

## **What was lost in Eden.**

Main passage: Romans 1: 28- 32

Other passages: Galatians 5: 19- 21, Ephesians 4:17-24, Ephesians 6: 10-18, Proverbs 4:23, Psalms 92 : 6-7, Matthew 26:41, 1 Kings 21:1-24, Romans 5:20, Matthew 24:13, Psalms 121:2, Phillipians 4:8

Romans is considered to be the most profound letter that Paul wrote and is thought it was written to the Jews many of which believed in the day of Pentecost

Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem till the coming of the Holy Spirit, but how would they know when would this happen? It was the first time that they would speak in tongues. People there, when this happened, listened to the disciples talking in their own language, they even said they were drunk, which makes no sense, if you get drunk you suddenly are not going to be talking in languages that you don't know.

Peter explained to them that they were not drunk, he said "What you are listening is what the prophet Joel said that "In the later days my spirit will be over all flesh", and this is what you are seeing which is new for you and for us and is the promise we had to wait for in Jerusalem according to what Jesus said to us.

After this there was nothing that could stop them from talking about Jesus with everyone, from sharing the gospel. They were put in jail, everything was done to stop them from preaching the gospel but they said they could not stop telling and talking about what they had seen and listened. That is one of the signs of a real conversion, it is impossible for someone that knows about Jesus not to talk about Jesus. It is so big the joy of salvation that we want everybody to know what has happened in our lives, nobody could stop us at that moment, we keep preaching because we can not stop talking about what we have experienced, has gone into our lives that has changed our life.

If we read the Bible from the beginning we see that the ones that were the happiest in the world, the ones that had more communion with God were Adam and Eve, they were in a level that nobody else could, they talked with God openly, they lived in the most precious place in the earth, all was perfect and in harmony but the Bible tells us that they lost everything, they sinned, they disobeyed and from that moment all their life and that of their descendants changed, they lost immortality, they felt sensations that before sin they had never experienced, their nature was transformed from day to night, the first attack from the devil was from the inside out. Look at one of their sons, he lied to his brother and said to him to go for a walk and he killed him. Who teach him to kill? The sin was already in him, that mortal virus was inside. People would kill each other and hurt each other. The inclination of the heart was towards what was bad. God decided to start from the beginning. What was lost in Eden was very painful, men could not do nothing to recover that communion with God. They started to sacrifice animals so to prepare for the sacrifice of the Messiah in the cross. The sacrifice of the animals could not forgive sins only the blood of Jesus can. When they sinned they would pass their sin to the innocent animal but there was emptiness and disconnection of mankind with their creator.

That virus that Satan injected, that seed called sin has many ways of showing itself. From vers 28 in Romans 1 we see the ways in which it manifests, we read twenty three different manifestations of sin, ways in which that sin can be manifested in the lives of every human been. We can see this every day in television, we can not understand what is happening, how certain things we hear in the news happen, how that virus that is inside of us can be manifested in any moment in a really cruel and horrible manner.

Paul realized that among many people this virus was manifested in many ways. In Galatians 5: 19- 21 shows another seventeen ways in which this virus is manifested. To whom is Paul writing? To believers? Yes. He always wrote to believers. So how come these things can be manifested in the life of a believer? Because that virus called sin is inside and is not death, is sleeping and it can wake up in every moment. So how can we defeat these manifestations of the flesh in our lives? In any moment we can fall in these sins. What guarantee can we have to attack and conquer this virus called sin that we have inside in our hearts? Paul even said about himself that he was doing things he did not want to do , and that things he wanted to do he was not doing. Paul, and each one of us, in moments during our lives we can have fights with the flesh but we find the divine remedy in His word, in Gods word, not to be a victim but to live in victory. In Ephesians 4:17-24 we find three advices, three key pieces in this scripture.

<sup>22</sup> That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.

<sup>23</sup> And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

<sup>24</sup> And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Put off, be renewed and put on.

