



Today our study of Genesis confronts us with the most menacing component of God's creation—the tree of the _____ of good and evil. This tree is simultaneously the most infamous and misunderstood tree of all time. Any examination of this text seems to provoke more questions than answers. Many skeptics point to this passage to justify their belief that the Bible is a mere fairy tale. Likewise, religionists relegate this tree to the trash heap of make-believe and convert its truth into a laughable metaphor.

This morning we will judge our text, _____ by means of man's finite and limited rationale but, through the pages of the _____ Scriptures...we will allow its author (*the Holy Ghost*) to be our teacher.

THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

1. The text – Genesis 2:16-17

- It is first and foremost a _____ from God – vs. 16
- It begins with a positive permissive privilege granting _____ – vs. 16
- It ends with a negative forbidding command warranting _____ – vs. 17
- It concerns something that the man is going to _____ – vs. 16-17

2. The tree

- It was _____ by God – James 1:17
- It had a _____ – *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil* – Genesis 2:9, 17
- It was in the _____ of the garden – Genesis 2:9; 3:3
- It was good for _____, pleasant to the _____, and desired to make one _____ – Genesis 3:6
- It was forbidden – vs. 17

- It was likely a _____ tree
The vine is a _____ – Numbers 6:4; Ezekiel 15:2, 6
The vine tree is a _____ tree – Mt. 26:29; Mk. 14:25; Lk. 22:18
The vine tree was _____ to a person set-apart and consecrated to God – Numbers 6:1-4
The fruit of the vine is a type of _____ – Mt. 26:27-29
The consumption of blood is _____ throughout scripture – Genesis 9:4; Lev 17:10; Acts 15:20
The vine tree and its fruit are connected to nakedness and immorality – Genesis 3:7; 9:20-22; 19:30-35
The vine tree and its fruit are connected to drunkenness – Genesis 9:21; 19:30-35; 1 Kings 20:12-21; Is. 5:11, 22
Drunkenness and nakedness are also connected – Lam. 4:21; Hab. 2:15
The vine tree turns, bends, and crawls like a _____ – Ezekiel 17:6-7
Jesus is called the _____ vine, he is good...that means there is a _____ vine, it is evil – John 15; Deut. 32:31-33; Ps. 16:4; 1 Co. 11:29

3. The turmoil

- The evil

How is this tree significant to us today?

All the _____ we have in this world can be traced back to Adam's sin...

All the trouble we have today is traced back to the garden and the _____ that entered into our "generations" through Adam's disobedience...

- The good

Why would God make such a troubling tree?

The tree represented the loving _____ that God wanted to have with man...

The tree represented man's _____!

NEXT WEEK: The model for a perfect family – Genesis 2:18-25