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Genesis 3:1-11

Key Point: "When the line between good and evil is crossed, everything changes."

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Genesis 4:1-16; Romans 12:17-21

Key Point: "The only hope for good to succeed is to overcome evil with good."

Breaking Bad

The Consequences of Sin

By Pastor Brandon

Genesis 2:15-17 (NLT), The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

"Sin is fun... for a season. The problem is that sin always has consequences and they are unpleasant. National Geographic reported that a 13-foot Burmese python swallowed a 6-foot alligator in Florida. The consequences were lethal, as the gator split the snake open from the inside out, literally. That's like what sin does to us. We think we have something great until it destroys us from the inside out" (Source Unknown).

The first time we read of the consequences of sin in the Bible is in Genesis 2 when GOD warns Adam not to eat of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He said that the result of eating the fruit would result in death. Was it because the fruit was poisonous, was it what the fruit represented that made it dangerous, or was it the action itself (to go against GOD's command) that made eating its fruit result in death? We aren't told exactly. All we know is that eating the fruit would result in their demise. And what about the tree itself? The tree of the knowledge of "good" and "evil." Is the knowledge of good and evil such a bad thing to have? Shouldn't we all want knowledge no matter the subject?

Let's take these one at a time. 1) It seems that death was the result of refusing to obey GOD's command. The one thing that kept Adam and Eve completely

connected to GOD (the Source of all life), was their trust in Him and their ongoing willingness to believe what He said was true. However, to do that which GOD commanded them not to do severed the relational bond of trust that existed, thus, resulting in their separation from the Source of all life. As a result of this separation, death ultimately entered the picture as they were put out from the Garden of Eden where they had dwelt with GOD in perfect unity and peace.

2) The tree of the knowledge of good and evil wasn't bad in and of itself. Knowledge isn't bad in and of itself either. However, considering that the first humans lived in perfect unity and purity with GOD, the only knowledge they had was of that which was inherently "good." But how could they know that explicitly? What was their context? To know nothing other than good is to be completely ignorant of evil. And to be completely ignorant of evil is to have nothing to contrast to that which is good. In essence, Adam and Eve lived in ignorant bliss not really knowing what good and evil really were. And this wasn't a bad thing! To live only in the perfect bliss of goodness is to live fully in the presence of GOD as the beloved of His creation, and isn't that what we were created for in the first place?

It doesn't take a genius to understand that what GOD offers is goodness and life and to look beyond what He offers can only bring death and destruction. As the Author of all life, and as the Giver of all good things, GOD knows that to search for more than what He offers is truly a vain pursuit. Truly the only thing that lies beyond GOD is sin and death. Adam and Eve (and the rest of creation) learned this the hard way. Thinking they could have something more than what GOD desired for them left them holding a bag of regret as they left the Garden in shame. But GOD was not finished with them. His love for them and His goodness toward them would result in His ultimate sacrifice to bring them back into sweet fellowship with Him. Though the consequence of sin is death, the gift of GOD is eternal life through Christ Jesus!

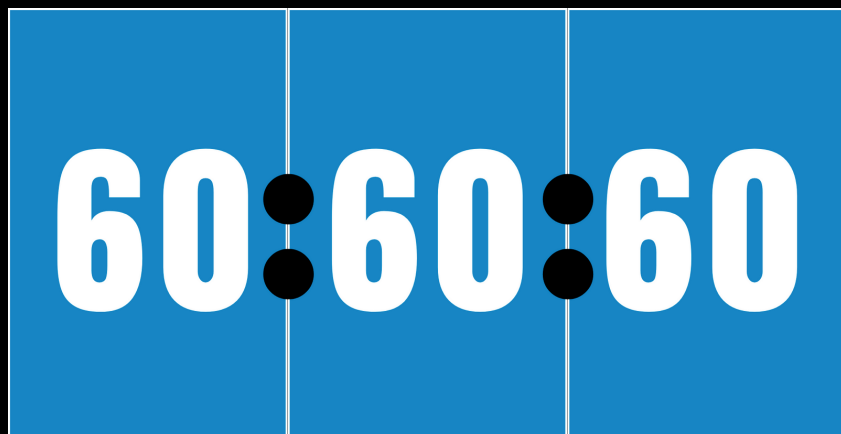
What would your life look like if you spent 60 seconds out of every 60 minutes of your waking hours for 60 days focusing on praising GOD, and welcoming Him into your daily routine?

Starting February 1 at North Main Street Church of God, we will be doing what we're calling the 60:60:60 challenge:

Spend 60 seconds out of
every 60 minutes
for 60 days

giving thanks to GOD for His goodness and welcoming Him into whatever we're doing for that next hour of the day.