Take away things that get you dirty. Spiritually, how many things are there in your life that you have to take away? Don't be all your life carrying that heavy weight that is not allowing you to grow in the ways of the Lord, take away all those things that conditions you, those things that took away your joy. Take the decision you will not keep carrying a weight that won't let you run the race we have ahead. There are still things in our lives that don't allow us to grow and mature and is time to make a radical decision, to say "Stop, I am not going to keep with this story, I am going to take this problem out of my life". When you put off you have to renew yourself, we can not be in stagnation, religiosity, renew yourself in your life of prayer, your relationship with your brother, in the area in which you serve the Lord, don't stay still , let's move ahead. Paul asked Timothy to bring to him the books, but especially the parchments, 2 Timothy 4:13, because he wanted to keep renewing his relationship with God till the last days of his life.

The bible says that is necessary to be transformed by renewing your understanding. People sometimes is stagnant spiritually. If you renew yourself you can discern what is the will of God for your life, for your house. We have to renew mentally for our thoughts not to go

against us, to think as Jesus did, to have pure thoughts, the Bible tells us in what to think (Phillipians 4:8) .

Put on all the armor of God (Ephesians 6: 10-18), a metaphor. And above all things guard your heart (Proverbs 4:23). To think not based in what society says but in what the word of God says, there we have all to have a victorious life and a blessed life in the Lord, but we have to do what the bibles says, put off, be renewed and put on.

Porosis. A greek word that Paul uses that means that the society in which Paul lived had lost sensitivity, they did not know they were doing things wrong and it even seems that Paul wrote this yesterday... because today is like this, it seems that people don't feel anything.

Aselgueia. There were people at that time that had lost all shame, they did not care about what people would say or if they got offended by them. It is the same today, people even show off and boast talking about their sins and what they are doing.

And the other word that he uses is pleonexia with means craving for power, arrogant greed, and refers to people that was willing to sacrifice everything in order to satisfy their own desires, i would add here the name of Pedro Sanchez.

So all these were the characteristics of the society at the time in which Paul lived but these are also the characteristics of the society and the times in which we are living. We have to realize that we are in difficult times, we have to be alert, to double the guard, the ones that are going to be attacked first are the kids so parents don't give up, be firm, don't allow the world, the society to tell you how to live, how to behave, how to react or what is good or what is bad. We are in very dangerous times, people will have no sensitivity at all, not conscience of sin, no shame to do something wrong but we believers have the word of God, our way of conduct and the base of our behaviour is the word of God.

So how come there is so much evil? Why is there so many bad people? In Psalms 92 we have the answer, I read this Psalm every saturday, Psalms 92 : 6-7, very interesting.

God will take the evil ones to His land and show them that He is the almighty God.

We are in times where things from the past, all that is bad is coming back, things like: " there is no God, there is no sin, let's do whatever we want". That was the way in which they lived in the times when the letters in the Bible were written and we are like that today. Society is getting worse because men have turn their back to God and when men pretend to be in the place of God they are not only digging their own pit, they are also becoming an instrument for the evil. Watch and pray (Matthew 26:41) because things are going to come and it will be bad till a point that will be hard to understand so fight for your sons and daughters, for the word of God, don't keep your mouth closed, open your mouth and let there be a different voice be heard. They may laugh but they will never be able to say that they did not heard what God wanted to be heard at that time.

The world will ask you to give up what you have and they will tell you that what they have to offer you is better, the world will give you things in exchange of... but don't give up. 1 Kings 21:1-24. (Don't ever name a daughter of yours Jezabel). We read in this story a case of a

terrible injustice, an abuse of power, a bad use of authority. Life many times is not as we expected. In this story we see a man that did not want to give to the king his heritage but the king insisted and using badly his power and authority he obtained that piece of land, and we also see that God had the last word,

We are about to see many injustices, How come justice can be so unjust?. Let's pray, let's look for more of God, let's take refuge in God's promises. The times that are coming are going to be difficult but where sin abounded, grace did much more abound (Romans 5:20). Let's take refuge in God, ask Him for His grace to live in peace and in quiet. The Bible teach us that we are going to see great things and that the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. (Matthew 24:13) . Our refuge comes from the Lord (Psalms 121:2)