***Genesis 3:4-6 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.***

This morning, we’re back in Genesis. In Genesis 2, we find God’s first commandment of the man, given in paradise, in the very presence of God. *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”* Adam, you can have all the goodness of the garden, you can stand in the Presence of the Creator of the Universe, but obey Me and do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In Genesis 3:4, we read - *Then the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die.* Enter the serpent, more cunning than any beast of the field, and that includes the man and the woman. Notice that doubt is his chosen weapon, using confusion to call God’s commandment into question. He sows the doubt and, when he sees it taking root, he pounces and lies about the only One that is completely trustworthy in this life. God said, “You will surely die” The serpent says, “You will not surely die”.

That is the greatest, most deceitful lie ever told. You will not surely die. It impacts everything in our lives. And so many are deceived, investing in this world as though they’ll never die, waiting to serve God as though they’ll never die, waiting to give their life to Jesus, as though they’ll never die. But God is trustworthy and we will all give a physical death one day. We mustn’t treat our relationship with God as though the serpent is right. The integrity of our relationship with the Almighty demands that we reject the serpent’s lie, taking our focus from this world and placing it fully on eternity – laying up treasure in heaven, denying ourselves on earth.

Verse 5 *For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.* God gave this command to spare His children the pain we live daily. But hear what the serpent is offering. Temptation – You will be like God! Satan knows that temptation is the express lane to sin. He sows doubt of the Goodness of God. He causes Eve to wonder if God has been hiding the good stuff all along… yet, the only thing gained in that fateful bite, the only thing gained in that moment of giving in to temptation is – Evil, Pain, Death. Man and woman didn’t recognize Good, because they were in the garden, in the middle of God’s creation which He had pronounced Very Good!

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the Gospels, Jesus trusted His Father, never letting the temptation take hold, never allowing doubt to enter in, but resting fully in the Goodness and Truth of God’s promises. Satan couldn’t promise Jesus – You will be like God, because Jesus was God. Instead, he tempted Him with earthly desires.

We too must be prepared to battle using scripture and prayer, trusting in the Goodness of God. Rest assured - Nothing here will benefit us there, except the treasures we lay up there by the worship and service of God that we do here.

Verse 6 *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.* Eve is deceived. She falls for the temptation of this world. She sees the tree is good for food – Lust of the Flesh. That it was pleasant to the eye – Lust of the Eyes. And desirable to make one wise – Pride of Life. 1 John 2:16-17 - *For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.* ***17****And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.* She ate. She then gives to her husband and he eats. Relationship is broken, sin enters in, but it all started with doubt and a lie breaking the trust between God and His creation – you will not surely die.

Many are deceived, allowing desire for worldly pleasure and pride of self to drown out the voice of God. Denying we are here for only a short time. Satan works tirelessly to erode the trust in God, questioning the goodness of God’s commands. Last week, we left Adam and Eve hiding among the trees, broken and separated by sin. Nothing was or is gained by giving into temptation but separation from the God that loves us.

This week, let’s consider the fact that, barring the Rapture, all will surely die. Don’t believe the lie. Where is our focus? Are we living as though there’s always tomorrow and more time to seek God? Or are we trusting in God fully, laying our time, talents, and resources before Him, and serving as though today may be our last day? You will surely die or you will not surely die – the life we are living tells which we believe?