

Homework for September 5 and 6:

1. Read Genesis 4.1-16.

Re-read our definition for Grace:

Grace can be seen as God's movement towards the sinner-saint; action that manifests as unmerited kindness towards the sinner-saint.

(\*Remember\* Kindness plays out more specifically than favor; kindness is specific blessings pertaining to the individual and the specific season they're in.)

Keeping this definition in mind, are you seeing any instances of Grace that you hadn't seen before?

2. Write Genesis 3.15 here:

Write Genesis 4.1 here:

In Genesis 3.15 God is promising offspring to Adam and Eve; keeping this in mind, who do you think Eve thinks she has just given birth to?

What kind of childhood do you think Cain had if Adam and Eve had this expectation of Cain?

3. Read 1 Samuel 16.7, Hebrews 11.4, and Hebrews 11.6. Why wasn't Cain's sacrifice pleasing to the Lord?

4. Write Genesis 4.6 and 4.9 here:

What is God doing in this portion of Scripture?

Why does God ask questions?

Has there ever been a time God has laid a question or questions on your heart? What was the outcome?

5. Write Genesis 4.10 here:

Write Hebrews 12.24 here:

Which of these verses speaks of redemption and which of these verses speaks of condemnation?

6. Incorporate Psalm 119.132 into your prayer time this week:

*Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name.*

September 5 and 6, 2023: God's Grace to Cain, 4.1-22

I. Events from The Fall and the Impact on Cain and Abel:

A. Promise of a Messiah:

Genesis 3.15:

*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*"

The offspring of Adam and Eve will bring about a Savior that saves them from their sin, saves others from their sin, and will one day reverse the curse that saturates the world.

What do you think Eve hoped for as she held Cain?

What do you think she expected of Cain?

B. When sin is introduced into the world we get:

- spiritual pride
- anger
- jealousy
- murder

There's not a gradual build-up or ascension over several generations; it consumes, rather than slowly advances onto humanity.

C. Sin has significant implications on humanity:

- Sin always leads to death
- Blood atones for sin
- God would cover them with a garment but it would come from the life of another

II. The Old Testament points to Jesus Christ:

- Sacrifices that point to a Better, Perfect, and Final Sacrifice (Jesus Christ)
- Festivals and ceremonies that point to Jesus Christ
- Hundreds of prophecies that need to be fulfilled

III. Definitions:

A. Grace: Grace can be seen as God's movement towards the sinner-saint; action that manifests as unmerited kindness\* towards the sinner-saint (\*kindness is specific to the individual and the specific season they're in).

B. Faith: Trust and dependency on Another; without any reliance on self or human efforts or works.

Faith is a response; faith trusts the offer extended in Grace.

New Testament Saints look back in Faith to Christ's finished work; Old Testament saints looked forward in Faith to Christ's finished work.

Genesis 4.1-22:

**4.1** Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." **2** And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. **3** In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, **4** and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, **5** but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. **6** The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? **7** If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

**8** Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. **9** Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" **10** And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. **11** And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. **12** When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." **13** Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. **14** Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." **15** Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. **16** Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

**17** Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. **18** To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. **19** And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. **20** Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell

*in tents and have livestock. 21 His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. 22 Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.*

- i. Adam and Eve were certain to evangelize their children to the God they once walked with and they certainly told their children of His immeasurable Grace.
- ii. The focus is on Cain and Abel; Abel is a keeper of sheep and Cain is a worker of the ground (a shepherd and a farmer).

Genesis 1.29-30:

29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

iii. "In the course of time" Cain and Abel bring offerings; it was a time commemorating *something* when Cain and Abel bring their offerings.

iv. *Minchah*-Hebrew, *offering*: voluntary gift to God.

v. The Lord respected Abel and his offering but did not respect Cain nor his offering.

Hebrews 11.4:

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

Hebrews 11.6:

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Faith: Trust and dependency on Another; without any reliance on self or human efforts or works.

vi. If Abel had Faith, then Cain had spiritual pride. Cain grew the food the family ate; the food the family survived on; the food the family enjoyed. Cain no doubt thought highly of himself, his role as farmer, and the work of his hands.

**3.6** *The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”*

i. God will condescend Himself to have a conversation with Cain.

ii. The Lord doesn't ask questions because He doesn't know the answers, He asks questions so you have to examine yourself for the answers.

iii. God extends Cain Grace when He asks “*If you do well, will you not be accepted?*”

iv. This entire conversation with Cain is God kindly trying to pull Cain away from the ledge of sin while leaving the choice with Cain.

**3.9** *Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?”*

i. The Lord knew where Abel was, the Lord was giving Cain an opportunity to confess and seek forgiveness here.

**3.11** *And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”*

i. Cain is cursed from the from the ground and when he works it, it will no longer yield to him—that thing that Cain took so much pride in, his very identity is going to be stripped away.

That is a Grace. Because that is the Lord removing an obstacle as He moves towards you.

**3.15** *Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.*

i. The Lord spared Cain's life and guarantees no one will murder him. That is a kindness Cain certainly did not deserve.

There's not a timeclock on His Grace, both of His hands are always open extending Salvation by Grace alone, and no sin is too offensive for Him to forgive.

