

T 6

questions of the accuracy of God's command and questions of the goodness of God. Has God put you in this wonderful garden with all these fine things around and said you mustn't eat any of it? Here's all this goodness here and you mustn't touch it? It is just forbidden you. Many people have that idea of the Christian life, that the Christian life is a life in which you simply have to abstain from all the good things of this world, and that, of course, is utterly contrary to the teaching of the Scripture. The teaching of the Scripture is that in the Christian life you must abstain from many things which the world thinks are good and which may look good to you and which may even have that in/some of them which is good, but which are--some are actually evil and others are certainly evil in comparison with the far greater good that God wants you to have and that God has offered you and desires should be yours. The Christian life is a life in which all the trees of the garden are available to you except the one specific one which God has forbidden for your own good, and so here the serpent comes to the woman as he comes to many a Christian in college who finds himself cut off from much/of his associates in college because of his Christian principles, and he asks what kind of a God is this you've got; what kind of a religion is this that you've got that makes you lose out on all the good things of life, and he says to her, "Is this true, that God has said you mustn't eat of any of the trees of the garden?" and the woman immediately begins to think about it. Is God such a bad one as this, that He is restricting His creatures and forbidding them that which is good, and the woman says, "We know we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God said, 'Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die'". Neither shall ye touch it. Now it probably wouldn't be a good thing for her to go up and keep touching that fruit and touching it and touching it; it would keep impressing on her mind, "Now wouldn't it be nice just to take a taste of it and see whether it tastes as bad as ?" but this, so far as