

A STUDY OF WORSHIP FOR THE CHURCH TODAY

Hebrews 11:4

INTRODUCTION

- A. The Hebrew writer, writing about the kind of faith that people were to have listed righteous Abel as one whose sacrifice to God was accepted by God because he offered it by faith.
1. Some teach that Abel's sacrifice was accepted because it was the best he had and Cain's was not the best, but this is not the case (GE 4:3) "From Strong's H6529 פְּרִי [*pâriy* /per-ee/] "1 fruit. 1A fruit, produce (of the ground). 1B fruit, offspring, children, progeny (of the womb). 1c fruit (of actions) (fig.)."
 2. Abel also brought the firstlings of his flock (GE 4:4).
 3. Both brought forth the best they had, so why was Abel's accepted and Cain's rejected?
- B. This is the question that we will attempt to answer in our lesson this morning.
1. The church today has fallen away from doing things by the authority of the Lord (CO 3:17).
 2. We have come to the conclusion that we are allowed to do things if we decide we want to do it (JD 17:6).
 3. We think that as long as we believe it to be right that it is right (Acts 23:1; 1 TI 1:13, 15).
- C. In this lesson we will see that just because we think something is right that does not make it right. We have to have authority for God's word for what we do.

DISCUSSION: IN OUR STUDY, LET US NOTICE-

- I. LESSONS LEARNED FROM CAIN AND ABEL.
- A. They were to worship God.
1. The fact that they brought sacrifices to God shows that they were to worship God. This was the Patriarchal age in which the father taught the son so Adam would have taught the son to offer the sacrifice (Job 1:5).
 2. They brought offerings to God (GE 4:3, 4).
 3. That sacrifice has to be an atoning sacrifice--in other words it had be something that could atone for their sins and only blood could do that (HE 9:22).
- B. They were to worship by faith.
1. Some think that "by faith" means "whatever one believes is right," and evidently this is what Cain thought, but his sacrifice was not accepted by God (GE 4:5).
 2. Nadab & Abihu obviously thought "by faith" meant "whatever one believes is right" (LE 10:1, 2).
 3. Note: "by faith" means "according to the faith" or "the Bible" (RO 10:17).
- C. In that period of time God spoke to Adam, Adam then was to teach Cain and Abel; which he obviously did because Abel offered the correct sacrifice, thus Abel's sacrifice was offered by faith--God's word (RO 10:17).
- II. OUR WORSHIP TODAY IS TO BE OFFERED BY FAITH.
- A. It makes no difference how much we like something, if it is not by faith it is not authorized.
- B. Why is it so important to have authorization for what we do?
1. Without authority we have no laws (RO 13:1-4).

2. Without law we have no peace (1 TI 2:2).
 - D. People do things in worship today simply because they like it, not because they have authority for it.
 1. Instrumental music (Acts 16:25).
 2. Partaking the Lord's Supper on Saturday evening (Acts 20:7 --μια των σαββατων TEV "on Saturday evening").
 - E. When we do these things we do so without authority and therefore violate the laws of God.
 - F. Worshipping by faith mean-
 1. Worshipping according to God's word.
 2. The Bible does not have to tell me not to use the instrument, all it has to do is to tell me what to do (EP 5:19; CO 3:16).
 3. The Bible doesn't have to tell me not to partake of the Lord's Supper on Saturday night, all it has to do is to tell me what day to partake of it on (MT 26:29; Acts. 20:7).
 - G. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (RO 10:17).
 1. The Spirit inspired men to write the Bible (2 TI 3:16, 17).
 2. When I study it, it produces faith in my heart (2 TI 2:15; RO 1:17).
 3. When I worship according to what God's word says I am worshipping by faith.
- III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT WORSHIPPING BY FAITH.
- A. Cain's sacrifice was not accepted.
 1. God's rejection of Cain's sacrifice led to the following-
 - a. Abel's murder (GE 4:8).
 - b. Cain's being banished from his home (GE 4:11, 12).
 2. Cain's sin became known throughout his entire lineage.
 3. It takes a long time to get sin out of the camp (EX 20:5).
 4. Lamech murdered and was worse than Cain (GE 4:23, 24).
 5. All because Cain did not see the point in doing what he was taught to do.
 - B. Today, we have people whose worship is not accepted.
 1. God's rejection of their worship leads to the following-
 - a. The shedding of spiritual blood of many faith child of God (Acts 7:51, 52).
 - b. Their actions causes them to be separated from the house of the living God (RO 16:17, 18).
 2. Their sinful actions do not just stop with them, they continue on for generation after generation.
 - a. Their children's children will continue to believe their false beliefs all because it is what they have been taught (1 KI 16:26).
 - b. The person, after death--finding out how wrong they were will want to warn their loved ones, won't be able to do anything about it (LK 16:28).
 3. All because they did not see the point in doing what the Bible taught them to do.
 - C. There are terrible consequences for not worshipping by faith.

CONCLUSION

- A. We have seen in this lesson:
 - 1. Lessons learned from Cain and Abel.
 - 2. Our worship is to be offered by faith.
 - 3. The consequences of not worshipping by faith.
- B. When we fail to offer worship by faith (according to God's word) we are condemning the lives of our children, their children, and their children's children and so on. That reason alone ought to cause us to re-think what we are doing.