

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Third Quarter Finances

We have set a monthly tithe goal of \$13,750 to help us see where we need to be to cover our financial responsibilities and also to fund the work of sharing the gospel.

July: \$8,956.00

August: \$10,166.00

September: \$8,816.00

Total: \$27,938.00 received
\$41,250.00 budgeted

Calendar Events

Oct. 7 Elder Meeting 5:30 pm
Oct. 19 Feed Grayson BSM
Oct. 13-15 Ladies Retreat
Oct. 31 City Trunk-or-Treat
Nov. 4 Elder Meeting 5:30 pm
Nov. 7 Beanstock 11:00-6:00
Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Meal
Dec. 2 Elder Meeting 5:30 pm
Dec. 5 Pastor Open house
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Dec. 12 Ladies' Brunch 10 am
Dec. 19 Elder/Deacon
Christmas Party



Not the expected outcome

"The Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?'" Genesis 4:6

We have all heard the story of Cain and Abel but have we considered this verse? Abel's offering was accepted because it was offered in faith (Heb. 11:4). Abel followed the established pattern of worship to God by offering a blood sacrifice in faith that God would accept it for the temporary forgiveness of sin. Cain's offering, on the other hand, was faithless and done outside of God's established order. The Lord, Himself, established the pattern of worship that would be accepted for the covering of sin in Genesis 3:21 when He made coverings for them from an animal that was sacrificed to cover their shame.

It should come as no surprise that Abel was accepted and Cain wasn't when we bring the actions into the context of Scripture. The Lord established how He was to be worshiped, how He was to be approached when it was permitted. He even established and executed the consequences for when He was not obeyed. Look at Nadab and Abihu who offered "strange fire" on the Lord's altar and were consumed by fire from the altar so that the place was purified of the sinful action that had taken place.

Obedience is a matter of faith for it is faith that fuels obedience in the life of a believer. But let's come back to the Lord's question to Cain here in Genesis

4. The Lord asks Cain why he is angry, and angry he was as we see in 4:5. Cain was angry because his actions, his worship was not accepted by God. He had failed to understand the nature of God, the holiness of God and how that should direct his worship. Cain was the first fruit of Adam's sin in that he was the first human born after the Fall.

We don't know anything of Cain and Abel's early years and what exactly had been taught them about God. All we can know for certain is that there had been instruction because they are found bringing offerings. Cain failed to see how his worship of God was to be directed by faith in

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A. W. Pink



Elders in Action

We are blessed to have Elders who meet together each month to pray for one another, study scripture, and to discuss how we can biblically lead this local gathering. Here are a few of the decisions that we have made to help hold us to what Scripture says and to address practical concerns:

- The Elders have been working on revising some churchwide policies to help ensure the safety and functioning of our gathered times.
- We are still monitoring church finances and what impact our previous decisions have had on the budget.



God,. He failed to connect the knowledge of God with the worship of God. He seemed to want to worship God on his terms and have it accepted by God. But that is not how worship works.

Cain, like his father before him, wanted to be able to live on his own terms rather than submit to God. If you read on in the chapter you will see where God tells Cain, warns him is a fuller understanding, that sin is **“crouching at his door”** meaning that his sin nature is against him; against him living a life that is pleasing to God. Sin is pictured as a predator crouching at Cain's door, desiring to dominate him. God exposes the danger before Cain acts. Cain is therefore not an innocent victim of an uncontrollable emotion; he is warned about the trajectory of his sin and nevertheless yields himself to it..

It is easy for us to look at Cain and not see ourselves but we are born with that same sin nature (Ps. 51:5) and that means that we all have that same capacity to increase in our sinful actions. That sin nature reveals itself when our actions are called out, when our preferences are not accepted, when we are told “thus says the Lord”. It shows up in anger and if that anger is not brought into submission to God it can result in the “killing” of a brother. Not a physical killing, but a killing akin to what Jesus teaches in Matthew 5:21-26.

Is your face downcast, is your sin ruling over you?
Come to God's Word and in faith put it to death.

Soli deo gloria (God's glory alone)

Pastor Patrick



Quarterly Challenge

Find one lost person to pray for and to begin sharing your faith with.

Sunday Sermon Series

The Parables of Christ. During this series, we are revisiting those familiar teachings of Christ in order to see how our Lord is teachings us about His Kingdom. We have tended towards a more personal interpretation of these parables, but when we see them in light of their Kingdom instruction they provide a greater breadth of understanding and application.

Next Sermon Series

Promises Kept: Prophecies of the Messiah

Wednesday Nights Next Quarter

Gospel-Shaped Outreach. Seeking to have the gospel shape every aspect of life as believers for His glory.