|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | The Cross of Christ Talk 1: Believe the Cross  |  |
|  |  |

*“And this mess is so big, And so deep and so tall, We cannot pick it up. There is no way at all!”
The Cat in the Hat,* Dr Seuss

**INTRODUCTION**

“Where is your cross?”

**A. THE TREE OF OBEDIENCE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN**

**The kingdom of God**

*“Our Father in heaven,*

*hallowed be your name,*

*your kingdom come,*

*your will be done*

*on earth as it is in heaven.….”
Matthew 6:9-10*

“A king who rules, a people who are ruled, and a sphere where this rule is recognised as taking place.”

Graeme Goldsworthy, *Gospel and Kingdom, The Goldsworth Trilogy*.

**The garden of God**

*Genesis 2:4-15*

* Separate

* Shalom

* Spreading

*Exodus 15:17, Isaiah 51:3; Ezekiel 36:35; Revelation 21-22*

*Genesis 1:26-28*

**The tree**

*Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”*

*Genesis 3*

**Implications**

* God is committed to his plan
* Only God can sort out the mess

*Isaiah 7:23 In that day, in every place where there were a thousand vines worth a thousand silver shekels, there will be only briers and thorns. 24 Men will go there with bow and arrow, for the land will be covered with briers and thorns. 25 As for all the hills once cultivated by the hoe, you will no longer go there for fear of the briers and thorns; they will become places where cattle are turned loose and where sheep run.*

*2 Thessalonians 1:8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed.*

* In order to sort out the mess God must deal with sin

It was unthinkable that God, the Father of Truth, should go back on his word regarding death, in order to ensure our continued existence. He could not falsify himself. *On the Incarnation,* Athanasius.

*Genesis 3:15*

*And I will put enmity*

*between you and the woman,*

*and between your offspring and hers;*

*he will crush your head,*

*and you will strike his heel.”*

**2. THE TREE OF SUBSTITUTION AND THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE**

*1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

*Mark 14:32-42*

*Isaiah 57:17-20*

*Awake, awake!*

 *Rise up, O Jerusalem,*

 *you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD*

 *the cup of his wrath,*

 *you who have drained to its dregs*

 *the goblet that makes men stagger.*

 *These double calamities have come upon you—*

 *who can comfort you?—*

 *ruin and destruction, famine and sword—*

 *who can console you?*

 *Your sons have fainted;*

 *they lie at the head of every street,*

 *like antelope caught in a net.*

 *They are filled with the wrath of the LORD*

 *and the rebuke of your God.*

*Isaiah 53:4 … he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

**3. THE TREE OF LIFE IN THE GARDEN CITY**

*Revelation 22:1-5*

**The garden**

**The tree**

**CONCLUSION**

**1. The sovereignty of God**

*Acts 2:23 This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.*

*Acts 4:27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.*

**2. The wisdom of God**

*1 Corinthians 1:18-19  For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.For it is written:
 “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise
 ;the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”*

**3. The grace of God**





*Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*



**Response:** write down one idea that you would like to think more about