



The Good of Cain

“And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain... And she again bare his brother Abel.” Gen. 4:1-2

As Cain and Abel grew they were instructed regarding the sacrifice that was to be offered for their sins. Abel is obedient to the Word of God and by faith offers an animal sacrifice for his sins. Cain chooses another way, a way that rejects God’s Word. Cain believed that something other than the blood sacrifice could atone for sin. God accepts Abel and declares him righteous, but God rejects Cain’s way and called his works evil.

The following illustrates the way that Cain took, a way that rejects God, a way that leads to the murder of his brother, a way that leads to being cast out by God.

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The Good of Cain

There was a time that God did create, it was man and woman He did make. So it was in a garden many years ago, Adam and Eve first walked to and fro.

But this paradise of theirs had no long span. For they sinned and ate of the forbidden fruit, thus the knowledge of “good” and “evil” was awakened in the heart of man. This the Lord had sought to spare, but it was not to be, for death was found in that cursed tree. The Lord knew that the fruit, whether “good” or “evil”, had only one terrible end, death to all men. Death to men and all about, was the result of that tree with its wicked sprout. Men today would be wise to say, that the “evil” as well as the “good” they do today are both rejected by God, as it was in the garden in that day.

This fruit instilled the false wisdom that man could do “good” and be all right. That our “good” would and could merit eternal life. This was such the lie, that in man did arise. So it was that in Cain this wicked wisdom did play, as it does in all the hearts of men, even up to this day.

For Cain was a “good” man who knew God. Cain’s heart did know “evil” and that “evil” was wrong. But the “good” in Cain was very strong. Cain did think if he tried hard enough, he would rid himself of the evil, and appease the

justice of God with this “good” deal. Cain therefore sought to show God just how “good” he could be.

Cain took to the ground that God had cursed, it was here that Cain would seek to prove his goodness in spite of God’s curse. For night and day Cain did toil, ever working preparing the soil. He did ready just the right seeds, watering the ground waiting for the “good” fruit to spring. Cain refused all evils, evils that others did ply. Not for Cain was evil to be, no, not for he. He subdued the evil in his heart, the evil that creeps into the minds of men and causes them to depart. For Cain gave himself wholly to his “good”, never tiring, never removed. Cain perfected his “good” like none else could. Permitted to grow was no weed or briar, ever watchful was Cain, for he would never tire. To physical exhaustion he would work, producing the best his “good” could, and supplying all it took.

As each day passed, Cain would see his “good” taking form, with delight and glee. Cain would shame those about, for none could match the home grown “good” as Cain did spout. For other “good” Cain did say, was not as perfect as my “good” today. For Cain worked and toiled more than the rest, and he gave not into jest. But rather laboring himself the most, in

perfecting the host. As the days went by, Cain began to be taken with pride. Pride in his “good”, pride in his labor; for the “good” of Cain could none match such favor.

Finally the day arrived, a day where Cain would show all just how “good” Cain had thrived. On his way to meet the Lord, Cain’s heart was lifted in pride. He said to himself with a magnificent smile, finally all my “good” will be rewarded in just a short while. For who else worked and labored as I, who else forsook the evil as I, for who else has such fruit as mine. This fruit is proof, that only one who is truly “good”, one who has been “good” could produce. He could not wait to see God’s face, to show his “good” fruit on that day in that place.

Upon the offering mount he did arrive, Cain saw Abel, there with his lamb; small yet alive. Cain knew that God had said bring a lamb, but what labor and toil and work was there in a lamb. What evil was resisted and refused in bringing a lamb. No, when God would see all the work that went into Cain’s “good” fruit, God would take hold of the “good” in Cain and the lamb refute. For the lamb can not compare with all the self discipline that the “good” fruit did bare. Oh, Cain could not wait to see the Lord on this date. Cain’s fruit had such savor,

only a man dedicated to “good” could have created such a bountiful savior.

Cain watched as Abel placed the lonely lamb, the lamb that took no work. The lamb that an evil person could bring, a lamb that did not know “good”, on the altar to God Abel placed his offering. With the lamb on the altar Cain looked at his fruit and compared it to the lamb; to him his fruit was the more grand. How and why would God ask for such a weak offering? How could “good” be shown in a lamb and worthiness of acceptance in this land? With these thoughts in hand Cain beheld, as the fire of God did descend from heaven above and to earth it felled. White with light and fervent with heat, the flames engulfed the lamb, for the lamb was accepted, taken wholly and sweet. The Lord was pleased with the lamb and Abel left a justified man.

Not to be outdone, his brother did Cain walk by, with a gleam in his eye. Cain did put his best, the “good” fruit on the altar to God, surely it would pass the test. God may have accepted Abel’s lamb, but just wait until God sees me and what I could be. The fruit of all my “good” works is now at hand. Cain put the “good” fruit on that altar, taking great care and in just the right order. The moment had finally come, when Cain would be praised for the “good” he

had done. With evil suppressed, Cain did to God offer his best. Filled with pride Cain stepped aside and spread his hands toward the sky. With a prayer he called upon God to look at him and come nigh.

The sky did not change, nor did the clouds part way for God's wondrous fire that day. Silence echoed loud as Cain prayed again. Maybe, thought Cain, God was taking His time, so pleased must God be, He must be thinking of something special for me. As time stood still Cain's patience grew nil. The minutes moved by as Cain stood by. The sky grew dark as the sun began to set. Cain watched the heavens as a thought did meet. Maybe, just maybe, God did not have respect.

