

Genesis 4:1-16

True and False Worship

Introduction:

From the beginning of time God has directed man to worship Him in the proper way. But man in his fallen state has thought of what he sees to be a better way to worship God. Even when God disapproves of their form of worship man is in really worshipping a strange god. It is blatant idolatry.

Psalm 81:9; True worship on the other hand is to come to His dwelling, the house of God where the community of believers comes together. (Psa. 132:7; 99:9)

- I. **God Is To Be Worshiped**
 - A. **Comparing Genesis 3, with Genesis 4; I John 3:10-12; I John 2:15-17**
 1. Sin against God directly
 2. Sin against fellow- man
 - B. **The Central Subject: Heb. 11:4**
 1. The Place of Worship – v.3,4 Turn To: John 4;20-24
 2. The kind of Offering – cf. 3-4
 - C. **The Nature of the Offering**
 1. Comparing Cain’s sacrifice with Abel’s – Heb. 9:22
 2. Cain’s offering consisted in the fruit of his own hands (fig leaves)
 3. Abel’s sacrifice was respected and acceptable to God – Eph. 5:2
 - D. **Examining our worship**
 1. It must not be like Cain’s who had a form of godliness but without God’s approval – II Tim. 3:5
 2. It must be acceptable to God where our mind and body are engaged in the preaching and teaching of God’s Word. Rom.12:1-2
 - E. **False Worship**
 1. Brings about more severe consequences – (Cain’s jealousy turned to rage)
 2. Sin was crouching at the door – v.6; I Peter 5:8 (J. G. Vos)

- II. **The Blood of Abel – v.8-10**
 - A. **The shamefulfulness of sin**
 1. Question of conviction – “Where is your brother?”
 2. Blood first mentioned explicitly – v.10; Heb. 11:4; 12:24; I Pet. 1:18,19
 3. A vagrant and wanderer – (fugitive) Psalm 109:6-10
 - B. **Eternal Punishment**
 1. Hell-fire “punishment too great to bear”
 2. Weeping and gnashing of teeth ...

Finally:

1. God’s common grace: God is saying hands off Cain! Gen. 9:6
2. The worst curse of all – is to flee from the presence of the Lord – v.16 (Isa. 57:20,21)

Pastor Nick Iamaio
Reformed Presbyterian Church, 207 South First Street, Fulton, NY 13069 (315-343-1976)
Web Site: fultonrpc.org 11/30/2014

