Adam's Losses, the Cure, And Man's Eternal Inheritance

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Introduction

I want to talk about where we all started and where we are going. It began in a garden, not with a bang, but with a bite. Adam, the first man, failed his test in Eden. He disobeyed the Word of God, and the result was immediate: spiritual death, shame, and expulsion from God's presence. As Romans 5 tells us, through one man's transgression, condemnation came to all.

We are, by nature, children of the fall—born outside the garden, spiritually dead, and under the curse of sin. It's a heavy inheritance, but it's not the final word. In His mercy, He didn't just forgive; He provided a covering. He shed the blood of animals to clothe Adam and Eve, foreshadowing a greater sacrifice, which points to Jesus Christ, the Second Adam. Where the first Adam failed in a garden, Jesus succeeded in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the Cross of Calvary.

Jesus didn't just undo the damage; He reversed the curse. He took the condemnation we deserved and offered us justification—a legal declaration of righteousness. He lived the perfect life Adam couldn't, obeying where Adam disobeyed, so that we could be made His sons and daughters and live with Him. I want to talk about the consequences of the fall and how God restored what Adam lost. The consequences were threefold:

I. The Consequences of Adam's Fall

1. The first consequence of the fall was separation from God.

The moment Adam and Eve ate that fruit, they hid. Genesis 3:8 says they "hid themselves from the Lord God among the trees of the garden." Can you picture that? The Creator of the universe, who had walked and talked with them in the cool of the day, and now they're hiding from Him. That's what sin does. It drives us away from God. It puts a wall between us and the One who made us and who we were made for.

> Paul said in Ephesians 2:12, "Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."

I want to point out something that's easy to miss when Adam and Eve sinned. After they fell, God came looking for them, asking, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9). He didn't send an angel. He didn't send a letter. God Himself came, calling out to the man who had just broken His command. And when Adam and Eve answered—shamefaced, hiding, blaming—God did something extraordinary. He made them garments. Genesis 3:21 says: "The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them."

Now, think about that. To make garments of skin, an animal had to die. Its blood had to be shed. It was God who made the first sacrifice in human history, providing the covering for sin. In their own effort, Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with fig leaves — their own works — but it wasn't enough. So God, in His mercy, provided a real covering, a covering that pointed to the ultimate sacrifice that would later be made by Jesus Christ.

2. There was a second consequence of Adam's fall: spiritual and physical death.

> God forewarned Adam of the consequences of sin in Genesis 2:7: "You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."
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> Until this day, death has captured both mankind's physical and spiritual nature. Ephesians 2:1–3 says sinners are "dead in the trespasses and sins."

But what does that actually look like in our daily lives? It's not just about physical mortality, though that is the final destination. It's about spiritual death — that immediate separation from God that leaves us feeling hollow, anxious, and distant from our Creator.

3. The third consequence of Adam's fall was eternal condemnation in Hell, which also includes everlasting separation from God.

These are the dreadful consequences of original sin and mankind's fallen estate: death, separation from God, and condemnation, and these consequences of sin are horrific. Adam and humanity have forfeited such tremendous blessings that were once ours. But can we

ever reclaim the losses of the Garden of Eden? Yes, we can! If the story ended here, we would be in terrible shape. We would be on our way to eternal judgment, with no hope and no way out. But it doesn't end there. Adam's fall is only the first half of the story, but the second half is the most glorious story ever told.

That's because Jesus paid the penalty for sin. He suffered and died on the Cross and took the punishment that we deserved. He bore God's wrath against Adam's transgression. He was made sin for us, so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). That means God can declare us not guilty, not because He ignores our sin, but because our sin has been dealt with—dealt with by the blood of His Son on the Cross. Our rescue, pardon, and redemption from sin come through the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:4—9 summarizes it this way:

> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, (5) made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. (6) And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, (7) in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (8) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— (9) not by works, so that no one can boast.

