

“The Way that Seemeth Right unto Man”
Proverbs 14:12

Introduction: 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.”*

- Matthew 7:13-14 teaches us that there are two ways in which man can travel.
- Matthew 7:13-14- *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

1. The Broad Way

- a. It has a wide gate, an easy road, and a bitter end.
- b. It begins at the gate of the garden and runs by the city of destruction to the caverns of the lost.
- c. Cain’s way produced a murderer.

2. The Narrow Way

- a. It has a narrow gate, a hard road, and a glorious end.
- b. It begins at the garden of God and runs by the way of the cross to the city of God.
- c. Abel’s way produced a martyr.

Body: Notice the notes in my Bible.

I. Cain Substituted Reason for Revelation Genesis 3:15, 21

- A. Cain and Abel had access to the same information. Forgiveness comes only through sacrifice. Notice Genesis 3:21- *“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”* (See outline in Bible)
- B. Cain and Abel must have heard from Adam and Eve the way of salvation.
- C. Hebrews 11:4- *“By faith Abel offered unto God...”*
- D. Romans 10:17- *“So then faith cometh by hearing...”*
- E. Cain ignored the counsel of his parents. He substituted reason for revelation.
- F. The liberal theologian sets apart God’s Word for their own carnal ideas.

II. Cain Substituted Trying for Trusting

- A. Cain was not an atheist.
- B. Cain was of the persuasion that salvation must be earned. We have to work for it; we have to suffer and earn merit.
- C. Man made religion calls upon us to fast and pray and make pilgrimages and do penance and do good works.
- D. This is the way of Cain.
- E. This is the way that seems right unto man.
- F. Rock of Ages
Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling.

III. Cain Substituted Beauty for Blood Genesis 4:3

- A. Hebrews 9:22- *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”*
- B. Exodus 12:13- *“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”*
- C. Exodus 12:23- *“For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.”*
- D. Cain’s whole artistic soul rose up in revolt against such a gospel of gore.
- E. Cain had a better way. He planted a garden and toiled night and day. Then he built an altar of hewn stones and brought fragrant flowers and colorful fruits. He arranged them and rearranged them until he had obtained a desired effect. “Now, that ought to please God,” he said.
- F. It was beautiful. The only problem was that it was the fruit of the earth that God had cursed. Genesis 3:17

IV. Cain Substituted Persecution for Persuasion

- A. God rejected Cain’s religion totally and Cain was furious. He went away in a rage.
- B. Cain went around and looked at Abel’s altar, stained with blood, black with fire, reeking of death; and his blood boiled.
- C. Genesis 4:8-9

Conclusion: Jude 1:11- *“Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.”*