

Sunday, March 30, 2014

From the book “The Ministry of Salvation” (13)

## The Consequences of Sin

What are the consequences of sin?

### B. Fear:

After the fall of Adam and Eve in sin, the Holy Scripture said: *“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden”*. When God called Adam and said him: *“Where are you?”* He answered *“I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”* It is obvious that Adam and Eve were used to hearing God’s voice as He walked in paradise, but after the fall sin introduced fear and restlessness inside them. So, man who used to being happy to be with God became afraid of Him and even hid from Him.

### C. Sorrow and pain

As a result of sin, sorrow became a judgment on Eve *“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children”*, and toil became a judgment on Adam: *“Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground.”* Man, who used to live in joy and happiness, now lives in sorrow and pain as a result of falling in sin and be subjected to death and corruption.

### D. The curse of the earth :

The earth was cursed because of Adam’s disobedience *“Cursed is the ground for your sake.”* Before sin, the whole creation was subjected to Adam, as he was the crown of the creation, and Adam was subjected to God. This means that the whole creation was subjected to God through Adam. However, because of Adam’s fall in sin and his disobedience to God, the creation disobeyed man. Hence the earth brought forth thorns and thistles instead of abundance of fruits, also animals started to attack man, and man became afraid of animals.

Thus, the ground became cursed and awaits its renewal as well as St. Paul said: *“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope.”* (Romans 8:19-20). The creation is waiting for its renewal, as it was subjected to “futility”, not by itself “not willingly”, but through Adam its master *“but because of Him who subjected it.”* So the creation waits “in hope”, and expects *“for the revealing of the sons of God.”*

St. Paul explained the consequences of falling in sin for all mankind saying: *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”* (Romans 5:12). This means that with respect to Adam sin happened first, which was disobedience of God’s commandment, and then death and corruption followed. However, with respect to Adam’s offspring, death and corruption was inherited through Adam. Sin then dominated the world and greatly increased due to the separation from God, the source of all goodness and righteousness.

St Athanasius mentioned the same idea: **“That is to say, the presence of the Word with them shielded them even from natural corruption, as also Wisdom says “God created man for incorruption and as an image of His own eternity; but by envy of the devil death entered into the world.” When this happened, men began to die, and corruption ran riot among them and held sway over them to an even more than natural degree, because it was the penalty of which God had forewarned them for transgressing the commandment.”**

Therefore, Adam lost his purity, innocence, and holiness because of his sin. He felt naked, ashamed, afraid, sorrowful, and tired. And the ground was cursed because of him. Thus, the manifestations, and signs of death appeared in him as a consequence to disobeying God. This is how corruption and sin entered and dominated over all of Adam’s offspring.

*Fr. Morcos Daoud*

frmorcosdaoud@yahoo.com

St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Palatine, IL