> Romans 5:9—11 says: "Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! (10) For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! (11) Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

That word, *reconciliation*, or *reconcile*, means *an exchange of our guilt for divine favor*. Imagine that! Sin separated us from God, but through Christ we are restored to our original relationship with God and even beyond that. Through Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, we are justified, cleansed from sin, and raised to new life with him.

And that takes us to another wonderful word in the plan of redemption. It's the word justification. Christ justifies those who trust in Him for salvation, which declares us righteous in God's sight. The word justified means *just as if I'd never sinned*. That means our

forgiveness is not based on anything we've done. It's not based on how good you are, how much you've improved, or how hard you're trying. It's based entirely on what Christ has done. You are justified by faith—by trusting in Jesus and His work on the Cross. The moment you believe, you are justified. Your standing before God changes, not gradually, not over time, but instantly. You go from guilty to not guilty in a single moment.

The moment you are justified, you are no longer under condemnation. Romans 8:1 says: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." You are declared righteous. You stand before the Judge of the universe, and He looks at you with approval; you are restored to Adam's original condition.

(**Transition**) But *what* is restored? Do we regain all of Adam's losses? The answer is, *yes!* And I want to examine what is restored to those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior in Heaven. I'm talking about the eternal inheritance of Believers.

II. Paradise Regained … Forever!

1. The first thing we inherit as Christians is found in Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Christians will receive everlasting life at the end of the ages. Instead of death … we … get … everlasting life!

2. The next thing we will inherit is found in Matthew 25:34. Jesus says, "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world." This means just as Adam ruled the earth before he sinned, we are given eternal authority and responsibility, and will rule with God in His kingdom forever. Jesus confirmed this in Revelation 3:21, "To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne."

3. Thirdly, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that the meek will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5). While 1 John 2:15 warns Christians, "Do not love the world or anything in the world," the day is coming when God will give us an entirely renovated Earth, and nothing will be off-limits to us.

4. Next, the book of Revelation shows that we are promised access to the Water of Life, the Tree of Life, and the hidden manna. Eternal nourishment is ours, and we will never again

hunger or thirst. That may seem inconsequential to those who have plenty, but to the poor, hungry, and thirsty, that's a wonderful promise. According to the World Bank Group, statistics show that approximately 811 million people live on less than $3.00 a day, which is about 1 in 10 people. (Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet Report 2026.)

5. Fifthly, we are also assured of the crown of life, which is promised to those who endure trials, persecution, and even martyrdom for their faith (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10). We have eternal rewards for all that we have suffered for the cause of Christ.

6. Sixth, we're promised freedom from sorrow, sickness, and pain. Revelation 21:4 says: "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Think about that: The old order of life has passed away, and in Heaven God will make everything new ... forever. What a place to live!

7. And seventh, 1 Corinthians 2:9 gives this great promise to the occupants of Heaven: "[A]s it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" — the things God has prepared for those who love him." The promises of Heaven are unfathomable! We simply can't imagine the glories awaiting us. Heaven is more wonderful than anything our imagination can conceive.

(**Transition**) This is the amazing future Believers have. It's the perfect place to live forever. But there is yet one more grand and glorious inheritance that awaits us in Heaven. And this is the primary emphasis of today's message. But first, I want to build up to this most important point. To do that, I want to mention the Ark of the Covenant, the Tabernacle, and the tribe of Levi. Let's start with the Ark of the Covenant.

Ark of the Covenant, the Tabernacle, and the Levites

This mysterious object was Israel's holiest artifact. We begin to see the significance of the Ark of the Covenant through Moses:

> God told Moses in Exodus 25:22: "There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, **I will meet with you** [notice that] and give you all my commands for the Israelites."

> Exodus 30:6 says, "Put the altar in front of the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law—before the atonement cover that is over the tablets of the covenant law—**where I will meet with you**."
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> Numbers 7:89 adds, "When Moses entered the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from between the two cherubim above the atonement cover on the ark of the covenant law. **In this way the LORD spoke to him**."

The Ark of the Covenant represented God's presence, and it was exceedingly important to Moses and the Israelites. But the Ark of the Covenant was not the only thing that represented God's presence. Next, there was the Tabernacle that traveled with the Israelites during their 40-year journey through the wilderness. According to Exodus 25:8, God commanded Moses, "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, **and I will dwell among them**."

