**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Blood Makes a Difference |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Hebrews 11:4, Genesis 4:1-8 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2384 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The central theme of Hebrews 11 is that God is to be worshipped.
      1. If God is to be worshipped, then He must be worshipped in Spirit and in truth.
      2. Hebrews 11:4
   2. Abel was a man who preached his own funeral.
      1. Abel is a shadow of the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
         1. The Old Testament is a book of shadows that point to New Testament truths.
            1. Colossians 2:17

The Old Testament is a shadow of things to come.

* + - 1. A shadow must have light and something to shine upon.
         1. The light is the Old Testament Scripture.
         2. The Lord Jesus Christ is the one upon whom the shadow shines.
    1. What we see in the story of Abel is the beginning of shadows that point to the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
  1. Hebrews 11:4
     1. Abel’s story is found in Genesis 4.
        1. To understand Hebrews 11, we must understand Genesis 4.
  2. Genesis 4:1-5
     1. We have a shadow of the cross in the offering that Abel made.
     2. There were two offerings:
        1. Cain offered the fruit of the ground, which were vegetables.
        2. Abel offered to the Lord a slain lamb of the firstlings of the flock.
     3. God accepted the offering of Abel, but He did not accept the offering of Cain.
  3. In today’s message, we will explore the contrasts we find in Hebrews 11 and Genesis 4.

1. a contrast in their worship (Hebrews 11:4)
   1. Cain and Abel were worshipping God.
      1. Abel worshipped in Spirit and in truth.
      2. Cain worshipped by his own ingenuity.
   2. Hebrews 11:4
   3. All religions are not of the same value.
      1. God had respect unto Abel’s offering; but to Cain’s offering, He did not.
      2. We are supposed to be tolerant today, but we do not believe in tolerance that sacrifices truth.
         1. There is much intolerance today against those who believe in a fixed standard of right and wrong.
      3. This world does not need religion; it needs Jesus.
      4. Scholars tell us that there are many religions in the world, but there are actually only two: the true and the false.
         1. There is the religion of grace and the religion of works.
         2. There is the religion of Abel and the religion of Cain.
   4. Hebrews 11:4
   5. What was the way of Cain?
      1. It was the way of good works.
      2. It was salvation by his own effort.
      3. Cain was a tiller of the ground.
         1. Genesis 3:17-19
      4. What Cain offered to God was his own toil, sweat and effort.
         1. Genesis 3:17-23
      5. Jude 11
      6. The way of Cain is to try to save yourself by your own good works rather than by the grace of God.
         1. It represents culture rather than Calvary.
      7. Hebrews 9:22
         1. There is no salvation without the shedding of blood.
      8. Many people today say that they have their own religion.
         1. So did Cain.
      9. There are many today who say that they are looking for a religion that suits them.
         1. So did Cain.
            1. Cain died and is lost for eternity.
            2. Jude 11
      10. People need to turn from religion to Jesus Christ.
          1. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is not salvation by works.
   6. What did Abel offer?
      1. Abel offered the firstling of his flock.
         1. Genesis 4:4
      2. Abel’s offering was based on a blood atonement.
      3. Religion is what sinful people do for a holy God; the Gospel is the Good News of what a holy God has already done for sinful man.
         1. Hebrews 11:4
      4. How did Abel know to bring a blood offering to Almighty God?
         1. The blood offering was a shadow of the Lord Jesus Christ.
         2. When Adam and Eve sinned against God, they tried to clothe themselves with fig leaves.
            1. This was the fruit of the ground.
         3. But God came into the Garden of Eden and made them coats of animal skin.
            1. Blood had to be shed.
            2. Hebrews 9:22
         4. Abel learned about the blood offering from his parents.
      5. Abel was a prophet of God.
         1. Luke 11:49-51
         2. Abel was a martyr who died for his faith.
            1. Adam and Eve had two sons:

One was a martyr.

One was a murderer.

* + 1. Abel understood the Word of God.
       1. Acts 10:43
       2. In the Garden of Eden, Abel offered a spotless lamb that was a picture, a prophecy, of Jesus who was to come.
  1. The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ was not an afterthought or an emergency action, but God had redemption by blood in His heart before He ever made the world.
     1. Revelation 13:8
     2. There is a red river of life that begins to flow in the book of Genesis and flows all the way through to the book of the Revelation.
        1. That river began to flow when God made coats of skin for Adam and Eve.
           1. Genesis 3:21
        2. That river passed on down when Abel took of the firstlings of the flock and offered a blood sacrifice to the Lord.
           1. Genesis 4:4
        3. The first act that Noah did when he came out of the ark was to offer a blood sacrifice.
           1. Genesis 8:20
        4. God called Abraham and told him to take his son to Mt. Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice.
           1. At the last moment, God told Abraham not to hurt his son and provided a ram for the sacrifice.
           2. Genesis 22:1-13
           3. John 8:56

More than a millennium before Jesus came, Abraham knew something of the blood sacrifice.

* + - 1. Moses knew of the blood sacrifice.
         1. Exodus 3:7-10

God called Moses to lead His people from the land of Egypt and into the promised land.

