



The TWO Tree's

by Rev. Michael J. Burns

Author's Note: This message is designed to challenge and educate those who read it and is a great sermon starter for Pastor's and Minister's this Christmas season. **It is my gift to you!**

If you follow the Christian calendar then you recognize, that two of the main holidays that we celebrate, are **Christmas** and **Easter**. My wife and I love to decorate for the Christmas Season. We put up our *fake* Christmas tree, a variety of villages that light up and decorate the interior of our home. We also like to moderately decorate the exterior of our home too.

Consider all the different symbolisms that are found in the festivities of the Christmas holiday that represents the coming birth of our Lord and Savior. The Christmas tree is a regular part of the holiday that usually comes from the family of the *Evergreen tree*. Interestingly, the tree lives up to it's name...**Ever Green!** It stays green through all the seasons of the year. It doesn't matter if it is *winter, spring, summer or fall*. It lives and thrives no matter the weather conditions. Green is the color that represents *Life*, thus the Christmas tree symbolizes ***Everlasting or Eternal Life!***

The lights we decorate with symbolize ***Jesus as the light of the world.*** Christians put crosses, angels, scripture references and even red or golden garland decorations that speak of Christ's precious blood and His deity. We also try to locate an ornament for each

Christmas that we have celebrated since 1985 when we were married. I believe that the original intent of the Christmas tree and its decorations was to speak to us about what Christmas and its message means to us and the world.

I love nature and all that God has created. All of God's creation is a testimony to who our Heavenly Father is and the joy He desires to bring into our lives. From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam, God has blessed mankind all over the world. Everything He created has a message that testifies of His love and plan for our lives.

Romans 1:20 says,

20. There are things about him that people cannot see—his eternal power and all the things that make him God. But since the beginning of the world those things have been easy to understand by what God has made. So people have no excuse for the bad things they do. NCV

This scripture is telling us that there are some things about God that we cannot see or understand. It goes on to tell us that this issue has changed since God created the earth and all that is in it. Creation has made it **easy** to perceive who God is and what He is saying to all of us! Everything God does and says to us has a message that He is attempting to convey to mankind.

For example, when God created the first man Adam and gave him Eve as his helpmate, He put them in a beautiful garden that had everything they would ever need to sustain their lives and maintain their relationship with God and each other. God never intended that we be like robots and be pre-programmed to live as God wanted. He gave us freewill and the freedom to choose. In order for that to be just, God gave man **Two Tree's**, in the garden of Eden.

One tree is called, the **Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil** and the other we know is called, the **Tree of Life**. The first tree was a **Tree of Testing** and they were forbidden to eat it. The second tree

was something that they were invited by God to partake of but Adam and Eve NEVER did partake of the **Tree of Life**. By this point Satan had been cast out of Heaven where he once led worship but rebelled against God and no longer wanted to be the lead worshipper but wanted to be worshipped himself.

Isaiah 14 & Ezekiel 28 describe Lucifer's BC life before he was cast out of Heaven as well as the actual moment that he was cast out. **Isaiah 14:13-14** shares the 5 'I will's' of Lucifer prior to his fall. He said,

13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;
14. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' NKJV

In **Ezekiel 28:17-19** God responded with 5 'I will's' of His own.

17 I WILL cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God:
and I WILL destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

17. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I WILL cast thee to the ground, I WILL lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

18. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I WILL bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

19. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more. KJV

When Satan arrived on the earth his new fallen nature drove him to get revenge on God by deceiving His man Adam to eat the **Tree of**

the knowledge of Good and Evil! He succeeded by deceiving Eve who gave to her husband and he did eat in **Genesis 3:6**. The thought that Adam and Eve NEVER ate the **Tree of Life** can be seen in **Genesis 2:7** and **1 Corinthians 15:45**. These verses describe the spiritual condition of the first Adam whom God had placed in a perfect environment and who had never sinned. Although Adam had never sinned he still **Never had received the gift of Eternal Life!**

Genesis 2:7

7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became **a LIVING SOUL. KJV**

1 Corinthians 15:45

45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made **a living soul; the last Adam was made a QUICKENING SPIRIT.**

The first Adam had God breathe into his nostrils after forming his body from the dust of the ground and he became a **LIVING SOUL**. The Lord Jesus Christ, who is referred to as the 2nd Adam became a **QUICKENING SPIRIT** after He was raised from the dead. *What is the difference between a **LIVING SOUL** and a **QUICKENING SPIRIT**?* **The answer is the first Adam just had natural life and the 2nd Adam/Jesus had both physical and spiritual/eternal life!**

How do we know that? Because although the first Adam was given authority to dress and keep the garden and was given by God the right to eat of every tree in Eden he chose to partake of the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil** but never partook of the **Tree of Life!** This is why when God drove them out of the garden after he found them afraid and in their fallen state that He put an angel with a flaming sword that prevented Adam and Eve from entering Eden and eating of the **Tree of Life**.

Genesis 3:24

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. KJV

WHY? Because this was an act of love and mercy on God's part for the future of mankind that would come through Adam and Eve.

THINK ABOUT IT... If Adam and Eve would have partaken of the ***Tree of Life*** after their fall into spiritual death, ***they would have been forever lost eternally with no hope of redemption!***

This was the same condition that Satan was in and he was attempting to bring down this first couple with him! This remains Satan's plan today as he tries to get mankind's attention focused on the knowledge of human good and human evil instead of on the eternal life found alone in the one we celebrate on Christmas!

My prayer is that when you look at the Christmas tree that you will be reminded of the **two trees** that man had a choice to eat and that choice remains for you as well today. Let the meaning of Christ's birth speak to you and those around you of the **life that God created us all to live!**

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