The Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil

Tony Mauck · Genesis 2:16–17

INTRODUCTION

- You shall not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Genesis chapter 2, verses 16 and 17. If you eat of it, you shall die.
- The tree of knowledge of good and evil. Knowledge of good, knowledge of evil, and everything in between. Representing all that can be known.
- There's nothing that exists that can separate us from Christ. Except, of course, your own simple choice and decision to not believe in him.

1 Paradise Lost

Genesis 3

- It was bliss. It was paradise. It was perfect fellowship with God in the Garden of Eden.
- And when they partook of the tree, which was a violation of the instruction God had given them, now for the very first time, there is evil.
- Where before there was only good, now there's going to be what? There is going to be sorrow and toil and sweat and misery and death.
- God does not want them to know all that can be known. And thus they were restricted from that tree.
- Satan says, God is a cosmic kill joy. He's trying to prevent you from really living and really having a good time.
- And God says, if you sow to the flesh, you're going to of the flesh reap corruption.

2 The Progression of Evil

2 Corinthians 2:11; Deuteronomy 30

- God created man upright. But he sought out many inventions.
- What happens as a result of the fall in Genesis chapter 3 is the progression of evil, the advance of evil.
- Satan's assault on goodness is persistent, it is fervent, and it continues to this time.
- The same brilliant minds that can create these great instruments can be used for the progression of evil.
- Everything that's good is turned into evil. Be not ignorant of his devices. 2 Corinthians chapter 2 and verse 11.
- And it's all going to come down to am I going to choose good or evil?

3 Paradise Restored

- And the paradise that we're walking toward will be far greater than the paradise that Adam and Eve was in. Where we will bask literally in the presence of God.
- There's a tree by the river of the water of life, and it yields its fruit in its season, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Paradise restored.
- Heaven will restore perfect fellowship with God, where there will only be holiness and praise and triumph and bliss forever.
- And the only reason it hasn't happened yet is that God is patient.
- He's not willing that any should perish. But that all should come to repentance.
- We need to have a healthy fear for the judgment of God.

THE CHALLENGE

I wonder if where we're headed is as motivating to us as it should be.

MY NOTES