

The Apple of Eden

(Genesis 3:1-5)

- Introduction:
1. I'm sure that most of you have already recognized the assumption made in the title of this sermon.
 2. Nowhere does the Bible say what kind of fruit Adam and Eve partook of, but ask the average person on the street and they will tell you an apple.
 3. In fact, there are more than a few things thought to be found in the Bible but are not.
 4. Let's examine a few.

I. **Morality Saves**

- A. Many feel that if you are a good person you will go to heaven.
- B. However such thinking is just another **"apple of Eden."**
- C. (Acts 10-11) Cornelius.
- D. (John 14:6) Jesus is the only way to the Father.
- E. (Acts 4:12) There is salvation in nobody other than Jesus.
- F. Morality is desirable, but it will not atone for our sins.

II. **There Are Signs Pointing To Jesus' Imminent Return**

- A. We constantly hear people speaking of the **"signs of the times."**
- B. (Matthew 24:1-51).
 1. Two "comings" are spoken of in the passage.
 - a. The destruction of Jerusalem (verses 4-35).
 - b. The end of the world (verses 36-51).
- C. There will be no signs of the second and final return of Jesus (2 Peter 3:10).
- D. While the coming of the Lord certainly is an "eminent" (lofty, notable) event, there is no Scripture that tells us it is an "imminent" event.

III. **One Church Is As Good As Another**

- A. Many people think that what church one is a member of doesn't matter; God loves and blesses all of them.
- B. We must not be self righteous and smug in our denial of this belief.
- C. (Matthew 16:18; Eph. 2:16; 4:4-6) Jesus built one church.
- D. (1 Corinthians 1:10-13) Division is condemned.
- E. A good church and a bad one can only be judged by God's standard, which is His word (John 12:48).

- Conclusion:
1. These are but a few of the many **"apples of Eden."**
 2. This lesson serves as a warning of accepting "man's think-so's" rather than "God's said so's."
 3. Work on developing and maturing in your study of, belief in, proclamation of, and defense of the word of God.