



SERMON NOTES

March 8, 2015

Scripture: Hebrews 11:4 and Genesis 4:1-10 (NAS)

Topic: "The Influence of a Dead Man"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

Genesis 4:1-10

- 1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD."
2 Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.
3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground.
4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering;
5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.
6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?
7 "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."
8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.
9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"
10 He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground.

I. DO DEAD MEN SPEAK?

- A. Those Who Were Resurrected
- B. Abel Though He Is Dead

II. WHAT IS THE CORRECT MEANS TO APPROACH GOD?

- A. Man's Way *Proverbs 14:12*
1. Self-righteousness
 2. God will overlook my sins
 3. The way of Cain *Jude 11*
- B. God's Way
1. Through faith *Galatians 2:16*
 2. By grace *Ephesians 2:8,9*

III. WHAT MADE THE SACRIFICE BETTER?

- A. Faith – An Obedient Response To God's Word
- B. God Declared What Was Necessary *Genesis 4:7; Romans 10:17*
- C. God Informed Adam And Eve *A.W. Pink*
1. Man's sin needed to be covered
 2. Man-made covering was insufficient
 3. God provided the necessary covering
 4. Only acceptable covering involved shedding of blood
- D. Offered In Obedient Faith
1. Abel was not better than Cain *Hebrews 9:22*
 2. Thank offering cannot precede sin offering

IV. WHAT WAS THE SOURCE OF ABEL'S RIGHTEOUSNESS?

- A. Jesus Called Him Righteous Abel *Matthew 23:35*
- B. Righteousness Proceeds From His Faith In God *Romans 3:28; Genesis 15:6; II Corinthians 5:21*

V. HOW DO TRUE MEN OF FAITH SPEAK?

- A. Blessings Of True Faith Are Not Necessarily In This Life
- B. Set A Godly Example For Following Generations *Galatians 5:22-23*