

# Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1509

January 21, 2024

Genesis 3:24, “*So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*”

In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve were driven from the garden of Eden due to their sins. Within the garden of Eden was the tree of life. We see in Genesis 3 that if man ate of the tree of life, he would live forever. Genesis 3:22, “*And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever.*”

The LORD had placed man in the garden of Eden with the tree of life. There were no restrictions placed on eating from it. There was only one tree that could not be eaten from. Genesis 3:16-17, “<sup>16</sup>*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: <sup>17</sup>But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*” For people to be able to truly serve the LORD of their own free will, there has to be a choice that can be made. We can serve to obey the LORD or disobey Him. The choice

was very simple in the garden of Eden. They could or could not eat from the tree that was forbidden.

We see that Eve was enticed to eat of this tree by Satan lying to her. She then gave to Adam and he did eat. Even though Eve was tricked by Satan, she knew what the LORD had told her. We are to hear and obey the LORD and no one else.

Because of this, they could not live forever. They were going to die. Even though they had access to the tree of life, they had been told that if they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they would die. They ate of the forbidden tree and they died with time.

Not only would death come to them in a few years, they were denied access to the tree of life. If they had eaten of it, they would have then lived forever. The LORD could not permit this with their sins. Therefore he placed cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every direction to keep them from the tree of life.

As I read these verses, I can't help but wonder what is keeping us from the tree of life. It could be our interest in the pleasures of this world. It can be family, friends, or work. Anything we put before the LORD keeps us from the tree of life.

There is not a tree of life on earth now. How can we then even have access to the tree of life? We see the tree of life talked about three times in Revelation.

Revelation 2:7, “*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*” We learn from this verse that the tree of life is located in the midst of the paradise of God. This paradise is where the saved go after death. In Luke 23:43 Jesus told the penitent thief on the cross, “*And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*”

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Sunday 9 & 12 PM; 6 PM (Online) — Wednesday 6 (Online)

# News

—Continue to remember **Steve Seaton, Brad Terry, Enola Zigler, Ken & Erin Davis, Becky Hatcher, Joanna Locke, Richard Connolly, Larry Compton, Linda Terry, Lauren Candela, Rick Gibbs and Jerry Reynolds. Sandy Duncan** is home

recovering from hip replacement surgery. **Alice Vanderstoep** is going to have kidney stone surgery on March 11. **Caden Crabtree** has had bronchitis. **Everleigh Crabtree** has had the flu. Both are much better. **Linda Sloan** has type A flu, which is the worst of the flu viruses.

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Revelation 22:1-2, “<sup>1</sup>*And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.* <sup>2</sup>*In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, [was there] the tree of life, which bare twelve [manner of] fruits, [and] yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations.*” In the first two verses of Revelation 22 we learn more about the tree of life. It’s in the midst of and on either side of the river of water of life.

We also see that it bares twelve manner of fruits every month, and it’s leaves heal those in Heaven. It’s not that those in Heaven are sick. There is nothing like that in Heaven. This is simply a metaphor that the leaves of the tree provide us with spiritual health and we will live forever. We can never be “sick” in Heaven—physically or spiritually.

The last time the tree of life is mentioned in the Bible is Revelation 22:14, “*Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*” Those who do the commandments of God are  
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Sunday, January 14, 2023

Classes	9	Luke 4:11-30
Preaching	14	II Peter 2:7; Genesis 19
Contribution	\$1673.00	
Evening	11	James 1:13-27; Zechariah 14:1-21

## Bible Quiz

Living waters will go out from Jerusalem to what two seas?

Last Week’s Answer— Wisdom (James 1:5)

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once again granted access to the tree of life. Access to the tree of life was taken away after the sins of man in the garden of Eden. But, the LORD has provided us access again to it in Heaven.

If we lose access to the tree of life, it will not be cherubim and a flaming sword that prevents our access to it. It will be us. Let’s live our lives in such away that we will awaken after this life in paradise with access to the tree of life.

—Marty Edwards❖

## —God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)