

## Understanding the Bible

### Man is Mortal because of Sin

Put simply, sin is transgression of God's Law. God has given mankind laws to keep and disobeying any of these laws is sin. Yet there is something else in the Bible which is also called sin. This is an inherited condition which is part of our mortal human nature. Mortality means "subject to death".

At Creation, God looked upon all His work and declared it to be very good... *"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good"* Genesis 1:31. This also applied to the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. They were neither mortal nor immortal, but very good. Then God gave them one simple law to keep that required obedience... *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it"* Genesis 2:17.

However, the Scriptures clearly state that Eve disobeyed and ate the forbidden fruit and then gave some to her husband, Adam... *"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her: and he did eat"* Genesis 3:1-6. God had told Adam and Eve that the punishment for this action would be death... *"for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"* Genesis 2:17.

After they had committed their sin, (broken God's law) God proclaimed their punishment... *"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake: in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life: Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field: In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground: for out of it was thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust, shalt thou return."* Genesis 3:16-19

This was a big change to Adam and Eve's physical nature. No longer were their bodies innocent and sin free; A process of decay began in their bodies that would end in death. They were no longer "very good" but became mortal dying people with a nature which was tilted toward sin. All their descendants have inherited this condition... *"Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"* Romans 5:12. *"Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death"* James 1:13, 14. *"The wages of sin is death"* Romans 6:23.

Man dies and does not possess an "immortal soul" which survives death. *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die"* Ezekiel 18:20. There is no consciousness in death. *"Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returned to his earth: in that very day his thoughts perish"* Psalm 146:3, 4. *"For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything"* Ecclesiastes 9:5.

We are all mortal like all who have lived before us. One day our turn will come and we too will pass off the scene. *"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away"* 1 Peter 1:24.

However, this need not be the end for us as there is hope in Jesus Christ! The concluding words of Romans 6:23 are... *"but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Although he inherited the same sinful mortal nature as us, because he was born of his mother, Mary, a normal mortal woman, Christ did not commit any acts of sin... *"Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth"* 2 Peter 2:21, 22. Christ overcame his sinful mortal nature to become the perfect sacrifice to take away the sin of the world. Because of his perfect obedience, God then raised him up from the dead after he was slain on the Cross... *"Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it"* Acts 2:24.

Jesus, being raised from the dead, is described as *"the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man [Adam] came death, by man [Christ] came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits: afterward they that are Christ's at his coming"* 1 Cor. 15:20-23. This can be our hope too if we believe the Gospel, are baptised, and are found to be among Christ's followers when he returns to the earth.

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* John 3:16.

## Understanding the Bible

Note: all quotes are from the King James version of the Bible