

I. Introduction: The Seared Conscience and Israel's Rejection

In Chapter 8, we talked about what causes a seared conscience. We have been looking at that aspect, examining a number of different things as we came through John chapter 8, all connecting around the leadership of the nation of Israel and their attitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ when He came to be Israel's Messiah.

I began to tell you what to look for specifically in your own self, because the thing that everybody has to guard against is getting the wrong attitude about things. People are the weirdest people on the planet. If things just do not go their way, if they just do not get everything they want the way they think they should, nothing hurts the work of God more than a bad attitude.

It is something that those old four things that I gave you—flexibility, adaptability, and right on down the line—that is the key to keeping your attitude the way that it needs to be. Things change, things happen, and things do not always go the way we want them to go. Developing an attitude about it is not the way to handle it, and it does not add to the smoothness of things; it just adds to the confusion of things.

We talked about how a seared conscience can happen to an unsaved man, or it can happen to a saved man. It is when your spirit goes against the heart of God that is in you that wants to do the right thing. We saw this pattern develop, as I said, within the leaders of the nation of Israel, against the truth of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. We have examined every facet of their attitude and how they have turned completely against the Lord Jesus Christ.

We saw where Jesus told them that because of their rejecting Him, the truth, they would die in their sins. We talked about the aspect of that, and we know now that a saved man cannot die in their sins. That is a term exclusively for unsaved people. But as I said from Romans 6 and Romans 7, a saved person can certainly die with their sins. That is unconfessed sin in their life that they do not take care of with God in their everyday walk with Him.

It had come to the place where God tried to convict them by going through the Word of God and whatever He wrote on the ground, which we probably know is out of the Old Testament, that they walked away. The conviction was enough to make them leave the presence of God, but the conviction was not enough to change them. That is really the key. Real biblical conviction will bring change. When it does not, then you have to look at what the real issue is in your life to try to sort that all out.

As with the leaders of Israel, in time, you get so hardened and cold to the Word of God that it no longer affects you. You can be gone from a church for a month, two months, three months, and nothing inside you really says, "Hey, you need to get back to church." You are busy doing your thing, going where you want to go, doing all the things. You have just completely turned off anything that is important to your life when it comes to the Lord.

Yet people who do that—and I have met them all my life in my 50-some years—they are some of the nicest people you would ever want to meet in your life. It is just when it comes to God, they have no use for Him anymore. That is a sad state of affairs.

II. The Life of David: A Contrast in Conviction

I think the life of David is a study that everybody ought to take at some point in your life. If I might suggest, I think the greatest book—and there are some really good ones out there—but I think the greatest book that I ever used to do it was by Arthur W. Pink. It is a very thick book, but he is just really good with the practical things between David's life and the things that we go through.

In Acts 13:22, the Bible says that he was a man after God's own heart. It says in 1 Kings 15:5 that David did what was right all the days of his life except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. We know standing here that that is not true. We know that there were plenty of things in his life that David did that were wrong. We also know that there were times in his life that he was not a man after God's own heart from our standpoint.

It teaches you to look at somebody, and I get it, but at the bottom line is at the end of the day, what really only matters is what God thinks of you and your relationship with Him. I will tell you right now, I am going to tell you the real key to those two verses, because he was far from perfect. He was far from somebody that always did what was right, and even though God covers all of that through the relationship that he does have, I am going to tell you why.

This is something that everybody ought to learn today, and you ought to take home with you if you do not hear anything else that I have got to say. I do not care how far David strayed. I do not care how far he got out in left field, right field, center field, or maybe in the bleachers. I do not care. God could always squeeze his heart through conviction and bring tears to his eyes. He never got so hard that God could not touch him.

That is because of the fundamental relationship he had with the Word of God, that when the tough times did come, his relationship with the Book would override the things that came into his life. It is a great lesson for all of us. God could always bring him to tears, and those tears led to tears of repentance. I am telling you, you never want to get so far from God that He cannot touch you as His child.

Yet it happens, man. It happens. It happens more than you could ever imagine with God's people today because we have this great umbrella or shell of Christianity that pretends we can pretend that everything is okay, but inside is where the real problem is.

III. The Rejection of Christ and Loss of Reality

Unlike David, the leaders of Israel—and this is another thing you want to learn—they are totally not connected to David in any way, shape, or form, but they are always bragging about how they are. "David, our father," they would say. They like to connect historically back to David, but spiritually there is no connection.

