

sermon notes

FREEDOM

Part 1: Two Gospels

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ”

Galatians 1:6-7 NIV

KEY QUESTION:

How am I going to _____?

“Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

Genesis 2:8-9 NIV

“And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Genesis 2:16-17

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also

desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.”

Genesis 3:1-7NIV

✓ *One focuses on what* _____.

One focuses on what _____.

“You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”

John 5:39-40 NIV

✓ *One focuses on getting* _____.

One focuses on receiving _____.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8 NIV

“We love because He first loved us.”

1 John 4:19 NIV

✓ *One focuses on* _____.

One focuses on _____.

“This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

1 John 5:3, 12 NIV

LIVING IN THE TREE OF LIFE

1. _____ *with Jesus.*

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

John 14:15 NIV

2. Don't allow _____.

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:1-2 NIV

3. Make the choice _____.

"This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life."

Deuteronomy 30:19 NIV

Consider and Discuss

Throughout our lives on earth, we are called to become more like Jesus, but we must choose the approach we take to "becoming godly." The first approach, which we call "Living in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" focuses on what we do. This is a religious path to godliness. The other approach, which we call "Living in the Tree of Life," focuses on what Jesus has done. We are motivated by love and desire to simply know Him and be close to Him. The latter is the one that God wants us to choose. He wants to have a relationship with us. When we are in love with God and desire closeness with Him, obeying his commands is something we want to do. Becoming godly no longer seems like a burdensome task; it is our delight. So, to live in the Tree of Life, we must do three things: fall in love with Jesus, refuse to listen to the enemy's voice of condemnation, and make the daily choice to walk in faith, grace, and humility – trusting God and choosing life.

"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome."

1John 5:3 NIV

- Now that you understand the two different trees, discuss which tree you have been living in? What is one thing you can do daily to get in or stay in the Tree of Life?
- Explain how, up to this point, you have approached getting closer to God. Discuss what the Holy Spirit has begun to stir in you regarding your approach?

