
SG020104

The Whole Counsel of God - Genesis 3-5

(Got questions? Email Pastor Jason at jasonduff7@gmail.com)

Introduction & Overview of the Section

Introduction

Tonight we are introduced to the subject of sin. Why was man given a choice to sin? What happened when man choose to sin? How is it dealt with and why does it continue on in our lives?

Genesis 3-5

#1 – The Choice to Sin – Genesis 3:1-6

The enemy of our soul tempts Eve by getting her to doubt and question God’s word concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But why would God allow the tree to even exist?

#2 – The Consequences of Sin – Genesis 3:7-19

By choosing to obey the lusts of their flesh instead of the Word of God, many consequences are brought about in the life of Adam and Eve and all of mankind for that matter.

#3 – The Covering of Sin – Genesis 3:20-24

Adam and Eve try to cover their own sin, but as is true for our attempts to do the same thing, they fall greatly short. God then steps in and covers their sin as He has made available for everyone of us through His Son Jesus.

#4 – The Continuation of Sin – Genesis 4-5

Sin and sinful man continues in the children of Adam and Eve for generation after generation. However, in chapter 5 we see God is at work bringing about a new line of people from whom will eventually come the Savior of the world – Jesus!

Key Issues or Words

“seed of the woman” (3:15) – As God was declaring the consequences for sin, He states that the “seed of the woman” would rise up against the “seed of the serpent”. This is the earliest prophecy in the Bible of Jesus. Women do not have seed and so embedded in the text is a hint at the virgin birth and the miraculous life of Christ.

By the way...

Genesis 4:17 – “Where did Cain get his wife?” – One of the most often asked questions from people who are new to the Bible is “Where did Cain get his wife?” If Adam and Eve had Cain and Able, and they were the only people around, then where did Cain find a wife? The misunderstanding comes from when we think that Adam, Eve, Cain and Able were the only people on the planet. They certainly were at one time, but Genesis 5:4 says that Adam and Eve had many other children. Jewish tradition holds that Adam and Eve had 33 sons and 23 daughters. We don’t know if that is true, but they certainly had many, many other kids other than Cain and Able. So Cain either married a sister or if he waited until his brother Enoch had kids or if Able had kids before Cain killed him, Cain could have married a niece. Either way the gene pool was not corrupted yet, so the medical difficulties with such things today would not have affected them. By the time the Law was given in Moses’ day, God put a stop to the practice of marrying so close in the family. (Leviticus 18)

Additional Notes

(unless you want to stay 'til 10, we won't get to this)

Genesis 4:6-7 – “Why has your countenance fallen?” – The first example of depression (a sad and down countenance) in the Bible happens when Cain is in sin. Now don't misunderstand me, I am in no way saying that all depression is a result of sin. I am just saying that Cain's depression, and so many cases of depression in the world today are caused by the very first reason depression entered the world – not doing things God's way. Verse 7 says, “If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it.” Sin will always leave you down in the dumps and obedience, though difficult, will always leave behind a blessing. Don't let sin rule over you, rule over it by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Genesis 5:24 – “The first “rapture in the Bible?” – In Genesis 5:24 we read, “Enoch walked with God and was not, for God took him.” When we think about the rapture of the church, that time talked about in I Thessalonians 4:16-17 & I Corinthians 15:51-52 when Christians who are alive at the coming of Jesus will simply be taken into heaven, we think God is going to be doing an unusual thing. However “rapture” is just God's way of getting alive people to heaven. We have many examples of “rapture” in the Bible. Elijah in II Kings 2, the Two Witnesses in Revelation 11, possibly Paul in II Corinthians 12 and Jesus after His resurrection in Acts 1. The rapture of the church is not something new God is doing, it is just the first time He tries group travel. ☺

Going Deeper

(think it over yourself or discuss with the family)

Questions to ask the younger kids....

#1 – What happened to Adam and Eve because they did not obey God? Why do you think it is important to obey God, and your parents?

Questions for the rest of us...

#2 – Look at Genesis 3:7 and then 3:21 – What is happening here? What can we learn from the type of coverings man made for himself, verses the ones God made for him?

Further study...

Get a concordance or go online and do a study of the Bible names in Genesis 5. What do you discover?

