GROUNDS OF FAITH CAFÉ: "Genesis" (Subtitled: Is there a snake in your Garden too?) Further subtitled: Lessons from the Garden! <u>Lesson 5</u>. (Gen 3:13-4:1)

Introduction: Last week we read Gen 3:1-13 with an objective of drawing lessons from what we read. This week we will look at God's punishment meted out because of man's rebellion.

Explanatory overview: The framework of chapters 2-3, as Professor Rick Marrs notes in his book, *Embracing the Call of God*, p. 44, remains in force. It strongly suggests reading chapters 2 & 3 together to get its integrated message. As we have seen previously, the progression reveals:

(A) "This is the account (generations)…" (2:4)
(B) The field is unworked – no one to till the ground (2:5-6)
(C) Humanity is given life & installed in the Garden (2:7-17)
(D) The man prefers human companionship over beasts (2:18-22)
(E) The man calls his companion "woman" (2:23)
(F) Summary – "therefore a man leaves… (2:24)
(G) Human couple is "naked and not ashamed" (2:25)
(H) Serpent promises – "eyes will be opened" (3:1-5)
(I) Transgression (3:6) [*Fulcrum or turning Point*]
(H). The couple's "eyes are opened" (3:7a)
(G) The couple experiences shame (3:7b-10)
(F) Summary – "For you are dust" (3:19b)
(E) The man calls his companion "Eve" (life-bearer) (3:20)
(D) The man & woman wear skins of beasts (3:21)
(C) Humans are expelled from the Garden and denied immortality (3:22-24)
(B) Field work begins (3:23b)
(A) The birth of a child completes one generation (4:1)

Read: Genesis 3:13-4:1 completely through. While you read, pay particular attention to verses 14-19 that describe who or what God punishes and what the punishments are. Note God's amazing act of grace in 3:20-21 and 4:1. Finally, think about what God does in 3:22-24.

- **Re-read 3:14-15. Why does God "curse" the serpent? What does the "curse" consist of? What happens to the relationship between humanity and the serpent as a consequence of the serpent's actions?**

- **Re-read 3:16. Who is punished by God? What does the punishment consist of? Does Scripture say this is a "curse"?**

- **Re-read 3:17-19. Who or what is "cursed" by God? According to verse 3:17, why is the "curse" placed where God places it? What specific punishment is meted out by God to Adam?**

- **Re-read 3:20-21 and 4:1. What does God do in spite of humanity's rebellion? What lesson, if any, do you draw as a consequence of God's action?**

- **Re-read 3:22-24. What additional punishment is meted out by God to humanity? Now read Revelation 21:1-4 and 22:1-5. What change(s) are in store for God's creation?**

- **Key question: As a consequence of humanity's actions in chapter 3, in what ways have the relationships depicted in chapters 1 & 2 (God/man; man/man (woman); mankind/animals) changed? Do you think they can be changed back? If so, how?**