

Sovereign Grace Church

“Abel” outline

April 9, 2017

Hebrews 11: 4

(Matt. 10: 37f.; I Cor. 15:14)

This Sunday we will take a closer look at Abel as one who testifies to us as to what it means to be a faithful person. According to Genesis, Abel was the second born son of Adam and Eve. He and Cain were brothers who pursued different occupations. They also pursued different ends. Cain was a capable fruit farmer who took great pride in his inherent abilities. Abel was a capable livestock farmer who understood that his abilities and strength came from a gracious and sovereign God. As Abel's sacrifice indicated a faithful and regenerate heart...Cain's indicated a self-consumed heart.

This early biblical account of these two men is very limited in information. The information is so sparse that it almost cries out for additional information to fill it out. However, the writers in both Genesis and Hebrews are trying to make a particular point....not give a comprehensive biographical account. The information supplied is more than adequate to make this point, as we shall see.

1. Biblical Account of Cain and Abel Genesis 4: 1-15

2. Why did God receive Abel's sacrifice and not Cain's?

- **Cain's Sacrifice Gen. 3: 21; II Cor. 5: 1-4; Gen. 3: 17,19**

- **Abel's Sacrifice Gen. 4:4**

3. Abel's sacrifice bore testimony to his righteous character.

4. Abel's witness continues to testify thru the ages. Rev. 14:13; Lk 17:20-21

Questions for Conversation

1. How would you characterize the crucial differences between the sacrifices of Cain and Abel? Do you think that the difference lay in the kind of sacrifice it was or in the attitude of the men bringing the sacrifices? Could it be both? How would you answer someone who says it doesn't make any difference as to what you do so long as you have the proper attitude and intention of serving Christ?
2. Why do you think that Cain was so troubled at being demoted from the work of a farmer and cast out into the world as a vagabond? What is a vagabond? Is it analogous to being "homeless" in our modern context? Wouldn't being a vagabond be a call to adventure and travel? What could have been so threatening about being a vagabond at this time? Why is it so much less of a threat today in our culture?
3. Does any of this account of Cain and Abel have anything at all to do with Palm Sunday? How would you make application?
4. What are means that we can use to express our dependence on God's power instead of our own or the world's? How can Christ's kingdom be future and to be lived in today as well? Are you living in Christ's kingdom? How do you know?