

**Sermon ~ Sunday, July 31, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit**

**Text: Genesis 3: 22-24**

**Title: "No Turning Back!"**

*No doubling back! No retroverting: going back to the previous state! No regressing!  
No relapsing! No backsliding! No falling away!*

**NLT –**

V. 23, "So **The LORD GOD** banished [expel, evicted, shut-out, sent him forth] Adam and his wife from the Garden of Eden, and **HE** sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made.

V. 24, "After banishing them from the Garden, **The LORD GOD** stationed Mighty Angelic Beings [**CHERUBIMS**] to The East of Eden. And a flaming sword flashed back and forth, guarding the way to The Tree of Life."

**"No Turning Back!"**

In the context of our text, The Garden of Eden was a climatic Paradise.

*No need of want for rain—a mist came up from the ground. (Genesis 2: 6)*

*No storms, nor hurricanes or tornadoes... No harmful natural occurrences. Everything about **GOD'S** creation was "perfect." In fact, **HE (GOD)** pronounced everything was "very good" at the end of Day 6. (Genesis 1: 31)*

*What a world of "perfection." Perfect humidity, no pestilence, no dis-ease nor diseases.*

*No distractions from enjoying knowing **GOD** as **CREATOR**, in a "perfect," undiluted way!*

*--A world of no shame or guilt, just bliss innocence. No sin, therefore, no guilt or shame.*

*A clear heart and a clean consciousness. Pure Holiness!*

*--A world of "Perfect Relationships!" **With GOD**, with man, with woman, with each other, with animals... Can you imagine, all had the same diets (Plants/fruits—Vegetarians).*

*Everybody "worked" ... the first man Adam, "tilled and kept" the Garden (Genesis 2: 15) and, the first Woman, Eve—Adam's "helpmate," worked right beside him. Everybody worked, "The birds built their nests, while the ants, dug their tunnels." It was "joyous work" not "tedious" for the ground had not been cursed.*

*--Sunday, the Sabbath, was a Day of Rest: sabbat, meaning "to stop," depicting **GOD** stopping in **HIS** task of Creation. It's not "a stop" from worries, nor exhaustion, but because **HIS** work of creation is finished. Yet, **GOD** is ever at work!*

*The Sabbath was a Day of Rest to Worship **GOD**, to Praise **GOD**, to give Thanks/Thanks-giving to **GOD**!*

*OH, if Adam and Eve had "obeyed" **GOD**: **ELOHIM, The Infinite/Almighty ONE** (Chapter 1) and, **JEHOVAH GOD, The LORD GOD of Salvation** (Chapter 2: 4)*

If Adam and Eve had “obeyed” GOD...

--The Gardens were already made... Eden where *sin* entered (Genesis 3); Gethsemane, where **JESUS** prayed, “Not **MY** will but **THY Will** be done.” (Matthew 14, Mark 14, Luke 22, and John 18); Calvary, where **JESUS** *died*, was *bury near* and rose from the dead (Matthew 27, Mark: 15, Luke 23 and John 19); John the Apostle saw, a new Heaven, Paradise Garden (Revelation 21: 1).

If Adam and Eve had “obeyed” GOD...

--What a *Wedding Celebration* that would be remembered for ever... No loneliness would have ever been felt. *Companionship* would never have been replaced with *partnership*. Forever a Human Race vs. Racism. Everybody would *lend a helping hand* and not a *hurting hand*.

If Adam and Eve had “obeyed” GOD...

**The LOVE of GOD** would not be replaced with the “lie(s)” of the Tempter. **GOD’S LOVE** would have remained *within* and the Tempter “lie(s)” would remain *without*.

The Tempter’s *aim* is our “*minds*.” The stair-well to our “*minds*” is the ear... Hear the questions,

1. “Is it really true that **GOD** said...?” (Genesis 3: 1)
2. “Surely you will not die, for **GOD** knows that when you eat (*disobey*)... your eyes will be opened...” (Genesis 3: 5)
3. *Look over here*... “And when the woman (Eve) saw...” (Genesis 3: 6).
  - a. Her eye inflamed passion.
  - b. Passion mastered her resistance of will.
  - c. Her body (flesh) *obeyed* its impulse.
  - d. Gratification ran out of control (whether bitter or sweet).
  - e. Immediately followed *remorse* and *guilt*.

#### How Adam and Eve broke their Fellowship with GOD

1. They yielded to temptation and convinced themselves that their way was better than **GOD’S**.
2. They yielded to temptation and became self-conscious and hid.
3. They yielded to temptation and tried to excuse and defend themselves.

#### To Restore the Fellowship with GOD

3. We must drop the excuses and self-defenses.
2. Stop trying to hide from **GOD**.
1. Know that **GOD’S Way** is *Best*.

**GOD** does not wait for Adam/Eve to find their way back, BUT **HE** hastens in search for Him/her. “Where are thou?” (Genesis 3: 9)

**JESUS** met the Tempter not in the Garden, but in the wilderness. OH, tempted/tried, but **HE’S** become to *all* who “obey” **HIM**, a **Life-Giving Spirit**, and **The Author of Eternal Salvation!**

--The “*penalty*” is gone... Death has *no more* sting... the Grave, *no more* victory...

--Our bias toward evil is counteracted by **JESUS** indwelling through **The HOLY SPIRIT**.

--**JESUS** bruises Satan beneath the feet of those of us who **Trust HIM!**

--**JESUS** transforms *the curse* of Satan/*sin*: though painful, the mother’s love is drawn out for her child. Hard work is educative and ennobling. Death is **The Gate of Eternal JOY, Life and Bliss**.

Where *sin* abounded, **GRACE** abounds much more. **“No Turning Back!”**