Questions & Clarifications

(from last week)

There was a great question brought up after service last week. **“If the light was coming from God in Genesis 1:3 as it will be for the world in Revelation 22:5, was God creating part of Himself on Day one?”** – In Genesis 1:1 God created the heavens and the earth. The word for “created” as we studied, was “bara”, which means to create out of nothing, or before that moment it did not exist. In Genesis 1:3 God says “Let there be light.” The word “let” in the verse 3 doesn't mean to create out of nothing, but literally it means “come to pass”. I believe God was the source of light and though nothing new in Him was created, He allowed His light to “come to pass” in our created world.

Homework 4 Next Week – Genesis 6-7

Read Genesis 6-7 – Think about what you would do if God asked you to risk reputation and build Him an Ark. Are we willing to trust God, even when we don't understand.

Genesis 3-5

“The Problem with Sin!”

Introduction

- Tonight we are going to continue our study in the foundational book of the Old Testament and really all of the Bible
 - Remember the content is not hard to remember, because the title says it all

The word Genesis means “beginnings”

- And truly so many things in Scripture have their beginning in the book of Genesis
 - The universe
 - Life in general
 - Man, marriage
 - Sin and evil
 - Language, government, nations
 - Specifically we will see the nation of Israel
- In fact understanding that this book means and is about beginnings really is a good way to divide up our look at this book as you can see in your book intro sheet

Outline for the Book of Genesis

Chapters 1-11 – The Beginning of all nations

- Chapters 1-2 – The Creation
- Chapter 3 - 5 – The Fall
- Chapter 6-9 – The Flood
- Chapters 10-11 – The Tables of Nations

Chapters 12-50 – The Beginning of the Jewish nation

- Chapters 12-23 – Abraham
- Chapters 24-27 – Isaac
- Chapters 28-36 – Jacob
- Chapters 37-50 – Joseph

The Book of Genesis is the book of beginnings, foundations if you will, and we have seen the beginning of the universe and man and marriage, and now as we turn our attention to Chapter 3, we find the foundation of sin

- if you read chapters 1-2 of Genesis, and then skipped to 4, you would really be lost
 - what happened, what changed? – something dramatic must have happened, because there is a radical different between Adam and Eve walking with God in the cool of the day and what we read of Cain and able in chapter 4!
 - Well, the story, the answer is found here in chapter 3
- Why we sin, what sin produces, what must be done in response to sin is found in Genesis chapter 3

This foundation is why it’s critical that we see this passage as literal and important to our daily lives

There was an article in Time Magazine declaring they had once and for all proven the story of Adam and Eve and the fall was false, a myth simply to teach us about ourselves. Their proof was the fact that a scientist discovered that apples do not grow naturally in the middle east. And so since everyone knows that Eve offered Adam an apple, this can only be a myth. – Once again if Time would read their Bible and not just comment on it, they would be better off. Someone wrote in a week later, the only problem with the entire article is “the Bible never says the fruit was an apple”.

- So once again, as much as the Bible critics would love to toss this stuff away as fiction, and useless. It is truth and needful of our attention

In doing so, as we study our text tonight, for those of you who take notes, it divides into 4 sections.

Genesis 3-5 Outline

#1 - The Choice to sin – Genesis 3:1-6

#2 - The Consequences of sin – Genesis 3:7-19

#3 - The Covering of sin – Genesis 3:20-24

#4 - The Continuation of sin – Genesis 4-5

Genesis 3-5

#1 - The Choice to sin – Genesis 3:1-6

- We are introduced in this section to a dialog that happens between Eve and the serpent who is being used by Satan
 - So the first great lesson from the text tonight women is, please do not have a conversation with a talking snake – as long as you get that one down we are all going to be okay here tonight

Now I say that in jest, but what is clear in our text is, this encounter doesn't strike Eve as strange, helping us to understand that the world before the fall was a much different place

- and it seems talking to animals and have things to crawl along the ground now, standing upright and talking was normal and not just for Gico commercials
 - Satan uses what was ordinary and normal to trip up mankind – we need to understand that

In fact there is much in this first temptation that helps us understand the common tactics of our enemy – his strategy has not changed much since the garden

- Satan has very few plays but he is really good at those few plays
 - So it helps us to know them
- And as GI-Joe, one of my favorite cartoons growing up, used to say as they would explain the situation, **“Now you know and knowing is half the battle”**
 - Well, if we listen and see the pattern, we will know how the enemy comes against you and me as well

We see, hear that Satan first gets Eve to doubt God's word. He says to her, “Has God really said,...”