It is a lot like God's people today or pastors that you see who want to connect themselves with the Apostle Paul. Yet they are nothing like the Apostle Paul. They are living in five hundred thousand million dollar homes, driving big cars, and living in luxury. The only stocks and bonds that Paul ever had were the ones on his hands and his feet. Yet they want you to believe, or people to believe, that they are connected to Paul. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

In both cases, like we talked about, they have a form of godliness, but they do not have any power of God in their life. They have lost all reality and complete understanding of anything now that God is doing. We see this so clearly at the first coming of Christ. My favorite phrase through this chapter has been, "Some things never change."

I talked about completely losing touch with the seven things that God loves, and then the seven things that God hates, which are clearly defined in the Bible. Also, remembering what God did, where we all came from, and the miracles that God has done in our lives. Forgetting all the things God has done for them, the nation of Israel, through their years of bondage. In fact, as I showed you last week, to their mindset, they never were in bondage. What a mess and what a picture that is of God's people, not only back then, but unfortunately today.

For us many times, it is the same way and the same things. We get so far out there that you forget who we really are and the people God has used in your life to get you where you are. It is an easy thing that happens.

IV. The First Warning Sign: Drifting From Church

We talked about the first warning sign for us and for the nation of Israel too. For us, the first thing that happens is you start staying away from church. You find excuses, things to do that take you out of the church on Sunday. You either lose sight of or forget, or maybe you never knew, that that is God's New Testament structure in developing and keeping you where God wants you to be.

In time, you then develop an attitude toward it, that it does not bother you anymore. The first couple of times you thought, "Man, I should be in church." After four or five times you said, "Ah, I will get back to it." Then after eight or nine, ten times, you do not even think about it anymore. That is the way it works.

In time, just like the leaders of Israel, you become cold, you become hard, you become indifferent. Then you get to that point where at some place along the line, you sear that conscience that nothing bothers you anymore. You just blow right through anything the Holy Spirit of God tries to do in your world.

V. The Answer in Truth

Then we saw the answer to all of this was found in John 8:32. We talked about this where He said:

John 8:32

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

At the first coming of Christ, Jesus was the deliverer they had been looking for all through the Old Testament. There are over 800 verses in the Old Testament, probably more, that point to Him coming to the nation of Israel. But now at the first coming of Christ, they have rejected the Old Testament scriptures and are looking to an unbiblical class of Old Testament biblical scholars who hate God—describe the Pharisees and the Sadducees—who hate God and His truth. They live for one purpose, and that is to get rid of the Word of God. As I have said many, many times, some things never change because we see that is exactly what the problem is today.

VI. Two Spiritual Families

Having said that, and we looked at that to bring us connected together here today, we are again going to be back in John chapter 8. Yet one more time, we are going to see the bottom line of all their hatred for the Word of God, the Son of God, the Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us, John 1:14. This chapter has been a great chapter for showing us the real issues behind His rejection at the first coming of Christ.

I think it is so vital for us to see and understand it because we are seeing the same thing before the second coming of Christ. All the parallels, the then and now, both saved and lost, the bottom line of rejecting the Word of God today and replacing it with another Bible that has nothing to do with God or the Word of God.

So I want to read our text today, and I want to look at one of what I think is the greatest verses in the Bible that will open up so many avenues of study today. You will see it, we will get into a few of them, but they are pretty much endless. This one verse, as far as I am concerned, dealing with unsaved people and the situations that you face, says it all when it comes to unsaved religious leaders and also the world system. It is the fundamental issue behind everything going on around us today, and most certainly a key verse for life.

So let us read John 8:44-47:

John 8:44-47

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

Now, Father, help us today to begin to put this passage together into an understandable format that we can learn from it, grow from it, correct ourselves from it, and, Lord, apply it to us the way that You would have it to be applied. We will be careful to give You the honor and the glory and the praise now, in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Over the next couple of weeks, I want to look at this passage here, and we are going to talk about three or four different things out of it, to get a better understanding of what is in the passage, and as I have said, how we are going to apply it.

The first thing we need to understand here is the fundamental concept in the world system that there are two spiritual families. I know most of you know this, but many of you, maybe you do not. There are two fundamental spiritual families in the world. I know the world physically is made up of millions and millions of families, but in a spiritual realm, in a spiritual world, there are only two spiritual families: God's and the devil's.

You are going to find that in life, in the world, in the things that go on, it really does not make life look complicated. All that is going on around us looks like it is complicated. It really is not. It just comes down to which family is running it, and that is simply that simple.

