**CONSIDER JESUS**

1. **Why did Jesus come? Genesis 3:15 and 1 John 3:8**

**Genesis 3:15:**

**15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,**

**and between your offspring and her offspring;**

**he shall bruise your head,**

**and you shall bruise his heel.”**

“Now prove your love for Me, show your trust in Me and your obedience to Me as a generous God, not because you can tell the difference between that tree and any other tree, but simply because I, as Your Father, have told you, ‘Trust Me and obey Me.’ With respect to that one tree.”

But the serpent came along with a different message. “Did God set you in this garden full of all these glorious trees, and all this delicious fruit, and then say, ‘You are not to eat of the fruit of ANY of the trees?”

Eve had not grasped the divine principle so very important for believers to remember: **Believers ‘see’ with their ears, not with their eyes, by listening to God’s Word!’’**

**God pronounces 3 words of judgement:**

1. **There is a judgment on Adam related to his task of gardening and his calling to turn the whole world into a garden for God.**
2. **There is a judgment on Eve related particularly to childbearing and to her attitude toward her husband.**
3. **There is a judgment on the serpent.**

But in that judgment on the Serpent there is a seed of glorious gospel hope: **I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring [see] and her offspring [seed]; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”**

“For what reason did the Son of God appear?” 1 John 3:8 “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”

This is the underlying plot line of the whole of the Bible.

1. **THE CONFLICT IS ONGOING**

And so from the beginning to the very end, from the garden of Eden turned into a desert because of sin, until in Revelation 21 and 22 when that desert is turned back into a garden, the whole of the Bible is the story of this conflict.

1. **THE CONFLICT WAS REAL IN THE TEMPTATIONS**

Jesus’ temptations were not a series of unfortunate events that overtook Him unexpectedly. They are an epic confrontation taking place within the divine strategy. What we see here is Jesus’ work of conflict, victory, and salvation. He came face-to-face with Satan. He appeared as God’s new man, the second Adam, to do what the old man, the first Adam had failed to do.

So from the beginning of His ministry to its end, Jesus is marching against the powers of darkness.

1. **HOW DOES JESUS CRUSH THE HEAD OF THE SERPENT AND DESTROY HS INFLUENCE? THE CONFLICT’S VICTORY WAS REVEALED AT THE CROSS.**

When the second Man was brought to the Calvary tree, He faced a reversed mirror image of the first man’s temptation.

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| ***The contrast between Adam and Jesus*** | | |
| Two persons: | Adam the first: | Adam the last: |
| Two places: | The forbidden tree: | The accursed tree: |
| Two commands: | Do not eat the fruit! | Drink what is in the cup! |
| Two desires: | Wants to eat: | Does not want to eat: |
| Two actions: | Disobedience | Obedience |
| Two results: | Death | Life |

Jesus as called to experience something from which every instinct in Him recoiled. Jesus had to NOT want to eat the fruit of the tree with His whole being, and yet be WILLING to eat. He willed to be obedient when He did not want to be forsaken!

Such was the price of our salvation. No wonder Jesus prayed, “Abba, Father … Remove this cup from Me.”

It is against this background that Paul says, “He …[became] obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Jesus willed to take the divine curse although everything in Him, every holy desire, longed for and deserved divine blessing. He took our place – who can fathom the mystery of His sense of desolation and alienation from heaven’s glory? He bore the curse – all for love’s sake.

1. **SEEING THE LIE – RESPONDING TO THE TRUTH**

Jesus unmasked Satan’s lie. Paul describes the fall of the human race in these terms: “They exchanged the truth of God for a lie.” What was the lie? It is the twist within us that leads us not to believe and not to trust that God Himself and everything – absolutely everything – He is, does, says, commands, and promises is good.

It is the cross alone that ultimately proves the love of God to us – NOT THE PROVIDENTIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR LIVES. We must not be tricked into thinking that IF things are going well with us, then we can be sure of God’s love. For as we surely know, life can often seem dark and painful. Things do not always go well for us. Rather, we look to the sacrifice of the cross and the demonstration God gave there of His love.

This is the proof I need. This is the truth I need to hear if the lie is to be dispelled.

If Jesus has died for me, then I can be sure that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit will stop at nothing [absolutely nothing!] to do me good.

“He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?” [Romans 8:32]

Will you notice how Calvary-oriented, cross-focused, and Christ-centred the gospel is.

All of this took place in order to crush the serpent’s head and to squeeze from his fangs the poisonous lie that still deadens many a Christian’s heart, and causes us to become fearful, doubting believers.

Why did Jesus come? To destroy the works of the devil.

So the Seed has come; His heel oozed blood from being crushed. But the serpent’s head has been crushed in the process. Jesus reigns, and we will be conquerors through Him who loved us. [Romans 8:37]