* + - * 1. Exodus 12:1-13

God commanded Moses to tell every family to sacrifice a lamb and to put the blood of that lamb upon the doorposts of their houses.

When the death angel saw the blood upon the doorposts, He then passed over that house.

This is where we get the word, “Passover.”

It was the blood that caused the death angel to pass over, not diamonds, gold, poetry, or even a live, spotless lamb.

* + - * 1. Many people say that Christ is their example.

No, He must be your Savior.

We are not saved by learning lessons from the life of Christ, but by receiving life from the death of Christ.

Hebrews 9:22

* + - 1. After Moses, God gave the children of Israel the Levitical Law.
         1. They were told how to make those sacrifices.
         2. Every smoking altar of every Jewish temple pointed to the coming of Jesus.
         3. Hebrews 10:4

In all of those sacrifices, God was pointing toward Calvary.

* + - * 1. God was getting people ready for the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus.
  1. Through all of the sacrifices in the Old Testament, God was conditioning His people.
     1. When they saw the blood, they knew that sin meant death.
     2. Therefore, people were ready for the death of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross.
     3. This conditioning was not incidental but fundamental.
  2. There was a contrast in the worship of Cain and Abel.

1. the consequences of their worship (genesis 4:5-6)
   1. Genesis 4:5-6
      1. Cain was very angry.
      2. God did not respect Cain’s good intentions nor his good works.
   2. The difference between Cain and Abel is the difference between righteousness and unrighteousness.
      1. God does not grade on the curve; He doesn’t just give an “A” for effort.
         1. God will not overlook sin.
      2. Some people believe that God is too good to punish sin, but they have it backwards.
         1. God is too good not to punish sin.
   3. God is holy.
      1. God never has, never can and never will overlook sin.
      2. All sin must be punished.
      3. If God overlooked sin, then He would cease to be righteous.
   4. Romans 3:23
      1. The definition of sin is coming short of the glory of God.
      2. We should never measure ourselves against a hypocrite or anyone else.
      3. The gap between ourselves and the glory of God is sin.
   5. Romans 3:24-25
      1. The word “propitiation” means “satisfaction.”
      2. Nothing can satisfy the righteousness and holiness of God except the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
   6. Our sin will either be pardoned in Christ or punished in Hell, but it will never be overlooked.
      1. If God were to let sin go unpunished, then God Himself would become a sinner.
   7. All Christianity is described in three sentences:
      1. I deserve Hell.
      2. Jesus took my Hell.
      3. There’s nothing left for me but His Heaven.
   8. Salvation is by grace.
   9. The consequences of that worship are lasting, not only in time but also in eternity.
      1. Abel was killed by Cain, but he did not cease to exist.
         1. Hebrews 11:4
      2. For the child of God, death is not a period but a comma.
2. the conflict of their worship (genesis 4:5-8)
   1. Genesis 4:5-8
      1. Verse seven in this passage literally means that sin is like an animal, crouching at the door.
         1. God is saying to Cain that if he does what He tells him to do, then Cain will do well.
            1. God is no respecter of persons.

Acts 10:34

* 1. The first murder was over religion.
     1. It was also a religious crowd that crucified the Lord Jesus Christ.
     2. Cain killed Abel because his heart was not right with God.
        1. No one can be wrong with God and right with his fellow brother.
  2. False religion is characterized by force, but our faith is characterized by love.
     1. Many today are being murdered in the name of religion.
     2. Many missionaries are showing the love of the Lord Jesus to others and are paying for their faith with their blood.
  3. John 16:1-4
     1. There is no fine print in the contract.
        1. When we sincerely come to Jesus, it may mean that we will die for our faith in Him.
     2. The Lord Jesus warned that there is coming a time when those who kill Christians will think that they are doing God a service.
  4. The words “martyr” and “witness” are the same word in the Greek language.
     1. Death doesn’t make martyrs; it simply reveals them.
  5. True faith is never based upon force.
     1. One of the greatest mistakes the so-called Christian church ever made was the Crusades when they tried by force to spread the faith.
        1. Like Communism, all false religion (such as Islam) is an idea.
        2. The only thing that will kill an idea is a better idea.
           1. And that is the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
     2. We spread the Christian faith with love.
     3. This is the difference between true religion and false religion.
        1. The salvation of Jesus Christ is by grace through faith, based upon the shed blood of the Lord Jesus.
        2. It is never coerced.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Cain slew Abel; but Cain was the loser, not Abel.
      1. Abel won the martyr’s crown.
   2. There are only two religions in the world:
      1. The true
      2. The false
         1. The difference between these two religions is the difference between Heaven and Hell.
   3. Some people believe that there are other ways to Heaven.
      1. If there is another way to Heaven other than the shed blood of the Lord Jesus, then why did Jesus die?
         1. Galatians 2:21
      2. There is no other way.
         1. Hebrews 9:22
   4. There is a red river of blood that flows through all the Bible.
      1. Nothing but the blood of Jesus can wash away our sins.
   5. There are only two ways:
      1. Cain or Abel
      2. Vegetables or a Lamb
   6. Today, will you lay your pride and good works in the dust and trust Jesus?
   7. Romans 5:1
   8. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   9. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16