VII. Cain and Abel: An Old Testament Illustration of New Testament Truth

What he does here in this passage that will open up a great study on unsaved people in the world system, is he references it back to Cain in Genesis chapter 4. This is what you want to learn about your Bible, and I talk about this to you all the time. Here is an Old Testament story that will lay out and illustrate a New Testament principle. This is how you do it. You find a verse, and then if you can—and sometimes they do not, but in many cases they do—you want to always look to see if there is an Old Testament story that illustrates that principle. Because when you find that, then you have everything that you need to make everything work for you and put it together. You see it all the time, and really it is the key to unlocking your scriptures.

Now I am not going to say that every verse you find you are going to find the story, but I am saying this: every verse you find that is noteworthy, you ought to look and see if you can find the story. It is just that simple.

Historically, Cain here, we know his story is back in Genesis chapter 4, and what we know and see in John 8:44 is that there is a connection here. He says in John 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him."

So when we look at the story in Genesis chapter 4, we know immediately from 1 John 3:12 that Cain was of that wicked one. We see in John 8:44 that he was a murderer from the beginning. We see that there is no truth in him. We see in Genesis 4:9 that he is a liar, and we know that he is the father of lies. Now if you go back to Genesis chapter 4, you will see how this story and John 8:44 really go together.

So let us go back to Genesis chapter 4. Allow me to read here the first 15 verses, and then we will begin to look at this, and we will make the comparison back and show you how that you take a New Testament verse or passage or principle, and you find a story like this one, and it opens itself up to you.

Genesis 4:1-15

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord.

And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.

And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

And Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

And the Lord said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the Lord set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

This is a great passage here, and I do not even know where to begin to go with this. There are so many good things in here, but let us just start with this. Cain will be our first example in the Bible of three things, and you want to get this down.

1. Cain is a picture or a type of the Antichrist. You will notice in verse 15 that he gets a mark, and that mark will be connected in Revelation with the Antichrist. So he is a picture and a type of the Antichrist. He is of his father the devil, so the Antichrist. We have all that there. We do not have time to get into that. We are going to spend a couple of months on that one.
2. He is a picture of an unsaved man. This is what we want to focus on today.
3. He is a type of the nation of Israel who kills Christ, Abel. He is a picture of what we are studying here in the Gospels, especially in John chapter 8.

All this, as far as how we want to look at it, and we are going to talk about him as a fact of an unsaved man here, going back to John 8:44. But this is a really good pattern for all of us. You hear me talk about learning the patterns of the Bible. The pattern of an unsaved man who is religious or just worldly. The verse John 8:44 and this story will lay out the pattern for you. This is how you use patterns: laying it out verse by verse, getting a verse and then getting a story that illustrates the passage, and then setting the two down and let the story illustrate for you what the verse, or vice versa. It goes both ways.

Now let us look at Genesis 4:1-2 here:

Genesis 4:1-2

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord.

And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Cain is remarkable because we know about the law of first mention. The first time you find something in the Bible, it is key, and you want to mark it because you want to use it because it will always stay consistent. Cain and Abel are the first sets of twins in the Bible. You want to mark that down. There are a lot of guys that would argue with that who do not believe the Bible, and they would say, "Well, there is no place that it says they are twins like you saw in Jacob and some of the other places." But I beg to differ with you if you know your Bible, if you believe your Bible.

If you look at Genesis 4:1, it says, "Adam knew his wife and she conceived and bare Cain and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. She again bare his brother Abel." There are two births here, but there is only one conception. In the Bible, they always list the birth and the conception separately. So when the King James Bible is trying to show you something that they did not want the scribes and the Pharisees to see and get, He is showing you that there are two births here, but there is only one conception. That would lead me to believe that they are twins, which they obviously are.

These two boys now are going to represent the two families, spiritual families, in John 8:44: God's family and the devil's family. The first thing that you want to note is the occupation of both of them. I think this is very important. This is how you do it now, guys. This is what you do. You stop, you look at it, and do not just blow through it. You go back and you start asking yourself and looking at key things.

Abel is a sheep herder, or he keeps sheep. Cain is a farmer; he tills the ground. Now, a trained eye, if I would read that, I would know right out of the gate that there is going to be something probably amiss here. Because I know what sheep represent, and I also know that Cain is making his living out of the ground, and from Genesis 3:17, I have been told the ground is now cursed. That would not, in my mind, just thinking it, that would not be the best place to find a sacrifice for God out of something that is cursed. It is like worshiping God out of something that has a curse on it, like the new Bibles, or something in the world system. What we have here is the fact that right out of the gate we see there is going to be a problem. We can begin to see developing these two families. They may have come from the same mother, but they are completely different in their fathers. Now we begin to see John 8:44 begin to unfold itself.

