



**Sunday, 11/27/16**

**HOPE AMIDST SIN IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN**

**READING: Genesis 3:13-15**

When God created the world and placed man (male and female), who was created in God's image, in the Garden of Eden, man was to rule over all that God had made. Man had the ability to communicate, reason, feel, and understand. He had intelligence and could think. He was like God; good and sinless. God directed man "to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth and subdue it, and rule over everything" (Genesis 1:28). God had given man the ability and power to act for Him.

Unfortunately, man also had the ability to be persuaded. He had been instructed by God that he could eat of the fruit of every tree except one—the tree of knowledge of good and evil. To do so, God said, man would surely die. When Satan, disguised in the body of the serpent, encouraged Eve, Adam's wife, to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge, she was persuaded when the serpent said the fruit of that tree was good, that it would open their eyes, and they would be like God and know good and evil. That one bite cursed all creation and opened the floodgates for sin to enter the world.

But it opened the gate to the event we celebrate every December 25th; the birth of Jesus. God cursed the serpent and said Satan's seed (sinners) could only make believers of God suffer while Eve's seed would eventually produce Jesus who would destroy Satan and rescue believers from sin.

Satan attempted to cause Jesus, the man, to sin, but Jesus, the Son of God, refused Satan.

Satan caused Jesus, the man, to suffer on the cross, but Jesus, the Son of God, accepted that suffering as it was God's plan and defeated death by rising from the dead. Through that action, believers will spend eternity with God.

For this, we believers rejoice when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

-Sam Young