

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Ms. Dannels, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Sowder, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin
2922 NW 76th Terrace, Jennings, FL 32053

May 30, 2021

“Has God Indeed Said”?

By Derek Long

One of the first questions recorded in the Bible is when the serpent asked Eve in the garden, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1, NKJV). Genesis 3:1 shows us how Satan tries to tempt people to sin. Satan continues to use the same sort of devices to deceive us as he did when tempting Eve in the garden (2 Corinthians 11:3). Satan tries to plant doubt in our minds just as he attempted to place doubt in the mind of Eve.

Satan's question to Eve could be viewed as having a tone of amazement behind it. “Has God indeed said” may express a sense of shock that God would say such a thing. We encounter people today who express a sense of shock about certain things God has said. If we tell people what God says about the need to be baptized in order to be saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 2:38; 22:16), some might respond like the serpent and ask, “Has God indeed said, ‘Baptism now saves us?’” If we tell people what Jesus said about building His church (Matthew 16:18) and the fact God's word teaches there is only one church (Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23), some might respond like the serpent and ask, “Has God indeed said, ‘There is only one body?’” If we tell people what Jesus taught regarding mar-

riage, divorce, and remarriage (Matthew 5:32; 19:9), some might respond like the serpent and ask, “Has God indeed said, ‘You cannot divorce your spouse for just any cause?’” If we tell people about what the Bible says about how a person ought to dress (1 Timothy 2:9-10), some might respond like the serpent and ask, “Has God indeed said, ‘You need to dress modestly?’” If we tell people what the Bible says about women being silent in the churches (1 Corinthians 14:34-35), some might respond like the serpent and ask, “Has God indeed said, ‘Women cannot address the congregation?’” We could point out other areas I am sure where people would express surprise at what God said similar to what the serpent did in Genesis 3:1. Let us remember when people say such things those individuals are talking like the serpent did in Genesis 3.

Satan’s question to Eve may attempt to cast God’s commandments in an unfavorable light. Satan ask whether God said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden.” Satan is trying to turn the woman’s attention to God’s restrictions and perhaps paint God as being too restrictive. Notice what God had actually said in Genesis 2:16-17. He said, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (NKJV). God gave them permission to eat freely of every tree in the garden except for one. It is easy for us to begin viewing God’s commands as too restrictive or harsh if we are not careful. When we begin seeing God’s commandments in a negative light, we know we are beginning to think like the serpent was trying to get Eve to think. God reminded the children of Israel His commandments were given for their good. Deuteronomy 6:24 says, “And the Lord com-

manded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day” (NKJV). Deuteronomy 10:12-13 says, “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good?” (NKJV). The New Testament would also teach God’s commandments are given for our good. 1 John 5:3 says, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandment. And His commandments are not burdensome” (NKJV). 1 Timothy 4:8 speaks of godliness, “having the promise of life that now is and of that which is to come” (NKJV). Jesus said He came, “that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (NKJV). Let’s avoid the temptation of thinking the path of godliness is a harsh, restrictive, and terrible path. Remember, “the way of the unfaithful is hard” (Proverbs 13:15, NKJV)!