- Often Satan's first and most effective attack is to get us to doubt the Word of God – not huge, just subtle attacks
 - That is why you see a full on assault constantly on the truthfulness of the Word of God like no other book

The Muslims claim the Koran is inspired, the Mormons claim the Book of Mormon is inspired, certainly the Jehovah Witnesses elevate their prophecies

- Why then do you hardly ever, in fact I say hardly ever because I don't want to be proven wrong, but I've never seen a scholarly article in a major news magazine tear apart one of these "holy Books"
 - Yet almost every week you ready something saying they have discovered how this is false, and every time there is a logical reason, but why the attack

Why? - Because the enemy of our souls and the god of this age does not care about the claims of the Book of Mormon or the Koran, but he desperately hates the Word of God, and tries to get you and me to doubt it at every turn

- we see it in the secular world and even the Christian community

It is happening in corporate sense to all the world

- To eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was to seek wisdom and fulfillment outside of the Word, commands and will of God
 - The same choice is before us all the time.
- Jesus by contrast lived by every word that proceeded from the mouth of God, He lived every moment of His life in radical dependence of God and His Word
 - But Adam and so often we, decided to become autonomous – we will do it our way
 - But that way never leads to life, always to death

It starts by doubting what God said is true for me, that He wants the best for me, that His way is the greatest thing going

- but it is also the enemies' plan corporately for all of us, but individually as well
 - He wants you and me to question the Word of God

“Did God really say that was wrong? Does God really want what is best for you? Is He really good, or does He even exist at all?”

- These questions flood into our mind, especially in times of temptation
 - And may I share with you something that has helped me tremendously – do I have a choice? - no

Whenever you are tempted to doubt God's Word, to doubt that sin will really be harmful to you, to doubt God's character and love

- We need to take our eyes off the tree of temptation, whatever that might be for you at the time
 - And put your eyes on the tree at Calvary
 - Where Jesus held out His arms and demonstrated for you His sincerity, His character, how He feels about sin!!!!
 - Look to the tree
 - Because the enemy will try to get you to doubt God,

He tries to get Eve to doubt God, then in verse 4 we see Satan moves on from simply doubting God's Word, to denying God's Word – “you shall not die”

- Notice that the doctrine of divine judgment is the first doctrine to be denied as it continues to be today
 - There will not be any consequences, especially not eternal consequences
 - There is no real place called Hell – the enemy's tactics have not really changed

Satan outwardly denies what God has said to Adam and Eve

- God said it would bring about death
 - Satan is saying, “No it won’t”
- Notice what he is saying to Eve
 - You will not die
 - You will be enlightened (your eyes will be opened)
 - You will be like God

This New Age, Modern religious ideas are not really modern at all

- they were not invented by Shirley McClain, or some guru in India
 - they were invented by Satan himself, and man has been buying into them hook, line and sinker from the beginning.
- You will not die – sin has no consequences – just do it
 - You will be better off if you serve yourself, take care of the needs, desires of number one
 - In fact you are a god, listen to the god within
 - Foolishness - It’s a lie

There are consequences, you are not better off giving into sin and temptation, and no, in case you were struggling with this – you are not a God

- But Eve fell for the lie, and we will see in the rest of this chapter how great this fall is

But before we go any further, we need to ask the question, - Why put a tree here in the first place – many of you have asked that in your emails

- I mean, wouldn’t it be easier just to have no temptation, then man would have never sinned, and Jesus wouldn’t have had to die
 - Isn’t that better
 - Why did God give them, and us a choice in the first place?

Well, understand – there needed to be choice or whether or not Adam and Eve would obey the Lord because without a choice it makes that obedience meaningless

- Aleah loves her birthday doll that you press her stomach and the doll says, “I love you” – she embraces that doll, it is special to her. Let me tell you though I don’t sit at home and play with those dolls - their expression of love means nothing to me. Because I know what Aleah doesn’t maybe get yet – they have to say that to me. There is no other choice

For love to be real love, for devotion to be meaningful, there has to be another option, there has to be free choice

- When I asked Christy to marry me, I did not pull out a gun and say, “choose wisely”, because if I did, I would be in jail, but besides that, I want her love to be from the heart, because she chooses to love me
 - And I believe God is the same way
 - Being a gentleman, God will not force Himself upon anyone – but He gives you and me the right to choose between good and evil, between following Him and heading in the opposite direction

Because that choice makes our decisions to obey, our decisions to worship Him meaningful

- Not simple pulls of the string and reiterating, “I love you, I love you”
 - I was reading last week in the One Year Bible the Song of Solomon and all the weird stuff aside, I love the picture Solomon and his bride are of the way Jesus feels about the church

- And in chapter 4 Solomon says this..

