

Principle Faith: Genesis Three

Part 6

The audio and print files for this class can be found online at <http://www.etspm.org/audio/principlefaith>

Our Purpose: ... to honor and glorify God through heart, soul, strength and mind ... in a way that demonstrates love for others and self at the same time. ... to focus on ... principles that help us understand the biblical text, our relationship to God and others

Our Goal: To examine at least the first eleven chapters of Genesis during the quarter, looking for, explaining, and applying the principles we find.

What is a principle? - a foundational truth or premise upon which we build beliefs, practices and explanations. ... a study of key ... principles in light of how they generate and strengthen faith, reflect God's nature and glory and build a case for all things spiritual. Biblical principles: reflect the existence/nature of God; indicate God's connection with the overall biblical theme; demonstrate divine providence; illustrate how tightly organized the "scheme" of redemption really is

Genesis In Context: ... how Israel fit into God's divine plan for the redemption of all mankind

This session picks up where we left off last week.

3:1ff: The nature of sin (impact)

1. violation of the law of God - usually the only "violation" we know - we fell short (omission) or we went too far (commission) - we transgressed/were lawless
2. an attitude of sin - Esau (Genesis 25:34); Saul (1 Sam 15:9, 23); David (2 Sam 11:9); Israel (Mal 1:6)
3. deceitfulness of sin (Heb 3:13 - sin wears a mask; it pretends to be/offer, etc. what it really cannot)
4. a failure to appreciate the blessings that God has promised/provided for us - we say, in effect, what you have promised/provided for us is not good enough (cf. Deut 4:40 - obey = blessings; ~obey ≠ blessings)
5. a failure to fully manifest God in our lives for his glory, the benefit of others & the salvation of our soul
6. sin is robbing God of his pleasure - robbing others of his glory - robbing self of God's blessings
7. violation of the will/purpose of God - God created us to be reflections of his image for the world to see (Gen 1:25ff; Mt 5:13ff - salt, light, city => glorify the Father; 1 Th 2:12; living epistles - 2 Cor 3:1ff)
8. violation of the love of God (Jn 14:15, 23-24; 1 Jn 2:15ff - love of world = lust of eyes, flesh & pride)
9. violation of the word of God (Deut 4:40)
10. violation of the work of God - when we sin, we fail to allow God's will, word and work to function in our lives - (Saul - 1 Sm 13:13, Jeroboam - 1 Kings 11:30ff, esp. 38)

3:1ff: The nature of sin (false world of lies)

1. principle: the world of sin if a world of lies
2. principle: sin is inherently deceitful
3. passage: "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (2 Corinthians 11:3)
4. passage: "but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." (Hebrews 3:13 - *απατη*)
5. passage: Romans 1:18ff - changes in "God," truth, life (cf. Col 2:8-9)
6. term: "(ex) *apataó* and *apaté* are sometimes synonymous in meaning with words from the root *plan-*. The emphasis is, however, somewhat different. The basis for deceit and trickery is here not to be sought in

agnoia, ignorance, so much as in an *epithymia*, desire. *apaté* accordingly comes to mean pleasure, enjoyment, that which is diverting, the pleasant illusion of theatre.” (TNIDNTT, 458)

7. usage of terms: Mt 13:22 the deceitfulness of riches ... choke the word (cf. Mk 4:19); Eph 4:22 deceitful lusts; Eph 5:6 deceit of vain words; Col 2:8 vain deceit; 2Th 2:10 deceit of unrighteousness; Heb 3:13 the deceitfulness of sin; 2Pe 2:13 self deceit (cf. James 1:26); 1 Tim 2:14 Eve was deceived, but Adam was not
8. false worlds: imaginary worlds that “occur” when we assume/allow the world to be affected by principles that are not consistent with reality, truth, perception, etc. (from Latin *falsum* ‘*fraud*,’ neuter past participle of *fallere* ‘*deceive*’)
9. to assume that a false world is real, or that a real world is false (cf. Is 5:20), is to capitulate to a “world” that exists only in the mind; we can do this in regard to ultimate truths (God’s existence, origin of matter, etc.), propositional truths (statements that either do or do not reflect reality - Aristotle’s def of truth - “to say of what is that it is, is truth”), and manner of life (cf. Rom 1:18ff)

3:1ff: The role of Satan (false world of pride - putting self before God)

1. Paul warned that elders should not be taken with the same malady that Satan had - pride (1 Tim 3:6)
2. pride (or selfishness), the “me first” syndrome is behind *every* sin
3. pride, wanting something that God does not want, assumes that God has withheld something that we really need - Rom 8:32 - it is an indictment against the very nature/character of God - it is saying, in effect, “God, you have not given me what I really need so I, who know and care much more about myself than you do, I am going to see to it that I get it”
4. pride, “a feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements,” might be defended on the basis of being “self-reliant,” but in the biblical sense in which pride is condemned it is insolence, presumptuousness, arrogance, self-exaltation, haughtiness, contempt, a swollen estimate of one’s own abilities/importance
5. pride/selfishness keeps us from listening to God, others, wisdom; it places us in the role of God, the creator, rather than man, the created
6. pride in Proverbs: Pr 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.; Pr 11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.; Pr 13:10 By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised is wisdom.; Pr 14:3 In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, But the lips of the wise will preserve them.; Pr 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.; Pr 21:24 A proud and haughty man-- “Scoffer” is his name; He acts with arrogant pride.; Pr 29:23 A man’s pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.

Next time: things that Adam and Eve did not say

Assignment: Read through and continue to study Genesis 3-4 for additional principles.