

What Is Wrong With the World?

Promise: Salvation begins with our recognizing we are what's wrong

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Genesis 4:1-15; Psalm 5; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-17
(19th Sunday after Pentecost, 10/16/22)

The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."—vv. 6-7

Lead In – What is wrong with the world? The question is the title of a book written by the early 20th century journalist, Christian Apologist, and one of the great minds of the day, G.K. Chesterton. And I believe this question consumes our times. The problem is, the answers being given by the world as to what ails it, are at best only partially true, and at worst fully false. I hope that we are aware of the Christian answer and how we must answer. That is what I hope to spell out this morning...

I. The Answer Currently In Vogue In Our Land

- A. White, heterosexual, cisgendered males...
- B. Consistently trying to blame someone else...
- C. Adam led the way, then followed by Eve...

II. A Lesson In Creation, Fall, and Redemption

- A. God's verdict on everything that He had made...
- B. Lack of trust leading to disobedience- to dust...
- C. Already, God's plan to overcome evil...

III. The Hard Lesson Taught By Cain

- A. All we know is that Cain's offering lacked faith...
- B. Cain has an opportunity to surrender to grace...
- C. Instead, Cain hangs onto the anger of envy...

Parting Shot – If Cain had been asked what is wrong with the world, he might very well have answered that Abel is what is wrong with the world. He might have reasoned that to be rid of all the Abel's of the world his lack of favor with God would not stand out. He was bitter and angry that Abel had found favor with God. But what if he had answered differently, "I am what is wrong with the world. I fail to simply trust your promises and give thanks for the undeserved gift of the seed of the woman... Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner!"...

Ge 3:11-13 He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Ge 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Ge 3:4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Ge 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

Genesis 4:1-15 ESV

Cain and Abel

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." ²And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

He 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts.

He 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Ep 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

He 12:15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.

Ep 4:26-27 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.

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