“You have ravished my heart, with one *look* of your eyes,” – Song of Solomon 4:9

- Solomon says when you look at me, it does so much in my heart
 - And I was thinking how amazing that is, that we, the bride of Christ, can give God that feeling – it must take a lot to impress God, our little talents don’t amaze Him like we amaze each other
 - But that God’s heart actually skips a beat, when you and I just look up to heaven and say, Hey, I love you so much
- And the reason I think it does, is because we don’t have to, no one is forcing us, and it makes it meaningful

So God gave to Adam and Eve a choice, and in this moment, they like we all do from time to time, they choose to go against the heart and will of the Lord

- they believed the lie of the enemy, that God was not correct, that somehow there were no consequences to sin, only benefits
 - they bought the lie, and found it to be simply that, a lie
- Kenneth Matthews called it - The Great Inversion – the exact opposite of the way God intended life and family to be
 - He created the first man whose job it was to listen to and honor God
 - He created the first woman to come alongside her husband, loving, God-directed leadership
 - And all of creation was to be subject to them, but instead, Matthew writes...

“The Woman listened to the serpent, the man listened to the woman and no one listened to God” – Kenneth Matthews

- There was a great inversion, and we need to learn, because if we go down that path, the results will not be any better for us
 - But what were the consequences???

Genesis 3-5

#1 - The Choice to sin – Genesis 3:1-6

#2 – The Consequences of sin – Genesis 3:7-19

- There are consequences to sin
 - God, knowing that tells us so

Understand this – this is so important I will repeat it many times over the coming months and years if God tarries

- Sin is not bad because it is forbidden
 - Sin is forbidden because it is bad

It is not God is heaven, making up rules because He has nothing better to do

- It is the Lord informing us of things that are harmful to us

Notice back in chapter 2, verse 17, God says, “In the day you eat of it, you shall surely die”

- God didn’t say, “the day you eat of it, I will kill you”
 - And many scholars believe that there was actually something harmful to Adam and Eve in the fruit of that tree
 - **Maybe the fruit was an Avocado, so good, but do you know how much fat is in that “fruit” – that fruit will kill, in the day you eat of it, you shall surely die**

Kidding aside, that is how sin is – there are consequences in the sin, harmful things to you and me

- And that is why God forbids it – because He loves you
 - God is crying out, in verse 9 “Adam, where are you” – I hear the love in His call, just wanting what’s best for Adam

People have this picture of God just waiting to strike you down as soon as you do anything wrong. Just waiting for an excuse

- that is not Father God, that’s the God Father
 - But people have this view and it isn’t right
 - God is simply wanting what is best for you, He knows sin is not, and so He loving says, No

Adam’s response to God’s, I believe loving, “where are you?” shows how much sin had effected him.

- He says to God, “I was afraid because I was naked..”
 - And maybe you can hear it in the text, but it shows the only thing Adam confessed to was a feeling of fear. He knew he had broken God’s commandment, but in his new self-focused state, he was more concerned about how he felt than about his sin against God.

Then Adam shifts the blame

It was the woman you gave me, Adam says

- if you think about it, Adam is putting himself two steps removed from responsibility
 - God, you put this dangerous creature alongside me
 - So it is her fault and Your fault
 - It is making his case

But please notice church, God does not acknowledge Adam’s criticism of the situation as right at all

- you know sometimes I hear the idea that God wanted Adam and Eve to sin, that He obviously gave them the opportunity and He was glorified in their sin
 - now – I don’t question, for one moment question the fact that eventually God turns every thing for His glory
 - but the idea that God inspires us to sin
 - or that it was better that Adam and Eve did sin – I totally reject
- God does not tempt us – James chapter 1

“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.” – James 1:13-14

- It was not better that they sinned – for as God would tell Saul and express many times through the prophets: Obedience is better than sacrifice

“Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams.” I Samuel 15:22

- We need to choose to obey

Adam and Eve, as we often do, ignored this warning and walked into sin, and now they will face the consequences - First we see the consequences –

Generally

- They are separated from God
 - They once had this close-knit fellowship, but as sin came into the picture, that intimate fellowship was broken
 - And so it is for you and me, and we fall into sin
 - There is a breaking of the fellowship

Now if we are honest, there is part of us that responds to that reality with – well, that's not that bad

- I mean I love fellowship with God, but if it has to be broken for awhile so I can enjoy the pleasures of sin, that isn't too bad
 - Oh that we would grow in our understand

I have always been struck by something that happened to Jesus before He died

- You remember how He sweat great drops of blood
 - Physicians telling us it was because He was so overcome with worry, there is actually a condition that can develop where this happens
- Have you ever thought about why was Jesus worried

Of course it had to be partly because of the fear of crucifixion

- But as we examine Scripture, we see that Jesus embraced the cross, because He knew it was going to free us from our sin
 - And on the cross Jesus cries out - but not in pain of the nails, though I'm sure He did
 - But what is recorded for you and me is His shout of horror as He was separated from His father

I believe that was what Jesus feared most about the cross

- He lived in forever fellowship, and that fellowship would be broken, if only for a moment

And that so troubled our Lord, that He sweat great drops of blood

- Oh may we have the heart of Jesus
 - To realize the first and foremost consequence of sin is broken fellowship with God
- And like Jesus hates the idea of that, it would drive us mad at the idea
 - Mad enough to turn from sin
- Well – that was the consequences generally, now we see them individually

Consequences individually, - The serpent

- Major changes took place in what verse one of chapter 3 tells us was an amazing creature
 - Major changes took place, because somehow, we are not told, but somehow this serpent allowed himself to be used by Satan
- Notice 2 things about the consequences given to the serpent – first there was enmity put between the serpent and the woman
 - This means from that moment on they become mortal enemies
 - And for the most part, with most ladies, this is true – I have not met too many women who love snakes

I point this out, because it is interesting to me, that partners in sin become bitter enemies

- I have seen this over and over again
 - Friends in business who decide to cheat to get ahead – become bitter enemies when the sin is found out
- Men, and Women who swore, “I’d be better off with that person at work, than my husband” – we just click, we are such good friends – enemies
 - Don’t be fooled – partners in sin become enemies – It always seems true

But notice, in these verses, not just the enmity put between Eve and the serpent, but also in here, is a prophecy, we have the first mention of the gospel

- **The Protevangelium = “the first gospel”**
- notice in verse 15 – your seed and her seed
 - there is a problem with that sentence, seed speaks of the fertilization of an egg, and women don’t have seed – so what is God talking about
- Well here, hidden away in Genesis chapter 3 is the first hint at the virgin birth, as the woman would conceive without knowing a man

And that child would go on to the cross, being bruised by Satan, but crushing him and his kingdom with the same instrument

- Interesting – we will go into more detail some other time

Consequences for the woman....

- We are told because the woman took place in this sin she would face three consequences

Pain in Child birth (after being there, I am so glad men didn’t get this curse, the population would be much smaller)

- **A desire for your husband**
 - There would be this need to be with Him
 - Wait, that doesn’t sound like a curse – hold on, it’s not until you consider the curse for man’s sin

Consequences for the Man

- To the Man specially – he will now have to work for food
 - Before, it just grew and he enjoyed
 - Now – it was going to take some plowing, some sweat, some effort
- To the Man specially – he will now have to work for food
 - And to man kind generally – death was now part of the equation
 - Adam and Eve’s body were now decaying, and they, like all of us since, would face death
 - God’s Word came to pass, as it always does

Before we move on I want to point out one last thing that is related to the consequences of sin

- as we pointed out, one of the curses to the woman was that she would have this desire for her husband
 - which doesn’t sound like a bad deal at all
 - Until you realize what Adam’s curse was..
- He now needed to work

I can’t tell you how many problems this causes in marriage

- “He is never here, He is not sensitive to my needs” – I have heard ladies share in counseling sessions
 - “I have enough demands on me at the office”, he will shout back, “man, can’t she understand that and get off my back”

- And problems arise as the man goes off to deal with the many problems in his field of work
 - And the woman just wants him to be with her, to show to her the same desire toward her as he does for his job
 - Ever hit home that way???