VIII. God's Mercy and Cain's Rejection

The second thing you need to see is Genesis 4:3-5:

Genesis 4:3-5

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.

And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Some time passes here. The crops come in. The sheep are getting fatter. They both decide to give an offering unto the Lord. That tells me something in itself. It tells me that both of them have some kind of an awareness of God. Remember now, it has just been, oh, I do not know, maybe 5, 15, 20 years since the mom and dad were kicked out of the garden. Here they are now. They decide that they are going to give an offering to the Lord.

Cain, he brings the fruit of his labors from the ground. I guarantee you he probably had the best fruits and vegetables around in that country. I mean, I bet they were spectacular. Of course, we now know that Abel he brings of the firstlings of the flock. Then we see that God rejects Cain's offering. He will not accept his fruits and vegetables. It is a picture of a man trying to take his own works out of the ground, which is cursed, your flesh. Remember, man came from the dust of the ground. It is a picture of a man trying to take from his own labors through his flesh and bring in something to God that God will accept for his salvation.

Of course, the old saying that you do not hear it much anymore, but us older folks used to hear it all the time: "You cannot get blood out of a turnip." How many heard that phrase? Everybody over 60. Not exactly. That is true. You know what Cain tried to do? Try to get blood out of a turnip. Of course, people have asked me all my life, "What does that mean? What does that mean?" Well, you just showed your ignorance to the Bible. That is Cain. You see, he tried to get blood out of a turnip. He went to a turnip tournament and tried to win first place, but he did not make it.

But Abel brings a lamb, firstlings of the flock, Genesis 4:4. He offers something innocent by shedding its blood for his sin at his offering. God has respect and accepts Abel's offering but will never accept the works of a man's hands for an offering of his salvation. Now you can see how clear that is. That does not take Greek or Hebrew. It does not take any education at all. It just takes a third grade reading ability, and you can see. One brings of the ground. The other one brings something innocent, sheds its blood, obviously a lamb. And God says, "I will accept that. I will not accept that." Why?

Here is the biblical principle:

Titus 3:5

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

You cannot get to heaven by your good works. You cannot join a church and say, "I am going to get me to heaven." You cannot get baptized and say, "Now my sins are washed away and I am going to get to heaven." What shall wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

See, that is Cain's problem. Now Cain is mad. He is upset. He is wrong. He did not get his own way. Something happened in his life that he thought he was going to be accepted, and he was not. Now he is upset. Now he has got an attitude. Here we begin to see the real issue. The real issue, whether you are saved or lost, will always be your attitude. How do you rock and roll with the things that come in your life and the things that you do? When you do something wrong, hey, it is not somebody else's fault. That is the way you have got to look at it.

Here we begin to see the real issue: his attitude to what God wanted for him. Oh, this is so good. His attitude to what God wanted him to do. Do you realize that that is where it starts with all of us? Once you get saved, He began a good work in you. He has something that He wants you to do. The real battle between God's people will be what God wants for you versus what you want for you. Boy, there is where the battle starts.

Here Cain is an unsaved man, but yet at the same time, you see these qualities in God's people, or lack of qualities, I guess. I want you to see this. Cain is not in ignorance. I have heard a lot of writers, or read a lot of writers, that they feel sorry for Cain because they try to make him the victim. Now I do not know what your problems are today, and I do not know what issues you have or what you are upset at or who you are upset at. But I can just tell you this: there are no victims here this morning. A real victim is defined in the Bible, and we are not it. We got the messes that we got in because we did not do what we needed to do the way we should have done it, the time we should have done it. So let us just be clear about that.

So he is not ignorant of this thing. His mom and dad, I guarantee you, had told the story many times of what happened in the garden. They were sitting around a campfire, and as they were growing up, they saw the garden that they were expelled from. They saw all that stuff over there, and they would ask the questions that all little kids would. Mom and dad probably over and over and over again told the story of them being dispersed out of that garden and why.

He knew. He knew that God—I am sure they told the story—that when we disobeyed God and we knew we were now sinners, we went out and got some fig leaves to cover our nakedness because now we knew we were naked. So we took the fruit leaves off of a tree to cover our nakedness, and God met us and said, "That is not going to work. That will not cover your nakedness." So He took a lamb and He killed that lamb, and He made and covered our nakedness through the death of something innocent by the shedding of the blood. He knew that story.

