

Living and Loving as Cain is Death

Extending Life and Power

Grace upon grace. God is the solution and has the solution to every needful thing. As James would teach — a problem is only a problem when we don't possess the solution to the problem. But there is no problem that God isn't or doesn't have the solution to. He is and has the answer key to all and everything. And we can count it or add joy to the problem, that God is using to deliver us to death that the life of Christ can be manifested out of our mortal flesh, that it may work life in those watching us seek, surrender and steadfastly walk through the trouble because we, in faith, believe, and therefore, boldly ask the Lord for the next step in the equation to the trouble He's using to make us more like Jesus. The trouble is not doing it... He's transforming us in and through to bring us into a hope that He's built and will never ever disappoint. But if we don't believe His tests are purposeful (Romans 5) and He has the wisdom/solution/answer key (James 1 ; 2 Peter 1) we'll be manipulated by the situation, circumstances, our surroundings and our flesh will be manipulated by our environment — like water. Water is unstable because it's at the mercy of its environment. Water is completely controlled by the conditions it is put in. Genesis 49 Jacob said Reuben had everything he needed to be great but because the circumstances of life pushed and pulled him back and forth he would never prosper to his full potential. A glass of water can be turned into vapor/gas, ice or room temp but it's all based on what it's put in. Put the manipulating winds of an unrelenting society, bent on foolishness and personal rights, behind it, and the waves of unstable people will crumble down empires.

The righteousness of faith...

Noah, as with Enoch and Abram, walked [with] God in the midst of the messed up world they lived among. Now, to say they walked with God, we have to understand that this means that they went [with] God, wherever God took them, and they worked [with] God, as God led them. Noah, for example, was affected by the word God spoke to him. Hebrews 11:7 says, "by faith (hearing a divine warning from God) Noah MOVED with godly fear, prepared an ark. The word from God moved him. It affected every aspect of his life and actions. He went where God sent and worked what God gave him to work. Today, those who are MOVED by God walk [with] Him, and they walk with Him by faith. They are those who, by faith, go [with] Him, wherever He takes them and they, by faith work [with] Him, as He leads them. For there is absolutely no other way to walk with God. God moves and affects every aspect of a believer's life when they walk with Him.

A few gems to ponder for today...

Looking back can be a blessing and needful at times but you can't get to where you're going by only looking back! