

## **PARADISE LOST AND REGAINED**

Rev. 2:7

- INTRO: First we want to notice the word paradise. We find this is a Persian word that means "park or pleasure ground." Hence, it can appropriately be applied to any place especially prepared for enjoyment. For this reason, Eden is referred to as paradise. The place of the righteous dead in the intermediate state is also called paradise. Luke 23:43. Our text calls the final state "Paradise of God" This word, because it means a placed of pleasure, can be applied figuratively to any place of pleasure, but we must watch the context to learn the proper application.
  - I. MAN IN PARADISE OF EDEN. GEN. 2:8:17.

Not to eat of one tree. Serpent told Eve a lie. Gen. 3:4. What was the result of the lie? They heard; their mind received and thought about it. They believed. What were the effects of the lie: they obeyed by eating. As a result, their state changed; they became separated from God. Note Gen. 3:1-8. State changed from innocent to knowledgeable.

II. PARADISE LOST BECAUSE OF SIN

Man disobeyed God and thus became separated from Him. Isa. 59:1-2; Isa. 1:15, 50:1; Gen. 3:23-24. Being separated from God, man turned his dominion over to the prince of this world, the devil. Those in the world of sin are lost. Eph. 2:12; 1 Thess. 4:13; Eph. 4:17-18.

- III. THE GRACE OF GOD. EPH. 2:8-9; HEB. 2:9; 9:22; JOHN 3:16.
- IV. LOST MUST HEAR TRUTH

As man hears the lie of the devil, so must he hear the truth of God. John 8:32. Hear the truth (seed planted in mind). Mark 12:29. Believe (truth has its effect). Obeyed (changed state; added to church). This is the gospel plan of salvation. Christians must continue faithfully. Matt. 7:21; 2 Pet. 1:5-7; Rev. 2:10. Those who never obey gospel will suffer in hell. 1 Pet. 4:18; Matt. 25:30. The faithful servant will receive heaven, or the Paradise of God. Matt. 25:21; Rev. 22:14. Others will be in hell. Rev. 22:15.

CONCL: By your sin, you have separated yourself from God. Why will you not seek to regain paradise? If you will obey the truth and remain faithful, you can spend eternity there.