

On the Beginning

4. The Word of God

NOTE ESPECIALLY Genesis 2:8-17

God placed the first man into a perfect place on a perfect earth, where all of his needs would be met! One of his needs was the Word of God. In Genesis 2, we read the first words God gave to man, words that were necessary to his well-being. Both Moses and Jesus said that man lives, not by bread alone, but by *“every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD”* (See Deuteronomy 8:3 and Matthew 4:4). We *need* every Word of God!

1. The Essential Needs of Man!

Adam was to live upon and take dominion over all the earth and all the creatures that live on it (Remember Genesis 1:28). But his main responsibilities and his main place of habitation was a spot on the earth called the Garden of Eden (vs. 8, 10, and 15). The name *“Eden”* comes from a verb that means to be pleasant, and has the idea of *“pleasure”* or *“delight.”* Eden was a delightful place! God has given Christians a world-wide responsibility (Mark 16:15), but each believer’s life is lived and his duty performed in a certain place on earth—his *“garden of Eden,”* so to speak. In Adam’s special place, all of his basic needs were met by God:

- a. beauty – *“And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight . . .”* (v. 9) People need to be surrounded by beauty and are not happy or content unless they are!
- b. food – *“. . . and good for food . . .”* (v. 9). God has promised to supply us with daily bread (Matthew 6:11).
- c. a choice – *“the tree of life . . . and the tree of knowledge”* (v. 9). Every man is presented with a choice that will determine his future.
- d. water – *“And a river went out of Eden to water the garden . . .”* (v. 10)
- e. a job – *“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”* (v. 15) Human beings are made to do work for God!
- f. God’s Word – *“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying . . .”* (v. 16). Man needs the Word of the Lord to be happy and useful.
- g. a companion and helper – *“And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”* (v. 18)

These are the seven basic needs of man, all of which God can supply.

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:19)

2. The Essential Elements of God’s Word!

Look carefully at Genesis 2:16-17, the first words of God to man, and you will find all the basic kinds of messages the Lord gives us, even in the complete Bible! We need each of them.

- a. Invitation – *“Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat . . .”* This invitation to Adam sounds like something God says to man in the very last chapter of His finished Word:

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”
(Revelation 22:17)

God's invitations indicate that God loves us. You cannot live happily without knowing that. They also indicate that God offers us things we must take for ourselves by faith. All of the conditional promises in the Bible are invitations of this sort.

- b. Prohibition – *“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it . . .”*
This is the first *“thou shalt not”* of the Bible. Because God loves us, He tells us not to do things that will break communion with Him. We all need God's prohibitions.
- c. Warning – *“. . . for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”* Warnings of judgment for sin are found all over God's Word, and are basic to our relationship to Him.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment . . .” (John 16:7-8)