You are kidding me. You are telling me that this man could not decide to take fig trees of fruit and all the stuff, and he is trying to bring it when God would not allow that for his own parents to cover their nakedness? It took something innocent to die. In fact, this is where you connect it: Isaiah 61:10. You know what they called over there when it talks about Israel's salvation? The garments of salvation. You betcha.

Fig leaves in the Bible is a picture of man's self-righteousness. So when they grabbed the fig leaves and made them aprons to cover their nakedness, there again, that is a picture of an unsaved man trying to cover his nakedness before God with something that he did, and God said, "That is not going to work." He killed something and covered him by the shedding of blood. Cain knew that. He was not oblivious to that. He realized that it was man's self-righteousness versus God's righteousness.

He rejected what he knew to be true. Listen now. He rejected what he knew to be true, and through his pride, thinks that his vegetable stand is going to be good enough to get him to heaven. When it is the shedding of blood that is for our remission of sin, the bottom line, he saw what God did accept. He saw what God did with his own brother, and he just had an attitude about it and said, "You know what? I am going to stick with my fruit stand."

Now watch this.

Genesis 4:6-7

And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

What a great insight into God's mercy and grace. God had every right to come down and just whack him. He had every right to come down and just rip him one side up down the other and just go over and over about what he knew to be right and knew to be true and then what he did and just throw him in the lake of fire. But oh, Isaiah 1:18-19:

Isaiah 1:18-19

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

I mean, this is the picture of God at His best. In spite of what he knew, Cain, in spite of what he did not do, God is still trying to give him a chance. Then you have got to love the way it is. God says to him, "Why has thy countenance fallen, Cain?" Now God knew why his countenance had fallen. He wanted to see if Cain would fess up and say why it was fallen.

You know the first thing that goes on you when your attitude is your face. I mean, you can tell when you have got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in your heart, or you are like those Babylonian Jews over there when they say, "Why do you not sing us one of the songs of Zion?" And they say, "How can we sing the songs of Zion when we are living in a strange land?" See, that is what happens. You get in a strange land, and you cannot sing those songs anymore. Oh, it is a great thing. It is just great.

He says, "Why is thy countenance fallen?" He is saying, "Cain, hey, hey buddy, there is no reason to be upset. What are you mad about?" God says in Genesis 4:7, "Hey, if you do well, you will be accepted." God did not slam the door. God did not say, "That is it. You had your shot. You are going to hell." He did not do that. Are you not thankful He did not do that to you and me the first time you rejected? But that is God.

See, there is no reason to get mad. No real problem here. He is simply saying, "Look buddy, you go get the right offering. Sell those beautiful apples and melons and oranges and grapes you have there. Go sell those. Go to your brother and buy a lamb. Bring it and make the sacrifice. It is okay. There is no reason for you to get an attitude about anything. Hey, I will accept it." Now that is God at His best.

You know what that is right there? That is free will. If anything ever—and I always knew Calvinism and predestination was bunk—but if anything ever really reinforced it to me, not that it needed to, I think it is more laughable and comical. They are always talking about, "Well, you are predestined to be saved or you are predestined not to be saved. You are predestined to be in that car accident or you are not predestined to be in that car accident. You are predestined to do this or you are not predestined to do that."

Oh, and these guys, I have friends that just lived by that right up to COVID-19. Then they locked themselves away in a house. They would not go to the store. They would not go to eat. They would not go anywhere, be around anybody, wore masks in the house. If they did go out, they had to change clothes in the garage before they came in. Hey, if you really believe in predestination, you are going to get it or you are not going to get it. I mean, you could put yourself up in Saran wrap, and if God, if you are predestined to get it, you are going to get it. If you are not predestined to get it, you can go out and do whatever you want to do, not wear a mask, not do anything, and you are not going to get it. But you see, this is where you see the fallacy of this. It works right until it comes push comes to shove. Crazy stuff, man. Crazy.

I will tell you something about God and His love for us. You see, He knows Cain brought the wrong sacrifice. He knows Cain has got the wrong attitude. He knows that he is of that wicked one. He knows how he came into the world and by whom. He knows that he is a liar. He knows literally that he is of his father, the devil, yet He gives him a chance.

