

THE GOOD GIFT OF TRUE WORSHIP
Genesis 4 CSB

The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, "I have had a male child with the LORD's help."² She also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground.³ In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the LORD.⁴ And Abel also presented an offering—some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,⁵ but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent.⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent?"⁷ If you do what is right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's guardian?"¹⁰ Then he said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground!"¹¹ So now you are cursed, alienated from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood you have shed.¹² If you work the ground, it will never again give you its yield. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."¹³ But Cain answered the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear!"¹⁴ Since you are banishing me today from the face of the earth, and I must hide from your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, whoever finds me will kill me."¹⁵ Then the LORD replied to him, "In that case, whoever kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." And he placed a mark on Cain so that whoever found him would not kill him.¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Genesis 4:1-16 (CSB)

1. We can worship SOMETHING DUSTY.

Cain was intimate with his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain became the builder of a city, and he named the city Enoch after his son.¹⁸ Irad was born to Enoch, Irad fathered Mehujael, Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech.¹⁹ Lamech took two wives for himself, one named Adah and the other named Zillah.²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the first of the nomadic herdsmen.²¹ His brother was named Jubal; he was the first of all who play the lyre and the flute.²² Zillah bore Tubal-cain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools. Tubal-cain's sister was Naamah.

Genesis 4:17-22 (CSB)

Lamech said to his wives: Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, pay attention to my words. For I killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me.²⁴ If Cain is to be avenged seven times over, then for Lamech it will be seventy-seven times!

Genesis 4:23-24 (CSB)

"True worship must be what God will receive, not merely what we want to give."

Tony Evans

2. We can worship SOMETHING DIVINE.

Adam was intimate with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, for she said, "God has given me another offspring in place of Abel, since Cain killed him."²⁶ A son was born to Seth also, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.

Genesis 4:25-26 (CSB)

... son of Cainan, son of Arphaxad, son of Shem, son of Noah, son of Lamech,³⁷ son of Methuselah, son of Enoch, son of Jared, son of Mahalalel, son of Cainan,³⁸ son of Enos, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God.

Luke 3:36-38 (CSB)

Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 10:28 (CSB)

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in him.⁶ If we say, "We have fellowship with him," and yet we walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth.⁷ If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.⁸ If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰ If we say, "We have not sinned," we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹ My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous one.² He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.

1 John 1:5-2:2 (CSB)

Therefore God delivered them over in the desires of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves.²⁵ They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.

Romans 1:24-25 (CSB)

"But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth."

John 4:23-24 (CSB)