

The Word of God – 12

Before we leave the Garden, let's make sure that we are absolutely clear about the function of the tree of life - *Ge 2:9 And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

There were two trees in the Garden, whose fruit produced two entirely different outcomes. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, as we have seen from the experience of Adam and the Woman, produced death. Eating the fruit from that tree brought separation from God's purpose for them.

This tree had nothing to do with knowing good and evil the same way God sees good and evil but rather, determining what is good or evil from the individual's own perspective. And every time we make a determination about a person or a situation apart from seeing it through, and acting in accordance with, the Scriptures. We eat from this same tree.

But what about the tree of life? How should we understand the purpose of this tree? Well, the context in which it is seen will be the place to begin. Again, we will remember the purpose for the Man and the Woman being created – to have dominion, to rule in the 7th Day. They were placed in the Garden, the location from which rulership was to take place and were given a choice. When it came to fulfilling their purpose, they could either do what was right in their own eyes, eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or they could do it God's way by eating from the tree of life.

Immediately we will see that the tree of life is seen in conjunction with the purpose of their creation rulership - *Ge 3:24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Once the Man and the Woman had disqualified themselves to rule because of their sin, they were no longer allowed to have access to the tree of life. Or to say that another way, once it was not possible for them to rule, they were not to eat from the tree of life. The tree of life then, has to do with rulership in the 7th Day.

Re 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '

This is the first of the 7 promises that will be realized by those who are overcomers. Christians from this dispensation who are found to be worthy at Christ's Judgment Seat. Those who we have spoken of in past weeks, who are the ones taken from the body of Christ to be the Bride of Christ. Those who will rule with Him during the 7th Day, the Millennial Kingdom. And what is the promise given to these overcomers? They will eat from the tree of life which is in the midst of the Garden.

And this is repeated later – *Re 22:14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. [the New Jerusalem]*

Now here is the thing that will resolve a common error. The overcoming Christians seen in the Book of the Revelation, those who do His commandments, already have eternal life, or else they wouldn't be there in the first place. It is those then who already have eternal life who will eat from the tree of life. This tree then, has nothing to do with giving eternal life to those who eat it, but everything to do with equipping those who eat from it, to rule as God would rule, in the 7th Day.

Let's look at some other places where the tree of life is mentioned –
Pr 3:13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding..... 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.

For those who find the wisdom of God and the understanding of that wisdom, this wisdom will lead them to the tree of life which is in the midst of the Garden of God.

Pr 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.

Pr 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Pr 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.

More next time – If the Lord is willing.