Now, if I may just speak personally, and I cannot speak for you, nor would I presume to. But you know what that tells me about God and His love for me and you, but you are on your own? It tells me that from the beginning, God knew I could not bring the right sacrifice. It tells me from the get-go, I was destined to go to the lake of fire. To me, it was not like the TV program "Heaven or Not." No, it was heaven or hell. God knew that I would never be able to bring the right sacrifice. He knew that most of my life I had the wrong attitude. He knew John 8:44 that my spiritual family was the devil, and I was of his family, the devil. He knew that I was born in sin, destined to be the enemy of God and go against God all my life. Romans chapter 2 says that I am enmity with God, the enemy of God, the great chapter on the Gentiles.

Yet, in spite of all of that, He came and said to me, "Come let us reason together." I was all these things that Cain is. Yet God loved me enough to give me a choice. He said, "Hey, Bob, you are in the wrong family. Because you are in that family, the lust of that family you are going to do. You are in a family that the guy that is ahead of that family is a murderer from the beginning. There is no truth in him. That is the family you are in. What you need to do is you need to quit thinking you are better than what you are. You need to accept yourself as the sinner you are. You need to realize that nothing in your hand that you bring I am going to accept. Then you just need to come to the cross, and My death on the cross and My shedding of My innocent blood for you will take you from that family to My family."

Brother, bless God, that is what I did. I may have had a lot of attitudes in my life before I got saved, but I will tell you what, that day, thank God I had the right attitude. I knew my salvation and my fruits and my labors were not going to cut it with me and God.

I remember preaching this message years and years and years and years ago at some church. I cannot even remember where it was. I was preaching this message, and I got up there, and I talked about the fact, and I said to the people, "Folks, if you are here today and you are unsaved, your spiritual name is devil." I said, "If you are here today and you are saved, your spiritual name is the Lord Jesus." I preached the message all around that. I started that way.

Afterwards, this dear old—I never did find out if she was saved or not—but she came up to me, some very old lady, she is probably in her 70s or 80s, probably long dead by now. She came up, and she shook her finger in my face, and she says, "Young man," she says, "I am offended at what you said about me being in the devil's family." I said, "Well, ma'am, I am sorry." She says, "No," she says, "I think I am really upset about that." I said, "Well, I understand." She says, "You do?" And I said, "Yeah, I was upset the first time somebody told me I was in a devil's family, and what I did, I changed families. So my advice to you is, dear, why do not you change families?" No, she did not say it was good. You said it was good. She did not like it. She left, but it was good.

IX. Cain's Response and Consequences

Now look at Genesis 4:7. This is a good one. "If you do not do what is right, then sin lieth at the door." Doors in the Bible will always represent opportunities. You have this morning, whatever state you are in, if you are lost, you have two opportunities. One of them is to get saved, or the other one is to reject God. They are both doors that you have to walk through. You do what is right with the truth of God's word, and you walk through the door of salvation. You will find that in John chapter 10, right there, a door, the door of salvation. You reject the truth and go your own way like Cain did, and then you go through the door of sin and ungodliness. Genesis 4:7.

Now do not tell me that life is complicated. It is simply sitting here for you this morning, whatever state you are in, saved or lost, you have got two doors. You either go through the door of salvation or you go through the door of sin that is just lying there waiting for you to come its way.

The next thing you want to mark in your Bible, if you do not have it already marked here, is in Genesis 4:7 you find the word "sin." This is the first time you find the word "sin" in your Bible. The first time you find the word "sin" in your Bible, it is not talking about some unrelated concept. It is talking about you and where you are going to spend eternity, by the door you walk through. For an unsaved man, there are two doors in life: the door of sin and the door of salvation. After you get saved, you have two doors in your life as a Christian. You have the church of the open door, Revelation chapter 3, or you have the church of the closed door, and you get to choose. You get to choose out of two Bibles, one of them God's, the other one is the devil's, see? Two families, two choices.

For a moment, let us look at Genesis 4:8 and let us look at Cain's response to the offer God so graciously gave him in spite of his bad sacrifice, not to mention his bad attitude.

Genesis 4:8

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

That is an amazing verse. Now, the Bible does not give a lot of details on this, so you have got to kind of know what you know from everything else you know in the Bible, but that must have been some conversation. I mean, I know exactly what they talked about, and it is not even in the Bible, but I know what is on the heart of a man who just gets saved versus what is on the heart of a man who rejects God's salvation. I am not an idiot.

