

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

3.20.2022

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

The Believers Sin

## Genesis 4: 3 – 7

There will be those that we will meet in life, who claim to be Christians, but they think and act just as the world does. This means that they claim to believe in Christ and his word, but their lives do not back up their claims. A righteous life is one that truly has been born of God in Christ. A self-righteous life is one who lives in the contentment of false and deceptive worldliness, these are those who practice sin. Sin is rebellion against God. To practice sin is to openly rebel against God. This takes place due to only having a desire to live a happy life or improve our own self-esteem with no biblical understanding of the seriousness of sin. Satan's strategy of deception is to cause mankind to think more highly of himself than he ought to think. Satan's work is to undermine the cross. For this reason, the church has fallen into a serious state of deception. Therefore, we must learn to follow the truth of the word of God. God calls unto us to follow Christ as our savior and Lord. We cannot do this by our own strength or willpower. We can only do this through a new life in Christ. A life given unto us by grace, through faith, is a life that will produce the righteousness of God. To do this we must make sure no one or nothing deceives us.

**Genesis 4: 3 – 7**,....and in the process of time it came to pass....Cain brought an offering....and Able also brought of the firstlings....the Lord had respect unto Able....but unto Cain....he had not respect....and the Lord said....why act thou wrath....why is thy countenance fallen....if thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted....and if thou not doest well, sin lieth at the door....

Just as he had done with Cain, when the believer sins, God issues to us a warning, the all-important question is, will we head to that warning. Because of disobedience, God will ask us to modify our understanding of what is good, compared to Gods understanding of goodness. If we do well by God's standard, then God will accept us. Therefore, there is no reason to be angry with God due to his rejection of what we feel to be spiritual goodness. The simple solution would be for us to turn to obedience. By doing what is right in the sight of God, he will forgive us, and accept the repentance of our disobedience. If we persist in following our own standards of self-righteousness, then sin lieth at the door. The believers sin now becomes a rebellion against God. Worldly sinfulness desires to own us and will own us if we refuse to let God set the standard for what is right and what is wrong in our life. It is our responsibility to choose whether to let sin rule over us or not, we must not give in to temptation.

As we look at this passage of scripture, we see Cain presented with two options. Because of Satan's temptation, sin lieth at the door, but through God's mercy and grace a sin offering lieth at the door as well. It was Cain's decision to choose which would be the consequences of his disobedience.

Often time, we find ourselves facing the same decisions in our life today. Like Cain and Able everything that we do in our Christian life should have eternal value, it should be an acceptable offering to God. There will be times in our lives when our actions will not produce an offering of eternal value, and God will reject it. This does not mean that God does not love us, but he will present unto us a warning, a chance to do that which is acceptable to him, the choice belongs to us.

We want to ask ourselves this question. How does God react when I choose worldly disobedience over his will and his word.

We are going to look at three important lessons to answer this question.

The first lesson we learn is that sinfulness should not come casually in our life.

Through his word, God lets us know that if we want him to accept us, then we must overcome the very sinfulness that threatens to destroy us.

**Romans 6: 1 – 4,....**what shall we say then, shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound....God forbid, how shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein....we are buried with him....that like as Christ was raised up from the dead....even so we also should walk in newness of life....

We cannot out sin the grace of God. But this does not mean that God's grace gives unto us a free pass to sin all that we want, without experiencing the consequences of that sin. Through salvation, we were given a new position in Christ. We received a new Christlike name, and we became a new creation in him. Because of this, our old life in the world is dead, and our new life in Christ is alive to him. Our life now has become a reflection of his perfection. Now that we have died to sin, we are called by God to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our salvation.

The second lesson that we learn is that willful sinning grieves the Holy Spirit.

In first Corinthians, chapter six, Paul tells us through his letter to the church at Corinth that are bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in us. By this indwelling Holy Spirit, we are reminded that when we sin willfully, we are violating the characteristics of our relationship in Christ. This darkens or clouds our spiritual understanding, and therefore grieves the spirit of God that is trying to sustain us.

**Ephesians 4: 30 – 32,....**grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption....be ye kind one to another....forgiving one another, even as God for Christ sake hath forgiven you....

Our eternal security is not a license to sin, and even though Christians are still capable of sinning, God does in fact care about how we live our lives. Through salvation we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, and when we sin, we do not lose the Holy Spirit, but by sinning we grieve the Holy Spirit. This will rob us of our inner joy and peace which will quench the Holy Spirits working of the word in our life and removes us from our fellowship with the Father.

Thirdly, we understand that continued sinning can only end in death.

Romans chapter eight tells us that if we live according to the flesh than we cannot please God. Sinning destroys, at the time of our sin, our communication with God. Obedience to the word will reduce the impact of temptation in our lives and will help to restore our relationship of communication with the Father.

**James 1: 13 – 15**,....let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God....but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust....when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death....

The temptation and desire to sin always comes from within. The word of God warns us of the consequences of giving into our desires to sin. When we fall to our desires and do what we want to do instead of trusting in God and obeying him, then sin is born. Sin, for those who have not and do not accept the free gift of the saving grace of Jesus Christ means permanent eternal death. Sin in the life of the believer brings forth deadly consequences to the spiritual maturity of the believer.

So just like Cain, mankind has a choice. We can either resist temptation and walk in spirit and in truth in our life in Christ, or we can yield to temptation and allow it to draw us away from the truth. How important it is to turn away from fleshly desires, for all that is evil is of the devil, but all that is good comes from our heavenly Father.

As we examine our spiritual life, let us remember that no matter where we are in our life, God will always provide us with the opportunity to bring disobedience into obedience with him, the choice is ours.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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