

Sun., Dec. 18, 2011

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## **Scripture**

Genesis 3:8-15

<sup>8</sup>They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

<sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

## **Devotional**

Paul Tillich interprets the fall of the first humans as an event that occurs for every human being, as he or she emerges from the simplicity of early life into adolescence and adulthood. Accordingly the shame and fear of Adam and Eve hiding belongs to everyone's story. In a certain sense the attitude of sinful human being is always one of concealment, even double concealment, as in the tale of the stolen apples: God knows but he doesn't tell. But in concealment judgment is despised and hated, and the darkness of sin clouds over all thought and doing. The light of Christ shines in the darkness, the light of love, of acceptance, of the justification of the sinner. In Christ we know the end and purpose of God's judgments, which is not that we must obey, but that we may and even can obey, so that we may and can live in truth.

## **Prayer**

Lord, may your light shine anew, may truth dawn brightly, may your love heal the sickness of all shame and fear. Amen.