I will tell you, Abel is out there watching those sheep, and he has gotten out of his heart, "I have got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart." And the sheep are going, "Down in my heart." I mean, he is having a great time. You say God would not do that. Oh, I do not know. God had an ass talk one time, preached a good message. Probably better than both preachers are preaching today, but that is another message.

So Cain comes along. You can just see him coming. Cain says, "Hey, buddy, come on over, brother. How is it going today?" Cain says, "Well, it is not going very good." "What is the matter,

man?" "Well, I am just going to tell you, you gave your sheep, and God said He would take yours, and I labored. You do not know how much I labored for all those things, and God would not take mine. He just would not take it."

And Abel says, "Well, I am sorry to hear that, but you know what? No problem. Here, take one of my lambs. Take one and go do what God—did God talk to you? You know, God said, if I brought the right one, then here, have one of mine. You do not have to pay for it. Just take mine." And Cain says, "No, I am not taking mine. If God is not going to accept mine, and that is just the way it is going to be, I will show Him. I will leave the church. I will not talk to Him anymore. I will not have anything to do with Him anymore. I will quit tithing too. I will show Him."

It is a thing where, I just tell you right now, I am just really upset. This thing really offended me, and I am offended. A preacher said something to me that he should not have said. He says I was my father the devil. He said I needed this and needed that, and said my fruit was no good and all that stuff. He told me I should have known back here. Hey, I am going to tell you what, I do not need this. I really do not. So he can just do whatever he wants to do with this.

And Abel puts his arm around him and says, "Brother, it is okay. Just get your arm off me." He said, "No, man, what is the matter with you?" He says, "It is okay. God loves you." And boy, about that time, those old blood vessels on Cain's head began to pop out, boy. He is feeling around down there, and he picks up a big old rock. He says, "He loves me? Does He love you?" "Yes, He does." "Good. Is He going to take care of you?" "Yes, He will." "Good. Let us see how well He takes care of you now." And he caught him by the shirt and smashed him across the head with that rock. His brother fell on the ground dead. Cain looked at that rock and threw it down and says, "Now we will see. Now we will see."

The third thing you want to mark: Cain is your first murderer in the Bible. Now, we will just throw this in. Number four, the Bible does not say this, but I can guarantee it pretty close: Cain is probably the first guy in the Bible who sears his conscience with a hot iron. The guy said to one time, he says, "Man, I cannot even imagine a hatred for the Word of God driving somebody to kill people that do not follow and that believe what they believe." And I said, "Are you kidding me? Where have you been all through church history? What, the Roman Catholic Church killed millions of them, burned them at the stake, cut their heads off, did terrible things to them, all because of the Bible they believed. Do not give me that. Where have you been all your life?"

Now look at Genesis 4:9-10:

Genesis 4:9-10

And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

Now, a trained eye, "Where is thy brother Abel?" sounds very familiar that when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden and they are hiding from God in Genesis 3:9, that the Lord comes walking

in the garden in the cool of the day and says, "Adam, where art thou?" Now I just have got to tell you this, and I am sure you are an intelligent individual, so you figure this out. But in both cases, Genesis 3 with Adam and Eve and here, God knows exactly where his brother is, and He knows exactly what happened.

You see, one of the great qualities about God is He always knows where we are at and what we have done, and when He confronts us with it, He wants to see if we are honest enough to admit it and deal with it. One of the great principles of life, God always gives us a chance to fess up. That is one of the important things about going to church and not taking the church out of your life and not being there and not being around God's people because you know what this service is today, other than being astounding? It is your chance to fess up. It is your chance to fess up because the Lord is asking you this morning just like He asked him and just like He asked where you are this morning. You see, if you are not here, then you do not have to answer that question. But it is hard not to answer it when you are sitting here, is it not?

Cain's response is a pattern response used by his brethren for the next 6,000 years, saved and unsaved, brother. They get that seared conscience and get that attitude toward God and the things of God, whether you are saved or you are lost. He says, "Hey, where is your brother Abel?" And he says, "I know not. Am I my brother's keeper?" He is a liar. He knows where he is at. He just knows where he is at. No, you are not your brother's keeper. You are your brother's murderer. You are your smart mouth.

You will see it in Cain's life, and you will see it in the people that are like Cain in his life, saved and lost. I will see somebody that has not been around for three or four or five weeks, and I will say, "Hey, I missed you." And they will say, "Yeah, I was not there." I say, "Hey, I have not seen you for a while." And you say, "Yeah, I was not there." No kidding. Then you just sit there and stand there and look at me with that stupid grin on your face like you just said something. When the bottom line is my next question would be, "Why is that countenance fallen? Why are you not happy like you once were? Why do you not have the joy of the Lord in your heart? How is your family doing? How is your marriage doing? How is your own personal life doing? Is it better out there than it was in here?"

