**Bible Class Notes – Cain and Abel - Lesson 9**

***Living Away From God.***

***For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.* Romans 3 v23**

Teaching Notes

Last week we saw Adam and Eve Fall into Sin.

Theirs was the Original Sin of Unbelief.

They took more notice of Satan than they did of God.

By disobeying God’s One Rule they lost their beautiful relationship of close communion with their Creator.

They were thrown out of the Garden of Eden.

Work would now be much harder. Thorns and thistles.

Death came in- Physical and Spiritual.

God showed them that they must approach Him with an animal sacrifice and humbly worship Him with repentance.

Importantly, for us, we inherit their Fallen State.

We are born with Original Sin in our souls which separates us from having a close fellowship with God.

This week we learn from Genesis the consequences of sin where pride, jealousy, anger, and hatred led to murder and to the awful judgement of God.

**The Terrible Consequences of Sin - Now and For Eternity.**

**The Situation After Adam and Eve Sinned: -**

They lost their Eternal Peace & Fellowship with their Creator God.

The World has since groaned in sin under God’s curse.

2

We must accept that we have inherited Adam’s fallen nature of rebellion and unbelief.

As descendants of Adam, we naturally reject God.

God placed His Law into their consciences, (and so in ours), – showing them the need for animal sacrifices as a reminder that the wages of sin is death, and that God would send a Saviour to die for sin in due time.

Of One who would die to take punishment for their sin.

So, Adam taught Cain and Abel to look to the coming of THE SEED, (The Lord Jesus Christ), (Genesis 3v15),

and bring an animal sacrifice to God with repentant hearts.

The sacrifice was to be a lamb, perfect.

**Cain’s Gift and Offering – Rejected by God: -**

Cain did not follow God’s instructions –

He invented his own offering.

He gave it with pride –

In the wrong spirit – To impress, to show off. VA

Without Repentance – he offered his own work seeking to earn God’s favour. VA

He expected to qualify for a reward. VA

He was enraged when God rejected him.

**Abel’s Gift and Offering – Accepted by God: -**

Abel followed God’s instructions fully – VA

He knew that an animal sacrifice was required.

He did not invent his own way.

He came humbly, obediently, repentant – knowing sin deserves the punishment of death. VA

He sacrificed a perfect lamb. VA

Looking in faith to God’s future provision of a Saviour – The Lord Jesus – The Lamb of God. VA

He expected forgiveness for his sin.

Abel’s faith was accounted to him for righteousness. Hebrews 11v4.

**3**

**Cain’s sinful reaction –**

**See how one sin so quickly led to another: -**

Firstly, Cain’s Pride – He knew he should bring an animal to sacrifice. He had been taught this by Adam.

He did not have one of his own as his brother Abel was the shepherd.

But he could and should have asked Abel for one.

He thought, *“Surely, my own produce, the work of my hands, given as an offering would be acceptable to God.”*

After all, he had worked hard to grow these things.

They had cost him a lot of toil and effort.

Surely God would recognise the work that he had put in.

Cain’s sin of Pride led him to the sin of Jealousy.

He saw that Abel’s offering had been accepted by God.

He was jealous of Abel.

He could have asked Abel what was needed to gain acceptance with God. What must I do to be saved?

I am sure that Abel would have told him.

Instead of realising the mistake he had made by proudly bringing the work of his own hands he should have decided to bring a lamb, as God had directed.

After all, that is what Abel had done. He was accepted.

But something was missing. He did not show repentance.

Even if he had brought a lamb, God would still have rejected his sacrifice because it was without repentance.

Note, how his sin gets worse.

Cain’s sins of Pride, and Jealousy led him to the sin of Anger.

Anger towards Abel, and Anger towards God.

Are you angry when God calls you a sinner?

Beware – Never show Anger towards God.

Cain even rejected God’s kind words of corrective advice. No repentance.

**4**

*Genesis 4v6, The Lord said unto Cain, “Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.”*

*God said to Cain: -*

*“If thou doest well”.*

“If you do the right thing, (obey and do what I tell you), and bring an animal sacrifice to Me with repentance in your heart, I will accept you.”

*“And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.”*

Cain, you are responsible for your response.

Disobedience is sin and will incur My wrath.

But Cain did not listen to God.

Are we like Cain?

Do we refuse to listen to God and obey Him?

You often hear the Gospel call to come to Jesus Christ humbly, obediently, in repentance and faith.

What is your response? Rejection or Acceptance VA

Cain’s sins of Pride, Jealousy, and Anger led him to the sin of Hatred.

Hatred towards Abel, and Hatred towards God.

Beware – Never show Hatred towards God.

We may not have hatred towards God in our heart, but do we hold Him in contempt?

Contempt. *The feeling that a person or a thing is worthless or beneath our consideration.*

The situation was now moving very quickly to a very serious conclusion.

Eventually Cain’s sins of Pride, Jealousy, Anger, and Hatred led him to the sin of Murder.

See how one sin leads to another.

Cain, rather than repent and come to God with an acceptable sacrifice, murdered his brother Abel.

5

**We must ask ourselves –**

**“Who am I like? Cain or Abel?”**

Does sinful Pride lead us to Jealousy, to Anger, and to Hatred?

Are we content to continue living in our sin, away from God?

OR

Do we recognise our sinfulness?

Do we come humbly, God’s way,

with heartfelt repentance? –

Looking for, and finding, His forgiveness.

Cain had remorse – Deep regret for his sin.

He felt sorry for himself.

But this was not Repentance towards God.

True Penitence (repentance) implies sad and humble realisation of and sincere regret towards God for one's sin.

God’s forgiveness and absolution is dependent upon our sincere penitence, sincere repentance.

Cain foolishly rejected God’s offer of forgiveness.

Yet, God said, in His kindness and mercy, that He would judge anyone who attacked Cain.

God has graciously provided the Remedy for Sin: -Planned in eternity past,

He has sent His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ – VA

The ‘Lamb of God’ to die as our substitute on Calvary. Taking the full punishment for the guilt of all our sin,

and to give us His Righteousness.

The Lord Jesus Christ is God’s Acceptable and Complete Sacrifice for Sin - Once, and for All Time.

There is no other way.

Ask yourself, “Did He die to save me?”

“Has He been punished in my place on the cross?”

We must look to the Saviour in faith as we cannot save ourselves.

**6**

**The Apostle Paul wrote, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”.***  **Romans 6v23**

Important Lesson for us today:

There are always consequences for our sin.

These affect us, and others, in this life.

But our sin also has eternal consequences for our soul.

There is no such thing as a ‘little’ sin, as all sin, (whether by thought, by word or by act,) is abhorrent to God.

As we have seen, one sin always leads to another, and it is so easy to become unconcerned about our sin that we soon grow into habitual, hardened sinners.

To understand the awfulness of sin, consider what it cost The Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ, to die on Calvary as our substitute, bearing the wrath of The Father for the guilt of our sins, so that we might be forgiven, receive His righteousness, and be accepted by God into Eternal Heaven. What a price was paid?

Does this move your soul?

Did Christ die to save you?

Do not go the Way of Cain.

Remember Abel’s faith was accounted unto him for righteousness. Hebrews 11v4

Cain lost all hope of Eternal Life. Will you?

Doctrine.

1. Warnings against the Worldly Church.
2. Salvation is only through faith alone in the shed blood of the Saviour. Not of works.
3. We must follow the principles of God’s Word: -
   1. True Gospel Preaching – Repentance, The Cross
   2. Worship – Fully reverent. No worldly introductions