Let me share with you – you can read books, go to seminars and share with each other your feelings, but the truth is – that is just the way it is – like sickness, death, and taxes, it is part of life, the result of the curse

- well, thank you, I am encouraged, praise the Lord
 - Hey – though it is the way it is – we need to grow as Christians

We need to understand, that is the way she is, that is the way he is put together

- Women – your husband has a need to deal with the field
- Men – your wife, (I don't know why) has a desire, a need for you
 - Realize it men – give her the attention she so desperately needs – a little goes a long way

Realize it women – He doesn't love his job more than you, (I Hope) – but there is something inside him that needs to deal with work – give him a break, let him go

You see it is mutual dying to self

- Men, we need to die to that desire to always accomplish everything on our plates
 - we need to die and realize our wives need us to show them attention
- women, you need to die to that desire to somehow think He will always fulfill the deepest need of your heart
 - he won't – only Jesus will
 - He is the only man not effected by the curse

Sin has consequences

- As we see it, may we realize it
 - And realize our own sin has huge implications, huge consequences, not just in my life, but others as well – believe Father God

Genesis 3-5

#1 - The Choice to sin – Genesis 3:1-6

#2 – The Consequences of sin – Genesis 3:7-19

#3 - The Covering of sin – Genesis 3:20-24

- If you notice back in verse 7, when Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to make themselves coverings

But the reality was, it just didn't work

- The way God has set up sin and the forgiveness of it is we can not cover it, or make up for it ourselves
 - This introduces an important Biblical concept - Something innocent must die in our place
 - And only God can forgive sin

Adam and Eve tried to cover sin themselves and failed

- we need to realize we can not do it either
 - you can not make up for it with good deeds
 - you can not cover it up
- The guilt and the sin is still there

We need God to do for us, what He did for Adam and Eve – but I don't like furs

No – But God did send Jesus

- who was the innocent lamb of God, to die in our place
 - to be the offering, and the covering for our sin
- And as we accept that covering, as Adam and Eve accepted these skins
 - God forgives, cleanses and covers our sin
 - But unfortunately there are still consequences to our sin, even after we pass off the scene
 - And we see this in our final section tonight

Genesis 3-5

#1 - The Choice to sin – Genesis 3:1-6

#2 – The Consequences of sin – Genesis 3:7-19

#3 - The Covering of sin – Genesis 3:20-24

#4 - The Continuation of sin (through the children)

– Genesis Chapters 4-5

- There was a man who lived in New York in the 1800's -- named Max Jukes
 - He was an atheist
 - Would not let his kids go to church
 - Did everything to oppose God that he could
- When you study the effect of his life, not just in what he did, but what those that he had influence on did, it is amazing to consider

He had when you figure in children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren - They were able to trace 1026 descendants to Max Jukes

- 300 were sent to prison
 - 680 were prostitutes
 - That is 96% of his descendants involved in serious illegal activity and sin
 - They cost the state of New York \$420,000 in 1800's

Now there was another man who lived around the same time

- His name was Jonathan Edwards – the preacher famous for his sermon 'sinner in the hands of an angry God"
 - Forced his children to go to church
 - Held them to the highest standards
- And of course for his own life, it was lived in complete consecration to God

They traced 929 people back to Mr. Edwards

- 430 became pastors
 - 86 were University Professors
 - 13 were University Presidents
 - 75 were authors
 - 7 were United States Senators
 - 1 became a Vice President

What this article is saying about ramifications of sin to not just an individual but to generations is what I want us to see in the final part of our text tonight

- But before I get too far ahead of myself we need to see the background

Genesis 4-5

The background – Genesis 4:1-7

- Adam knew his wife and they produced a child
 - The first child they named Cain (Eve thought she had received the promise, but she would be terribly disappointed) – This Cain decided to be a farmer

**The Second child they named Abel – who became the first shepherd
We see then, them both coming to make an offering to the Lord**

- But then something strange happens
 - God accepts the offering of Abel
 - And rejects the offering of Cain
- Now we must understand why?????