The thought grew in his mind with the passing of time. But how could this be? How could God reject this splendid "good" fruit of me? Cain's voice did rise, louder and louder Cain did cry. Calling for God then demanding He come down and see the "good" of Cain which he grew from the ground. As Cain did scream in the air, his heart did rage. Cain's face did contort as his fist did shake. What kind of God would not be pleased with this "good" fruit which I have placed? What kind of God would reject an offering for sin which I did make. Only a God who is cruel and mean would have

no respect unto me. Only a God who does care, or one who can not bear, that I am as good as He.

It was then the sky did break, but not for fire did the clouds take shape. For God's voice did speak, it spake to Cain.

“Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen? If thou does well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”

Cain's mind did fill with rage, for what is this that God did just say? “Sin lieth at the door.” This cannot be. Did God just say that my sin is not covered and I am still at bay? Has not my good removed all my sin? Who is God that He may judge me and all that is within? Who is God that he can accept or reject I, Cain? Who is God to tell me I am wrong, for my sin is but small, to the point of none at all. My “good” has swelled in me, and I say I am pleased. God is wrong in judging me. I will take my “good” fruit and leave this God behind. I do not need this God to judge my sin, for I say I have no need of Him.

Thus it was that Cain left that day, not to return for his “good” lead him another way. Cain's

“good” had taken root deep within his soul, a soul with no need of God’s lamb, for Cain’s “good” fruit started to take its toll. Cain’s heart did love the “good”, a “good” that Cain did say was worthy to be praised.

Not far away Cain did see one who felt that the “good” was not what Cain thought it to be. For Abel, his brother had not said that Cain’s “good” fruit was better than the lamb whose blood was shed. No, for Abel would not of the “good” fruit claim, but instead said that Cain was to be blamed. This did Cain grow to hate, his brother who did not praise the “good” fruit from which Cain ate.

It was in a field that they met in times past. The “good” of Cain did set fast, on Abel who caused such pain. Cain’s “good” did lay claim, that God was to blame. For Cain was righteous in his own sight. But to this did Abel reply, that if God did reject then Cain must accept, and set aside the “good” fruit and take a lamb, so Cain would be righteous in God’s own eyes. Cain could not bear, for who is Abel to judge me, how he dare! It was then that the “good” in Cain’s mind did take shape, this brother of mine needs must die for rejecting my pride. For my “good” is my god, and to him will I serve, all those who stand against my god must be killed. To the “good” fruit Abel will not bow,

so he must die and the time is now.

It was with pride that Cain's hand did rise. It was to save the "good" fruit that Cain's hand did strike, and start that evil fight. The "good" in Cain did cause the blood of Abel to fall. His blood to be shed for he must die, that the "good" fruit may thrive. With each blow Cain did pound his brother back down to the ground. Who dare stand against my "good" fruit, who dare say I am wrong! And with this Cain's last fist did struck, and Abel's life was plucked. Cain did slay his brother that day, for to the "good" fruit Abel would not obey.

Good did Cain say as he sat there that day, the "good" fruit is saved. So it was that the "good" in Cain did slay that day, the brother who to the "good" fruit would not praise. The "good" fruit did shed blood, the "good" of Cain did lead him to kill. For death does not only come from "evil", but also from "good" when it has had its fill.

So it is in the hearts of men today, where "good" and "evil" reign. Both rejected of God but praised by men in vain, like it was with Cain. For the way of Cain is large and wide, for its' fruit draws many to its' side. But in the end God will say, your fruit I do not want, I do not want it on this day. And God will cast off those

who in their “good” fruit put their trust, and send them to the lake which burns with fire He must. What do you chose, the lamb of God unto righteousness and life, or the fruit which leads to death and strife?

For the lamb, you see, is Christ, who died for you and me. For Christ did come to earth and sea, so that He may die upon that cursed tree. And with His blood that was bled, we can now put our faith in Him, because for us was His blood shed. Your “good” fruit lay aside and come and stand with the one who is alive. For Christ did ascend, from the depths of deaths bend. And now He stands offering eternal life to all those who will believe in the blood of the one who hung on the tree. Our debt to God must be paid, for by Him we’re all made. The choice is yours, yours alone. Be not like unto Cain, whose “good” did kill, but be unto Abel who by faith claimed the lamb, with whom God is thrilled.

God's Word to You.

“Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. As it is written, There is none righteous no not one. And this is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

Rom. 1:3, 3:23, 3:10, I Tim. 1:15, Rom 5:6, 5:8, 3:25, Eph. 1:7, 2:8&9, Rom. 3:28

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and that His blood was shed for your sins and that He rose from the dead to offer you eternal life. When you trust in this you will be saved.

Amen

Hopefully you have placed your trust in Jesus Christ as your Saviour. This is the most important decision that you will make.

MORE INFORMATION

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by fellow members of the Body of Christ at the
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The Bible speaks in Jude 11 about the “way of Cain”. This “way” is an evil path that Cain walked and that others follow to this day. It is a path set by a disobedient spirit of pride and rebellion to the word of Almighty God.

God required the obedience of faith from Cain and Abel. Cain refused to bring the blood sacrifice that God had instructed him to bring and instead brought his own evil works!

Heb. 11:4, “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous...”

I John 3:12, “Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous.”

The “way of Cain” can never please God. Man’s efforts, his own works and religion, will never save him. Salvation is always by the obedience of faith.

Faith in the shed blood of Christ on the cross is what will save you and make you fit to be in God’s presence.

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