**3. “DISHARMONY: PARADISE LOST”**

**Section II:** THE PLAN REVISED

**Biblical Basis:** Genesis 3

**Objective:** That each class member will comprehend how sin came into being and

 state four tragic circumstances.

**INTRODUCTION**

Thus far in our studies we have learned that in order to understand the world in which we live, we must see ourselves in a relationship to a personal God. Further, we have learned that every human being has dignity and worth because he is created in the image of God. With that, he shoulders a responsibility to be a good steward of all that God has entrusted to his care.

It was God’s intention that man was to live in harmony with God, with himself, with others, and with nature. But, as we look at the world around us, suddenly we come face-to-face with the stark reality that something is wrong. The question we want to address is “WHY?” How is it possible that mankind, who was created to be the crown of God’s creation, finds himself to be a vagabond, full of guilt feelings, fear, hatred, and brokenness?

**I. THE CONFLICTING VIEWS CONCERNING THE CAUSE OF EVIL**

 A. Some prevailing views of causes.

 1. From your understanding what does a cult, like Christian Science and/or Eastern

 religions, claim to be the cause of evil in the world?

 2. When someone says that “It’s all a problem of lack of education,” what does he

 mean?

 3. How do you suppose a person convinced of the theory of evolution would give a hopeful solution to evil?

 4. Some people want to blame God for the existence of suffering and evil. Why do you suppose they do?

 B. The Biblical explanation of the cause.

 1. Write out your definition of sin using Psalms 51:1-2; Romans 1:21-23

 2. Read Genesis 2:15-17. What was God’s only command and what warning was given?

 3. Why do you suppose God gave that choice? Can you talk about love without obedience?

 4. Read Genesis 3:1-7. Did Adam and Eve know God’s will? How do you see sin get its foothold?

 5. What are some explanations of the cause of evil?

**II. THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF SIN**

 Because of disobedience to God, death (lack of harmony in life) becomes a reality.

 A. Disharmony with **God**.

 1. According to Genesis 3:8 and 3:24 describe what happened to man’s relationship with God?

 2. In Genesis 2:17 God warned Adam and Eve of the consequences of sin. In light of

 Ephesians 2:1-3, how is that a reality?

 3. Unless something is done to alter the sinful status of mankind, what threat faces all humanity? (Gen 3:19)

 B. Disharmony with **self**.

 1. When Adam and Eve hid themselves in Genesis 3:8, what new inner feelings did they experience? (Gen 3:10)

 2. Apart from God, who gives meaning and purpose to life, how do you suppose Adam and Eve began to feel about themselves and life? (Gen 3:19)

 3. How do you see many people try to relieve their guilt feelings? How do Adam and Eve try to handle it in Genesis 3:7?

 4. What is the only hope that God gives to man to rid him of his guilt before God?

 (Gen 3:15)

 C. Disharmony with **others**.

 1. What do you see happening in the relationship between Adam and Eve in

 Genesis 3:11-13?

 2. How does Adam blame God for his disobedience? (Gen 3:12)

 3. How do you see sin affect your relationship with people you love?

 D. Disharmony with **nature**.

 1. How is nature affected by man’s disobedience? (Gen 3:17-19)

 2. In what ways do you see sinful people in disharmony with God’s creation today?

 3. What does Romans 8:19-22 tell you about the hope for creation?

**III. THE GIFT OF HOPE FOR HUMANITY**

 A. The new promise.

 1. By cursing Satan, what hope does God give humanity? (Gen 3:15)

 2. How is that promise fulfilled? (Col 2:13-15)

 B. The new symbol of hope.

 1. Describe what God does in Genesis 3:21? In dealing with sin and guilt, what does this tell you?

 2. How is that fulfilled in Jesus Christ? (I Pet 1:18-21)

**CONCLUSION**

You and I are still creatures of free will. We can develop a lifestyle without God and be motivated by our desires, or we can yield ourselves in love to our Creator and serve Him from a heart of gratitude. The choice is ours!

The question now arises out of our study: How then will a Holy God bring sinful humanity back into a right relationship with Himself? The rest of Genesis begins to unfold God’s strategy.