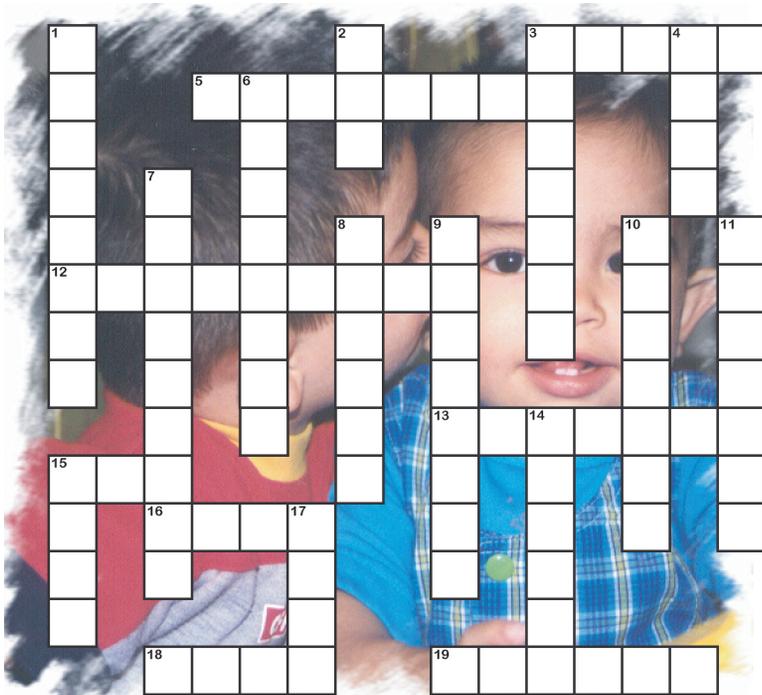


Crossword Puzzle



Across

Down

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>3. Without God's life man is an ____ shell.</p> <p>5. Everything that God made was _____ and good.</p> <p>12. God's _____ was that man would eat the tree of life.</p> <p>13. God intended that man would _____ His life as his content.</p> <p>15. Man was created in His image.</p> <p>16. The tree of _____.</p> <p>18. Actually, the tree of life is a _____.</p> <p>19. The Lord Jesus _____.</p> | <p>1. God began His work with the ____ of the universe.</p> <p>2. The tree of life was for man to ____.</p> <p>3. ... the divine _____ life...</p> <p>4. The ____ of life.</p> <p>6. Man has God's image and _____.</p> <p>7. Man was created _____ with God's image...</p> <p>8. ... the _____ eternal life...</p> <p>9. Opposite of 7 down.</p> <p>10. When he was created, man did not have God's life or _____.</p> <p>11. God's purpose is that man would _____ Him...</p> <p>14. In the ____ of the garden was the tree of life.</p> <p>15. Everything that God made was pleasant and _____.</p> <p>17. The Garden of _____.</p> |
|---|--|

Parent's Initials:



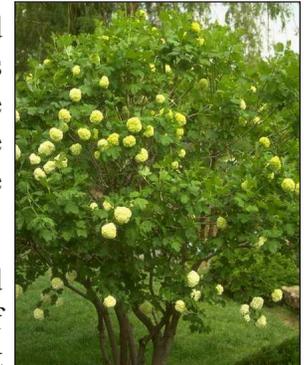
The Truth and Experience of God's Salvation

- Lesson Two -

The Tree of Life

I. Overview.

Although man was created outwardly with God's image to express Him, he still needed one thing more in order to express God in full: he inwardly needed God's life.



God placed man in front of the tree of life in order that he might eat.

For this reason, immediately after God created man, He placed man in front of the tree of life. God's intention was that man would eat of the tree of life. To eat of the tree of life was man's first and man's greatest need. If he did not eat of the tree of life he would be an empty vessel, just a shell, with God's image but not having God's life or reality.

Without having God Himself as his life, man could not express God or fulfill His purpose. God's purpose is fulfilled when man expresses God. Man can only express God by having God's life within him.

II. Memory Verse.

“And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden...”

(Gen. 2:9)

III. Lesson.

The first chapter of the Bible shows us that God began His work with the creation of the universe and ended His work with the creation of man. This indicates that what God wants and needs is man. Man was created with God's image and likeness in order that he could express the invisible God. The second chapter of the Bible goes on to show us what man needs, that is, the tree of life. God needs man for His expression and man needs the tree of life to be his content.

God Placed Man in Front of the Tree of Life

After God created man, He placed him in a wonderful garden named "Eden". The meaning of the word "Eden" is "pleasure". Man was created with the ability to appreciate and to enjoy God's creation. Everything that God made was pleasant and good.



"Eden", the name of the garden, means "pleasure".

In the center of the Garden of Eden was the tree of life. God placed man in front of the tree of life. This shows us God's intention: that man would eat of the tree of life. When God

created man, He created him in His own image and likeness. Although man had God's image and likeness, he was like an empty shell. He did not have God's life within him. God intended that man would eat the fruit of the tree of life and receive God's life inside of Him as his content.

It is hard for us to know exactly what the tree of life looked like, or what its fruit was like. But it is easy for us to understand what the tree of life signifies. It shows us that man needs to receive the life of God. It also indicates that even though God created

man with the human life for his existence, man still needed to receive God's life in order to become God's expression.

Without receiving God's life, man is just an empty shell. Furthermore, God's purpose, that man would express Him, could never be accomplished if man only had the human life. Actually, the tree of life is a sign which points to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the real tree of life. And the life that the Lord Jesus gives us is just the life of God Himself. This is the eternal life. The Lord Jesus Himself said, "I have come that they might have life" (John 10:10). The word that He used for "life", in Greek, means the divine eternal life, not the human life. God's intention is that we would have His wonderful life.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. What does man need in order to express God?

2. Why was man created in God's image and with God's likeness?

3. What is the meaning of the word "Eden"?

4. Who is the real tree of life?

