



Genesis 2:9, 16-17 – Covenant of Works

The Two Trees (vs. 9)

- The Tree of the **Knowledge** of Good and Evil
 - o It was not inherently evil. (1:31)
 - o Outside Genesis, this tree is not spoken of again by name.
 - o "The essential meaning of (evil) is the inability to come up to good standards." (Zhodiates Greek Word Study)
 - o Knowledge here was for Adam understanding what it meant to fall short of God's holy standards. (Gen. 3:33, Romans 3:23)
- The Tree of **Life**
 - o Adam ate from this tree – it was not forbidden. (vs. 16)
 - o It could keep the body alive even in the fallen state. (3:22)
 - o The Bible speaks of this tree again only in Revelation (2:7, 22:2, 14, 19)
 - o Both in the garden and heaven, it is a sign of the blessing man experiences when he is in right relationship with the Father.

The Covenant of Genesis 2:16-17 (Hosea 6:7)

- Contracting Parties: the **Lord God** and **Adam**
 - o The covenant was not made with Eve (Rom. 5:12)
 - o Adam represented all of mankind as our federal head.
 - o Adam acted as a type of Christ (Rom. 5:15, I Cor. 15:22)
- Conditions: Perfect **obedience** by Adam
 - o Positive Command: You may eat.....
 - o Negative Command: You may NOT eat.....
- Penalty for breaking the covenant: **Death**
 - o Literally, in the Hebrew "dying, you will die"
 - o A separation from God now in a lost relationship
 - o Eventual physical death of the body
 - o Eternal death in hell for those outside of the body of Christ.
- Promises for keeping the covenant: **Life**
- Seal which ratifies the covenant: **Tree of Life**

Note that in this covenant there is no mediator and to place for repentance.

He (God) is saying "Believe me and stand in your place as a creature, not as one who is autonomous. Believe me and love me as a creature to his Creator, and all will be well. This is the place for which I have made you." (Francis Schaeffer, "Genesis in Space and Time")

Exposition of Genesis
Hilltown Baptist Church
Early Church Sunday School Class
Teacher: Gene I. Greiner, II (2T42)

"Had God permitted and enabled man to stand, all his posterity had been eternally happy. Adam had then been in a very real sense their savior, and while enjoying everlasting bliss, all his posterity would have exclaimed, "For all this we are indebted to our first parent." Ah, what anointed eye can fail to discern that that would have been far too great a glory for any finite creature to have borne. Only the last Adam was entitled to and capable of sustaining such an honor."

(AW Pink "The Divine Covenants" Pg. 59)

Eternal Covenant

Covenant of Redemption

Works

Noahic

Abrahamic

Sinaitic

Davidic

New Covenant (Grace)

30 Q. What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit (2Ti 1:9) whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery (Ac 2:37), enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ (Ac 26:18), and renewing our wills (Ez. 36:26), he does persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the gospel (John 6:44, 45).

A Puritan Catechism with Proofs, C.H. Spurgeon 1855