



“ HEBREWS 11:4

“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts”



EXPLANATION OF MEMORY VERSE

Abel’s sacrifice was more excellent because it was what God wanted. It involved FAITH and BLOOD! God looked on Abel as being righteous because of what he offered by faith. God gave Abel assurance. Throughout the Bible, God gave assurance by sending down fire to consume the sacrifices.



THEME OF LESSON

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.



PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Acceptance by God only comes through doing what pleases Him. No matter how logical or reasonable another option may seem, it will not be accepted.



BACKGROUND OF LESSON

This first family must have known a definite place for worship. Cain had a form of godliness and religion, but denied the power of God (2Tim.3:5). Abel didn’t trust in himself, but a replacement. There are only two religions in the world...

1. One which trusts and depends on “good works” and self righteousness
2. The other which trusts and depends on the blood and finished work of Christ alone

I. Two Sons (Gen.4:1,2)

- A. Cain was the first born of Adam and Eve. His name means Acquired.
 1. Eve thought she had acquired the promised seed of (Gen.3:15), but she was wrong!
 2. Cain was a tiller of the ground and is identified with the cursed earth.
 3. The first birth cannot please God (Rom.5:12). You must have a second birth! (Jn.3:3-7).
- B. Abel was the second born of Adam and Eve. His name means Vapor.
 1. Abel reminds us of how life is short like a vapor (James 4:14).
 2. Abel was a shepherd of sheep and is identified with life, which God created.
 3. This reminds us of the second birth, which is spiritual. It is this birth which pleases God.

II. Two Offerings (Gen.4:3-5)

- A. We assume that Cain and Abel’s parents taught them about (Gen.3:21). They knew that the wages of sin was death, and a blood sacrifice was necessary to approach God. They would have heard this from Adam and Eve (Rom.10:17), and it was time to approach God with faith and blood (Heb.11:6) (Heb.9:22).
 1. Cain brought things he had grown from the ground. It was not accepted by God. Was it



because the things Cain grew were bad? Was it because God doesn't like things grown from the ground? Was it because Cain was a worse sinner than Abel? Do you remember what God's requirements were? He came "the way of Cain" and not the way of God (Prov.14:12). He was putting faith in what he had done. He may have been sincere and believed what he was doing was right, but he was sincerely wrong.

2. Abel brought the best of his lambs as an offering. Abel knew what God required because of the past dealings with his parents. The fig leaves from the ground were not accepted as a sin covering. It would take the life and blood of an innocent lamb. Abel had faith (trust) in the sacrificial substitute. God accepted Abel's sacrifice and gave witness to it.
"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts" (Heb.11:4).

B. God would often send fire to consume offerings (Lev.9:24) (1Kings 18:38) (2Chron.7:1).

1. Today, when a person puts faith in Christ for salvation, God doesn't send down fire to consume them. God sends the Holy Spirit to give witness that they have been accepted (1Jn.5:10) (Rom.8:16).
2. We too should be consumed with God! Every thought, word, step, prayer, and action ought to be about Him and for His glory.

III. Two Paths (Gen.4:5-15)

- A. As a result of God rejecting Cain's offering, Cain became full of wrath and anger. God tried to encourage Cain to do right and be accepted (Is.1:18). He was given a second chance to bring a blood sacrifice like Abel did. If he didn't repent, God warned that sin would take over his life.
 1. Sin will take over our lives if we don't repent. It is always standing at the door.
 2. Repentance is a change of mind, heart, spirit, and direction.
- B. Cain decided to follow the devil's path (Jn.8:44). He had too much pride to follow in his brother's footsteps (Job 41:34).
 1. Cain destroyed the righteous and went his own way (Jude 11) (1Jn.3:12).
 2. Pride usually involves REBELLION and INDEPENDENCE.
- C. After Cain murdered Abel, God placed a curse on Cain.
 1. He would no longer be a success with the ground.
 2. He would become a fugitive and vagabond.
 3. Still, God protected Cain from others who would want to kill him. How gracious of God.
 4. Cain willingly went off from God to become a city dweller.
- D. We have a choice to make.
 1. Do what is pleasing to the Lord.
 2. Do what you want and run away mad, sad, and afraid.
- E. When we are feeling like Cain, we must ask ourselves the same questions God asked...
 1. Why art thou wroth? [This comes from jealousy and envy]
 2. Why is thy countenance fallen? [We get sad and depressed when we don't please God]
 3. What hast thou done? [Our actions will affect our fellowship with others and God]