

# *The Tree of Life*

Genesis 2:9 - And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The **tree of life** was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In today's fast paced world we are constantly told that knowledge is power and that knowledge is the key to success. Knowledge has driven the world. We see it every day through the ongoing innovations and discoveries that are being made by scientists, inventors and technologists. We see knowledge used by rich and powerful men to gain more riches and power and often to oppress others. Our schools tell us that being lifelong learners is critical and our institutions of higher learning focus on knowledge and the application of that knowledge. Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge and the fruit of that tree continues to this day because God's creations bear much fruit.

Consider what the world might be like had they instead eaten of the tree of life. The fruit of that tree would have continued to this day as well. Thankfully we would not have obtained some of the knowledge we have now and we would have a more full and complete life! Adam and Eve surrendered a pain free life of peace and safety and traded it for knowledge of good and evil. The world has suffered every day since then.

Had they eaten of the tree of life instead, the world would not have the suffering, shame, fear and trials it has. There would be no knowledge of evil, no sin, no punishment, no death! We would still have direct access to God as he walked with us. Adam and Eve surrendered more than a pain free and everlasting life. They surrendered access to the giver of life and access to the paradise of God.

The Most High God has not left us destitute of hope. The tree of life is still alive! Jesus came and died for our sins so that we could once again take hold of the fruit of the tree of life. It is only through him that we can partake of this other most delectable of God's trees. In our lives we will pursue knowledge, but never let us pursue knowledge without simultaneously and with greater zeal pursuing life.

Revelations 2:7 - He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers **I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God!**