I say, you will probably say, "Yes," you know why? Because you have seared your conscience, and you forgot all the things that God did for you here. If you have kids and they are saved, they did not get saved out there in the world. They got saved here probably. You probably may have gotten saved here. Certainly if you are already saved, God revealed Himself to you here. Is He revealing Himself out there to you? Wherever you are at, whatever you are doing, is He really revealing Himself to you? Do you really have that joy, joy, joy, joy down in your heart that instead of just fessing up and saying, "Yeah, I am not where I need to be, I really need some help getting there," you give those smart-aleck answers like Cain did, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Now, if I had been God at that time, I would have slapped his head into the next galaxy. But that is the difference between me and God. I do not like smart-aleck answers. I like honest answers. I like dumb answers. But smart-aleck answers when you and I both know the truth, are not going

to get you anywhere. But that is why I walk around with my hands in my pocket so I do not slap you in the face.

Look at Genesis 4:10. "The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." Now, to really understand this, and we do not have time to do this this morning, you need to go back to Numbers 35:33, Genesis 2:7. Man was made out of the dust of the ground. So Numbers 35 says when somebody murders somebody that their blood, it cries out from the ground because that is where it came from. If you do not kill the murderer, then the blood cries out. It is a whole study, but we do not have time to get into that today.

Then with all we have here, John 8:44, look at where it goes. It always goes this way.

Genesis 4:16

And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord.

You know, that is where it is always going to lead to. If you just do not get honest with God, and you still perpetuate this idea that everybody here is wrong and you are okay. By the way, this is the fifth thing you want to mark down that he is first in: he is the first man that ever left the presence of God. Now, the trained eye out of my old King James 1611. Look at that phrase, "went out from the presence of the Lord." You know, over there in Job 1:6 and 12, when the devil came before the Lord to present himself, to kind of castigate on Job, you know that it says almost the exact same thing here that he leaves the presence of the Lord. This guy is just doing what his father did in both cases.

Cain goes out to build a city, Genesis 4:17. That is a sixth thing, that is the first city in the Bible. You have got to know that the first city in the Bible was built by a murderer. God's program was never a city. God's program was a garden, never a city. God's program was a garden that bore fruit that you could eat the fruits and eat all that stuff and have all you want. God never designed the city. A murderer did because God knew that you cannot eat asphalt. Everything you eat in the city comes from, guess where? You betcha, the farm. The garden. So it is a thing where, you know, that this is why you have such high murder rates in the cities: Chicago, New York, Kansas City, wherever you want to go. The first city was built by a murderer. Satan goes forth in Job chapter 2, and when he goes forth, he goes forth to destroy the people of God. Cain builds a city that winds up being Babylon, who also destroys the people of God. Get the book.

X. Recap and Conclusion

Now, some great lessons here for us. We want to get these down in recap.

There are two doors in life. If you are here this morning and you are unsaved.

1.) One of them is a door to sin.

2.) The other one is the door to salvation.

One will help you with your problem. The other one will destroy you with your problems.

Then you will either get into a church of an open door that has the right Bible that gives you the right things, or you will get into a church with a closed door who gives you the things of the world.

You want to remember now, he is a type of the Antichrist. He is a type of the unsaved man. He is a type of the nation of Israel. And the law of first mention, we saw six things:

4. The first twins in the Bible.
5. The first time the word "sin" is in the Bible.
6. The first murderer in the Bible.
7. The first seared conscience in the Bible.
8. The first man to leave God's presence like his father did.
9. The first man to build a city when God's plan was a garden.

You have here a study of a man's issues with God. Saved or lost, our issues, whether you are saved this morning or you are lost, the issues that we have that are affecting your attitude this morning will start right here. It will start right here. We like to blame others for our inadequacies. We like to blame others for our this or that. It is a thing where, you know what? It is all on us as individuals.

Next week when we get together, we are going to walk through some more things here. But you have got a great lesson, an opening lesson on John 8:44. You learned a lot today about the patterns of unsaved people. Hopefully next week we will at least succeed some more, and we will get some things going, and we will go from there. Let us have a word of prayer, and then we will get on with what we are doing. Father, we do thank You.