Hebrews chapter 11 helps

- Verse 4 tells us, **“By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain” – Hebrews 11:4**
 - Well, what made it “more excellent”?
- Hebrews tells us it was an offering of faith
 - Now Romans 10 tells us “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God”

There is much indication in the text that Man was told by God how He was to be approached even before the list of rules and regulations were laid down in Exodus Chapter 20 in “the Law”

- We see later in the book of Genesis, Abraham making a burnt offering to the Lord
 - We see Jacob pouring out a drink offering to the Lord
 - Something the Jews weren’t commanded to do until late in the book of Exodus
- Who taught them, who told them

Well, many scholars believe that God told Adam and Eve these basics rules of repentance and approaching God

- These rules were not new with the Law, but had been around, being passed down for generations

Another indication is in verse 3 when it says, “in the process of time.”

- that phrase could very easily be translated, “at an appointed time”
 - like this was something God had set up, that was pre-determined

In this offering that God had ordained

- Abel came to God by faith, submitted and in obedience to God’s way
 - And Cain came doing it his way
 - The efforts of his hands
 - My way – my works
- You see it wasn’t so much the offering of Cain that was the problem - But the problem was Cain

And this teaches me three important things

#1 – It is not the outward religious services God is concerned with as much as the heart

- Cain was going through the religious motions
 - But it was meaningless because His heart was far from the Lord

It was like what Jesus said to the Pharisees

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their

lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” – Matthew 15:8-9

- We need to be on our guard
 - Why????????

Because Paul the apostle wrote, “in the last days, perilous times will come. Men will become lovers of themselves, proud, boasters, disobedient to parents,... having a form of godliness but denying its power.” – 2 Timothy 3:5

- Listen – the Christian life is more than just this service, coming here, (though we are told to not forsake the fellowship of the believers), but coming here isn't it, owning a Bible isn't it, learning all of Rick or Darren's new songs isn't it
 - It is being surrendered to God, His way and His purpose for your life

David wrote in Psalm 51:16-17, “You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart – These, O God, You will not despise.”

- It is not all the outward religious activity that is a blessing to the Lord
 - It is not what His heart craves
 - It's you, surrender to Him
- Not proud and puffed up, but broken, contrite

#1 – It is not the outward religious services God is concerned with as much as the heart

#2 – God requires bloodshed to remove sin

- That is what Hebrews 9:22 says **“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.**
 - You see God set it up
 - Here in Genesis 4 – a man brings a lamb for a man
 - Exodus 20 – a lamb for the family
 - In Lev – Yom Kippur – a lamb for the nation
 - John – “Behold the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world”

#1 – It is not the outward religious services God is concerned with as much as the heart

#2 – God requires bloodshed to remove sin

#3 – Abel gave God the best, not the leftover

- Sometimes we give God the leftover
 - Whether that is time or effort or energy or money
 - And it is something God is really working in my heart
 - The best part of the day – verses right before bed
 - Going to be early on Bible study nights
 - Giving the Lord the first part

- Sometimes, and I am not trying to be condemning, but we give God the leftovers

And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?” – Malachi 1:8

- David said of his offerings to the Lord

“Then the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing.” – II Samuel 24:24

- We need to give our best

God told Cain, (literally rendered) - “if you do right, there is uplift.” – obeying God lifts up who we are!

- We need to hear that tonight

Genesis 4-5

The background – Genesis 4:1-7

Cain chooses to not follow the Lord Genesis 4:8-15)

- He becomes a murderer, a liar, fruitless, a fugitive, vagabond, leaves the presence of the Lord

But not just him – His children were effected [read verses 16-24](#))

Who are these people??? – Who is Cain’s wife?

- population using conservative numbers of six kids every family for now about 800 years, you could have 120,000 people on earth
 - So Cain would be married to a sister, or cousin most likely – Genesis 5:4 – Adam and Eve had many sons and daughters

We then have a list of Cain’s descendants

- Irad v17 – wild donkey – **my child dipping our cat in the sand box** – you need to correct them, if not you get a wild donkey
- Mehujeal – blot out the name of God
- Methusuel – those who call on the name of God are dead
- Lamech – poor and lowly
 - This is the continuance of sin in the life of Cain
 - And understand what the Bible does – it gives us some information about Cain’s descendants for a generation or two and then moves on
 - Why – because remember this is not just the story of all nations – but the Jewish nation
 - And we see their lineage keep moving toward the Messiah in chapter 5

Genesis 5 – The Godly line of Seth

- Enoch – walked with God
- Noah – stayed pure - From him, Abraham, David – Jesus