THE FALL INTO SIN IS TERRIBLE BUT……

June 10, 2018 Gen. 3:8-15

At the end of chapter 2 of Genesis, Adam and Eve are in a beautiful garden. Adam had given names to all the creatures God had made. God even made a companion, Eve, for Adam----out of one of Adam’s ribs. There was nothing to disturb the peace and tranquility of the day.

No anger, no hatred, no quarreling, no bickering, no wars, no disturbance of any kind. God and man were in perfect harmony.

Then it happened. The unthinkable. Adam and Eve were led by a fallen angel to disobey a clear command of God. God had warned them, you may eat from any tree in the garden except from the tree in the middle of the garden. The day you eat of it you shall surely die.

God created man to live, not to die. But their disobedience would change everything for everyone in a most drastic way.

Death was now part of life on earth. The first to die was their son Able, killed by his brother Cain. How that must have caused unimaginable grief to the parents who were responsible.

Sin gained a foothold on earth because, as the Catechism tells us; “In Adam and Eve’s sin, the entire human race also fell into sin. We call this original or inherited sin.” Psalm 51:5 says, “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

It should come as no surprise to anyone that mankind is so wicked, that there is so much strife and trouble in families, in society and indeed in the whole world. We have had 2 world wars, countless other conflicts from the beginning of time.

In Genesis 6, we read: “The Lord saw the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of the heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was very sorry that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart. So the Lord said: “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land.”

Sin had so much control over the human heart that God brought on the flood and all but 8 people and 2 animals of each kind perished.

So, why did God save Noah and his family? They too were sinful, just not as bad as the others. God saved Noah so that the promise in Genesis 3:15 could happen at some time in the future. God was going to send someone to crush the head of the devil—You see, God is a God of love. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

I fear that too many people misunderstand what it means to perish. It does not mean to cease to exist. Not at all. Rather, hell is described as a place of suffering; where there will be wailing and knashing of teeth. Revelation 20:10 says that the devil was thrown into the lake of fire at the end of time.

And if anyone’s name was not found in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

Disobedience toward God is not something to be taken lightly. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life thru Jesus Christ.

God’s love for sinners is made clear in the pages of the Bible as we see how God directs the course of history so that at the right time God’s promise to send a person to save the human race from eternal suffering in hell could truly happen. Christmas is that promise fulfilled.

Since Jesus has come, suffered, died and risen again into heave, we now wait for His return in glory to gather all believers home to heaven and sending the devil, his angels and all unbelievers into the lake of fire.

God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. The suffering and tragedies and death of this life will not even be a memory.

We who believe will be in our resurrection body. God will be with and among us; living with His people, as it is described in Rev. 21: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God.’

Yes, the fall was terrible. Millions perished because of sin. Sin does have its consequences. But, our God was and is always in control and everything that happened in the course of history was for our benefit.

So, every Sunday is an opportunity for us to give thanks and praise to our great God for all His many gifts to us and to continue to prepare for the day of our departure from earth to our heavenly home. Get ready for the trip of a lifetime.

Amen