

The Tree of Life

GENESIS 2 VERSE 9

And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

INFORMATION

In today's fast paced world we are constantly told that knowledge is power and that knowledge is the key to success. Knowledge has driven the world. We see it every day through the ongoing innovations and discoveries that are being made by scientists, inventors and technologists. We see knowledge used by rich and powerful men to gain more riches and power and often to oppress others. Our schools tell us that being lifelong learners is critical and our institutions of higher learning focus on knowledge and the application of that knowledge. Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge and the fruit of that tree continues to this day because God's creations bear much fruit.

Consider what the world might be like had they instead eaten of the tree of life. The fruit of that tree would have continued to this day as well. Thankfully we would not have obtained some of the knowledge we have now and we would have a more full and complete life! Adam and Eve surrendered a pain free life of peace and safety and traded it for knowledge of good and evil. The world has suffered every day since then.

Had they eaten of the tree of life instead, the world would not have the suffering, shame, fear and trials it has. There would be no knowledge of evil, no sin, no punishment, and no death! We would still have direct access to God as he walked with us. Adam and Eve surrendered more than a pain free and everlasting life. They surrendered access to the giver of life and access to the paradise of God.

The good news is that the Tree of Life is not forever lost. It still lives!

Revelations 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

The Most High God has not left us destitute of hope. The tree of life is still alive! Jesus came and died for our sins so that we could once again take hold of the fruit of the tree of life. It is only through him that we can partake of this other most delectable of God's trees. In our lives we will pursue knowledge, but never let us pursue knowledge without simultaneously, and with greater zeal, pursuing life with Christ.

Relevant Passages

Genesis 2:16-17

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 3:22-24

And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Revelation 22:1-2

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:14

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.