

TWO BROTHERS AT WORSHIP

**INTRODUCTION:** God made everything GOOD for Adam & Eve. He gave them simple commandments, which they heard and understood, and at one time had faith in them.

Eve was deceived into disobeying by the Devil's sowing doubts in her mind; Adam was not deceived, but disobeyed knowingly. The results were the same: They died spiritually (were separated from the presence of God—cut off from the tree of life) and started to die physically the very same day they disobeyed.

Prelude to story of Cain & Abel—Genesis 4—a line of reasoning:

(1) Hebrews 11:6 “. . .Without faith it is impossible to please him (God) for he that cometh to God must believe that he is (God—He exists; that He is bigger than all of us put together; worthy of our respect and obedience), and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently (not haphazardly, slothfully, etc.) seek him.”

We have no idea what pleases God except by what He has said. If we ever hoped to please Him to the extent we are enabled to come to Him in Heaven, we must have faith in His existence and in His rewarding us if we work hard at finding out His ways and doing them. We MUST have faith; but how do we get it?

(2) Romans 10:17 “. . .faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” So, we secure this faith (in God) ONLY by hearing what God says pleases Him in His word.

(3) Romans 14:23 “. . .Whatsoever (religiously speaking) is not of faith is sin.” Whatever we may practice religion-wise must be found in the Word of God, or it is classified as sin by God. Man has been presumptuous enough to say that a certain thing pleases God—but God has not said so. Therefore, a Christian can have no faith in it—but must rather regard it as sin, and avoid it.

**ILLUSTRATION:** The Word is perfect—like a perfect circle—James 1:25; and contains “all things that pertain to life and godliness”—II Peter 1:3

If we add anything to the revealed word, God will “add to us the plagues written in this book.” Revelations 22:18. If we take away anything “God shall take away his part out of the book of life, out of the holy city, and from the things written in this book.” Revelations 22:19

So, if we add anything to the perfect circle (the Faith revealed by God in His Word) we make it other than perfect. Likewise, if we subtract anything from a perfect circle, we make it other than perfect. **GOD WILL NOT TOLERATE OUR CHANGING HIS WORD IN ANY DEGREE.**

Adam and Eve had God's word for them concerning their daily living—the faith (body of instructions and promises); they disobeyed—sinned—displeased God, so God had to separate Himself from them.

Genesis 4:2 Two brothers came to worship:

Cain—(Farmer)

At a set time (in process of time—7<sup>th</sup> day of week)

Brought an offering (verse 3)

(something of value to him)

To the Lord—proper object

“fruit of the ground”

(logical for a farmer)

Abel—(Shepherd)

At a set time (same as Cain)

Brought an offering (verse 4)

(something of value to him)

To the Lord—proper object

“firstling of his flock and of the fat thereof”

(logical for a shepherd)

REJECTED

ACCEPTED

Looking at the previous list, the only difference between the two worships was the thing offered; yet God was not pleased with Cain's but was pleased with Abel's. WHY? They both came at the same time, same place, worshipped the same God, with items probably of equal value.

How do we know God told them what to offer? And that Cain did something different from God's instructions? (If it is impossible to please Him without faith—and we get that faith by hearing God say it—then God had to have told both of them what pleased Him. God never leaves people in the dark as to what pleases Him—and then condemns them for not knowing.)

Hebrews 11:4 "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts. . .and by it he being dead yet speaketh."

If faith comes by hearing. . .the Word of God

If Abel offered "by faith"

Then God has to have told him what to offer

Because there could have been no sin (verse 7) for Cain, without God having given directions (I John 3:4, Romans 4:15).

God testified to Abel he was righteous—because he did exactly as God had directed.

God testified to Cain he was unrighteous—God rejected Cain's sacrifice and Cain knew it.

Abel knew his worship pleased God. Abel did no more and no less than God said pleased Him in His Word of Faith.

Cain thought/hoped??? his worship pleased God—he had his doubts; he knew he had not followed God's directions explicitly—he just hoped to get by.

**IN GIVING INSTRUCTIONS, GOD ALWAYS SAYS WHAT HE MEANS AND MEANS WHAT HE SAYS.** If we would come to Him, we must believe He is God and that He only rewards those who **DILIGENTLY** seek Him (through His Word).

Cain could have worshipped God in faith the same as Abel—verses 6 & 7

Church "A"	Church "B"
Sunday morning, 10:00	Sunday morning, 10:00
Come to worship	Come to worship (proper purpose)
God (proper object)	God (proper object)
Pray	Pray
Study Bible	Study Bible
Sing and Play	Sing
Give	Give

**IS THE WORSHIP IN BOTH OF THESE CHURCHES ACCEPTABLE TO GOD? IN FAITH? IF NOT, WHY NOT?**

Whenever two parties differ on Scriptural matters, one or both may be wrong; but **IT IS CERTAIN THAT BOTH ARE NOT RIGHT** because God has said what pleases Him without doubletalking. How can we determine **WHAT IS RIGHT**—not **WHO** is right? Answer: Go back to the faith (God's Word) and do what it says.

The only music authorized in the New Testament is found in these scriptures: Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:19, I Corinthians 14:15, Hebrews 2:12, and Acts 16:25—these all call for singing only.

No doubt the people who worship in Church A think they please God with their playing and singing—perhaps because it pleases them. But those who worship in Church B KNOW they please God because they do exactly what God called for in His Word—their worship was entirely based on the faith that came from hearing the Word of God. So, scripturally, A is rejected; B is accepted.

(Another example could be introduced to further overcome objections before they occur: Church A with no Lord's Table spread this Sunday—compared to Church B with the Lord's Table every first day of the week as set forth by example in Acts 20:7; as implied in I Corinthians 16:2 and I Corinthians 11:20-34.)

Matthew 15:8-9 (Jesus predicts Church A.) “This people draweth nigh to me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their HEART is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

Matthew 7:21-29 “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that DOETH (What?) (any thing, so long as it's respectful? Pleasing to men?) the will of my Father (the words of the New Testament) which is in heaven. . . Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, AND DOETH THEM (has faith and performs only on the basis of that faith), I will liken him unto a wise man, which buildeth his house upon a rock. . .and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. . .