Would you commit to joining us in this challenge? If so, sign our challenge boards located on the front walls outside of the Sanctuary Doors!



North Main Street Church of God

60 DAY CHALLENGE - FEBRUARY 1 - MARCH 31

I'm spending 60 seconds of every 60 waking minutes for 60 days giving thanks to GOD for His goodness and welcoming Him into whatever I'm doing every hour of the day.



February Events

northmaincog.org/events

04

Connection Luncheon

Following the morning service

Invite your friends to join you, newcomers to North Main eat for free!

On the Menu: Shepherd's Pie (officially Cottage Pie since it is made with beef instead of lamb), Garden Salad, Fresh Baked rolls, Root Beer float.

Cost: \$6/adult, \$4/kid, and max of \$20/family

04*

Death & Resurrection of Jesus

Sundays @ 9:00 AM 8-weeks

Being a follower of Jesus doesn't mean staying away from evil. It means confronting it - face to face - just like Jesus did every single day and through His resurrection. In this series of Faith Lessons on the Death and Resurrection of Christ, we will learn how confronting evil can be done loudly by proclaiming the name of Jesus or quietly caring for someone in need.

YOU'RE INVITED! *

Sunday, February 4th @ 9am!

We have a series of four Membership Classes that we would love everyone who considers North Main their church home to attend.

Register to: info@northmaincog.org



17

Women's Hike

@9:30 AM

All women 18 years and older are welcome to join us at the 528 boat launch (under the bridge). PA-528, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 40°57'08.4"N 80°02'26.1"W This will be a moderate to challenging 6 mile out-and-back hike that will take approximately 3 to 4 hours. Please RSVP to Beth Marino at bamjeeep8@yahoo.com so we know you'll be coming.

23

Churchwide Game Night

@6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

All Church Game Night! Open to all ages. Those 18 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Join us in the Life Center. Feel free to bring your favorite game. We will have some available. Bring a friend & a snack to share if you wish!

28

Father's Table

@6:30 PM

A monthly women's fellowship time that encourages holistic growth with Jesus and healthy connection with ourselves and others! Teens are welcome if present with an adult. Usually meets the second Wednesday of each month, but was rescheduled for the 28th due to the 14th being a holiday. Meet us at 6:30pm in the Parlor and bring a dish to share.

For questions or more info call the church office or leaders Connie Gratzner and Trista Regrut.

Table Talk

2/7 & 2/21 ONLY

Dinner: 6:00 PM

Discussion: 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Open to all.

Childcare for those 5th grade and younger.



Childcare Registration for Sunday's 9am Classes

Please email us if you would like this link emailed to you instead. info@northmaincog.org





North Main Street Church of God
1201 North Main Street Ext
Butler, PA 16001-1537



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We are partnering with Meals on Wheels and donating desserts for our local community.
Please bring your desserts to North Main on Sunday, February 25th.

Have the items labeled, packed for the freezer, and in non-returnable containers.

NO ICING, NUTS, OR CREAM PIES

Suggestions:

- Cookies, Brownies, Gingerbread, Muffins, Bundt cakes, Pies, sugar-free desserts

Serve

northmaincog.org/SERVE

We would love to connect with you and have you put your faith into motion!

We are all equipped with talents and skills that we can use to build the church, and serve our community and the world. God made you with a purpose, and serving is a great way to discover it.

What do you think of when you think of serving? Is it going door to door and offering your services? Is it bombarding your neighbors? Is it going on a mission trip with your youth group or church? Or, is it something more than this?

So, how are you serving? Are you serving at all? A true disciple of Christ has committed to serve – it’s a way of life for them. They don’t expect anything in return for their services, they do expect to encounter what Jesus did in his ministry experiences, and they understand that the greatest people in the Kingdom of God are those who serve. *Mark 10:35-45*

To find a place to serve please email us at info@northmaincog.org or visit us at northmaincog.org/serve

Children & Youth

- Nursery
- Preschool
- Elementary
- Youth

Leaders serve once or twice a month and are required to have background checks, sign a leadership covenant, & go through periodic training as necessary for each position.

Special Projects

- Admin
- Tech team
- Care team
- Maintenance
- Luncheons
- Worship
- Visitation team

Periodically there will be a project or team that needs a few extra hands. If you have a gifting in any of these areas we’d love to be able to call you as needed!

Welcome

- Greeter
- Welcome
- Coffee
- Check-in

Welcome those coming into Church on Sunday mornings. Open the door, get coffee for someone, say hello with a smile, and assist in any way possible.