But then, there was a special tribe of Israelites that managed the Ark of the Covenant, the Tabernacle (and the Temple), and these were the Levites. Notice what was promised to them:

> Deuteronomy 10:8—9 says, "At that time the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to minister and to pronounce blessings in his name, as they still do today. [Notice the next verse.] (9) That is why the Levites have no share or inheritance among their fellow Israelites; **the Lord is their inheritance, as the Lord your God told them**."

This was a unique promise given to the tribe of Levi and it appears in several passages:

> Deuteronomy 18:1–2 states, "The Levitical priests—indeed, the whole tribe of Levi—are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel… They shall have no inheritance among their fellow Israelites; **the LORD is their inheritance**, as he promised them."
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> Numbers 18:20 records God telling Aaron, "You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; **I am your share and your inheritance** among the Israelites."
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> Joshua 13:33 reiterates, "But to the tribe of Levi, Moses had given no inheritance; **the LORD, the God of Israel, is their inheritance**, as he promised them."

> Ezekiel 44:28 says, "'**I am to be the only inheritance the priests have**. **You are to give them no possession in Israel; I will be their possession**."

While other tribes received land, the Levites received no territorial inheritance because "**the Lord … [was] their inheritance**" (Deuteronomy 10:9, 18:2).

(**Transition**) This leads to the most important point of today's message because it mirrors the heavenly reward for all believers.

III. God — the Eternal Inheritance of Believers

Like the tribe of Levi, Christians are a "chosen people, royal priesthood [like the Levites], a holy nation, [and] God's special possession," as 1 Peter 2:9 says. And that identifies the Christian's eternal inheritance. **The Believers' grand claim for eternity is that we inherit God**! God's presence is restored to Adam's fallen and redeemed race forever. That's the "new you" that's coming! A gloriously transformed "Heavenly man," who will inherit the Most High God. That's inconceivable, but it's what Scripture says!

> Revelation 21:3—4 says, "**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**."

> Revelation 21:7 states, "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, **and I will be his God, and he shall be my son**."

> Revelation 22:4 says: "They will see his face, **and his name will be on their foreheads**." God's Name written on the Believer's forehead implies God's nearness to them forever.

These Scriptures show that the Most High God is central to our eternal inheritance. You see, God not only saves us and rescues us; he justifies us, and then adopts us into his family. While adoption is the cause, inheriting God is the effect. Can you imagine anything greater than inheriting God forever? That's what's in store for Believers—unbroken access to God. We don't just reclaim what Adam had—'walking with God in the cool of the day'—we reclaim unbroken access to the Lord of the universe for eternity.

Notice how important God's presence was to David in Psalm 16:5—11:

> Lord, *you* alone are my portion and my cup; *you* make my lot secure. (6) The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. (7) I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. (8) I keep my eyes always on the Lord. *With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken*. (9) Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, (10) because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. (11) You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy *in your presence*, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

> I like how the NLT translates Psalm 16:11: "You will show me the way of life, **granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever**." God's personal presence meant everything to David; he knew it was the ultimate blessing!

Conclusion

The most important thing Adam lost in the Garden of Eden when he sinned was God's presence. But that's the very thing that our Lord Jesus Christ restores to Christians; it's our inheritance. Even though Adam forfeited God's daily presence in the Garden, God's foreknowledge had already accounted for it. Notice what Jesus said in Matthew 25:34:

> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; **take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world**."

The loving, merciful God took account of Adam's sin from the beginning, and determined to restore all his losses — especially His presence. And God's presence isn't just restored to us once a month, once a week, or even once a day; it's throughout eternity!

Sinners, on the other hand, are consigned to an eternal place of darkness, void of God. It's not that God disinherits sinners; they disinherit Him. They will live without God forever. If Hell is your destination, I urge you to turn to Christ now. Make sure God is your inheritance, and plan to live with Him eternally.