears what you hear. Who or what informs your actions?
3. The Lord Jesus also experienced the tree (cross), the sweat (drops of blood), the thorns (crown), and death so that you could have victory over sin and the curse.