

Pastor Brian's  
Mid Week Message  
October 7, 2020

**"I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS!"**

*He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:24*

Kay and I are going back to see the doctor this afternoon. I'm not looking forward to it as I know what he's going to say. The blood work was done last week, and the doctor's office has already communicated the results to us. Everything is normal...EXCEPT...the cholesterol. Therein lies our problem, my problem. The cholesterol in my blood is above the levels that the medical community thinks that it should be, so I'll be looking to receive a stern warning about what will happen if I don't amend my sinful ways. I assume there will also be the recommendation that medication is necessary to bring these numbers down, but that's a place that I just don't want to go. I wish that my doctor would give me good news instead, that he'd tell me I'm going to die! At least that would convince me that he's being honest (I already believe that he's honest, but that would just seal the deal). Now, you might think that I've gone off my nut, thinking that "you're going to die" is somehow good news. Stay with me here...I can explain. It doesn't take long from the time that you turn on the TV news, or log onto your favorite news website, to figure out that this world is horribly and hopelessly broken. Many people think that we can fix it, but I know that only God can do that, and that at some point in the future He will. In the meantime, we're stuck with it and in it. But that's where death enters the picture. There are only two ways out of this world of abundant suffering and heartache. That's either by the return of Christ in glory to judge the living and the dead and then usher in His eternal Kingdom of glory, or by our physical death. From Genesis chapter 3 we read about man and woman's fall into sin, and the death that comes with it. At the very end of the chapter, verse 24, Adam and Eve are expelled from the Garden of Eden, and God places a mighty angel at the gate to keep them from being able to have access to the tree of life. To you this might sound like punishment, but I see it a great blessing, as an act of mercy. Eating from the tree of life would have kept them, and eventually us, alive indefinitely, even forever if we remain close enough to that tree. But earlier in the chapter (3 that is) God tells them of the difficulty and suffering that they would have to endure in this life because of their sin. Sin is the source of all suffering. Not having access to the tree of life means that this life would at some point end, and with it would end all suffering. Death is the doorway that we step through in order to enter into eternity, where all sin is judged and eliminated. God gave us this doorway while at the same time also the promise that death would not be eternal, that a Savior would come to defeat and destroy the power of sin, death, and the devil. Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise and He did everything that is needed to deliver us from death to eternal life. His perfect life and sacrificial deal satisfy God's wrath against sin and sinners for us and reconcile us to our heavenly Father as His beloved children and heirs of everything He has. This is given to us as a gift of God's mercy and grace, for the sake of Christ, and received by faith. Those of us who receive this gift have the assurance that all suffering will come to an end and we will be delivered to an eternal fate that is beyond our ability to comprehend in terms of its beauty, glory, peace, and joy. There's also an eternal feast promised in the Bible and I'm up for that...a feast that will never elevate my blood cholesterol levels! So, death, bring it on I say! But then again, maybe not today. But if it's God's will that it is today then pray that it happens before I get yelled at by my doctor.