

The Blood of Abel Speaks

Int.

1. Aim: To explain how the blood of Abel speaks even today.
2. Story of Cain and Abel is tragic - Gen. 4
 - a. Seems that trouble came from a religious situation
 - b. Both offered sacrifices - God was displeased with Cain's but accepted Abel's
 - c. Cain was so angry that he committed the first murder
3. Many interesting side-lights on this story
 - a. What about the curse? What was the mark?
 - b. Where did Cain get his wife?
 - i. It is in error to believe that Adam and Eve only had 3 sons and the whole human race descended from those 3
 - ii. They had many of other children - Gen. 3:16, Gen. 5:4
 - iii. Cain may have married a sister, or a cousin.
4. The most important fact about this is mentioned in HEB. 11:4 "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."
 - a. Even though Abel is dead he still speaks to us by lessons we learn from his life.
 - b. Heb. 12:24 "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things, than that of Abel."
5. The blood Abel tells us...

Discussion

I. GOD WILL AVENGE

- A. The blood of Abel tells us that God will one day avenge the injustices suffered by the innocent.
- B. God spoke in Gen. 4:10 "And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground."
1. There will be a time when God will cast evil out of this universe - he will take vengeance upon the wicked.
 2. Rom. 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."
 3. There is a score to settle with sin - and one day God will settle it.
 4. The blood of Abel still cries from the ground.
- C. This makes the judgment necessary
1. Lk. 11: 51 "From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, it shall be required of this generation."
 2. Vengeance will over take the evil doer, and the faithful will be rewarded.
 3. The blood of Abel says to every wrong doer that the creator will someday settle all accounts.
 4. I I Cor.5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

II. THE RIGHTEOUS ARE HATED WITHOUT CAUSE

- A. I John 3:11-13 NKJV "For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you."
1. Abel was hated by Cain simply because darkness hates light
 2. He was filled with envy and hated and therefore murdered.
 3. The devils children hate God's children because they are condemned by their righteous works.
- B. Christ and the apostles warned the Christians of the hatred evil men would have for them.
1. Matt. 5:10-12 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
 2. II Tim. 3:12 NKJV "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.."
 3. John 15:18 "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."
- C. All who walk with God must realize that the world which knows not God will hate them.

III. IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE HOW MEN WORSHIP GOD

- A. The blood of Abel says some things will pass and others will not
1. Cain found this truth
 2. One of the oldest truth's God has revealed to man is that worship of God is a restricted affair.
 3. Yet most in the 21st century feel any kind or way of worship to God will be acceptable.
- B. The N.T. Leaves no doubt about this:
1. John 4:24 "God is a spirit; and they that worship him must Worship him in spirit and in truth."
 2. Mark 7:7 "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."
 3. Acts 17:24-25 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.
 4. Mt. 15:6 b NKJV - "...Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition."
 5. 1 Cor. 4:6 ASV "Now these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes; that in us ye might learn not to go beyond the things which are written; that no one of you be puffed up for the one against the other." Why was God pleased with Able and not Cain?"

6. Abel did what God commanded
7. Cain did what he thought would be just as good
8. Heb. 11:4 "by faith"
9. Rom. 10:17 "Faith cometh by Hearing"
10. Abel heard God's word and obeyed it, whereas Cain heard and decided to change it

C. Cain was the first false worshiper

1. The modernists today would not find fault with Cain
 - a. If God wants smoke then this wheat or fruit of the field will make better smoke than lambs
 - b. If God wants value then this grain or vegetables will buy 30 lambs
 - c. Besides who likes all that messy blood?
 - d. God can save us without ever going near a drop of blood
 - e. Surely God doesn't care about the blood
 - f. It's the spirit of the thing that counts!
2. Men today use the same kind of reasoning to justify their changes in God's laws.
 - a. Men will say - well we can be saved without one drop of water --- it's not the water that counts but the spirit of the thing
 - b. Therefore it is taught that baptism is not essential to salvation - that sprinkling is just as good as immersion!
 - c. Those who use instrumental music in worship are saying it doesn't make any difference what we do?

D. The blood of Abel cries over the years that it does make a difference.

IV. FAITH IS THE KEY TO ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

- A. "By Faith" he was approved by God
1. None of us shall please God without faith
 2. Heb. 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
- B. We understand - Abel did it by faith.
1. We see why God commanded a lamb instead of some fruit of the field
 2. God was looking to the time when Christ, the lamb of God, would offer himself as a sacrifice for the sins of all the world
 3. The lamb God commanded Cain and Abel to offer was a type of that final atonement
 4. But the only reason Abel did what God said was because of faith
- C. We must walk by faith
1. II Cor. 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight:"
 - a. We should not go by our emotions
 - b. We must not rely merely upon what seems right to us
 2. Scriptures
 - a. Pro. 14:12 "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death,"
 - b. Mk. 7:9 "And he said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition,"
 - c. Mt. 7:13-14 - can't follow majority
 3. Walking by faith - hear the word of God and keep it!

V. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS OBEYING GOD'S WORD

A. Righteousness is revealed to us today by the N.T.

1. Rom. 1: 16-17 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ? for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith."
2. Ps. 119:151 NKJV. "You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth."
3. The commandments for Christians are in the N.T. and righteousness is keeping or obeying these commands.
4. Mt. 3:15-16 NKJV "...it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness...."
5. His being baptized was fulfilling righteousness or keeping God's command !

B. Examples of this truth

1. Lk. 1:6 "And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless."
 - a. Zacharias and Elisabeth - parents of John the Baptist
 - b. Their righteousness resulted from doing the Lord's commandments
2. Rom. 10:3 "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."
 - a. Israel did not obey instead they made their own laws
 - b. Millions are doing the same today
 - c. Luke 6:46 NKJV "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"

CONCLUSION

1. The blood of Abel speaks to us today saying:
 - a. God will avenge every evil deed and reward every good deed
 - b. The righteous are hated without cause
 - c. That there is one way to Worship God
 - d. That way is the way of Faith
 - e. Righteousness means obeying Gods commandments
 2. Obedience brought approval to Abel and it will do the same for us today
 3. Heb. 11:4 HE SPEAKS TODAY: by encouraging us to obey God's will exactly as commanded giving us assurance that all things will work together for the good of those who do !
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Source - The gospel of Gotham -- Burton Coffman

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Night Jan. 13, 2008
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