

THE TREE OF LIFE

INTRODUCTION:

We will begin by studying the first church using the following five point outline – Ephesus.

- Salvation to Ephesus (Revelation 2:1a)
- Celebrity of Jesus (Revelation 2:1b)
- Appraisal of church (Revelation 2:2-6)
 - Praise (Revelation 2:2-3, 6)
 - Problem (Revelation 2:4-5)
- Phase II Victory (Revelation 2:7a)
- Phase III Reward (Revelation 2:7b)

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the tree of life as part of the church of Ephesus’ Phase III reward.

“To him who overcomes (tonikao/p.a.ptc dsm) grant (didomi/f.a.ind.) to eat (esihio/a.a.infin.) of (ek + abl/source) the tree (tou zulos) of life (teszoe), which is in the Paradise of God (to paradeisos tou theos).”

1. The tree of life is associated with three types of gardens in the Bible.

- Eden (Genesis 2:8, 9, **16-17**, 3:2-5, 22-24)
- Wisdom (Proverbs 3:18, 11:30, 13:12, – 15:4) Verse 12 talks about tree of life but not Wisdom,
- God (Revelation 2:7, 22:2, 14, 19)

2. In the Garden of Eden, the tree of life was associated with man in a state of innocence (Genesis 2:8-17, 3:2-5, 22-24).

It was one of four trees (Genesis 2:17, 3:24). It produced immortality – the fruit of the tree identifies its name (chayyim/lives). Immortality is a perfect body life. Immortality is to the body what eternal life is to the soul (athanasia).

- 3. As a result of the fall of Adam, immortality and eternal life were lost (Genesis 2:17, 3:23-24).
Eternal life lost (Genesis 2:17).**

Immortality lost (tree of life) (Genesis 3:24). Fallen man is denied access to tree of life.
Unregenerate man is not allowed to have an immortal body with an unsaved soul.

- 4. God in grace provided the tree of Golgatha (cross) to restore eternal life to soul and immortality to body (Romans 5:12-21; John 11:25; 2 Timothy 1:10; Romans 4:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:21-23, 35-58).**

- 5. The tree of life (Eden) will appear again in the Garden of God in eternity (phase III) (Revelation 2:7; 22:2, 14, 19; 2 Corinthians 12:4, 5:8; Philippians 1:23).**

This shows mankind's restored relationship with God on the basis of faith in the grace gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16; Ephesians 2:8-9) [Tree of life; Book of life; Water of life]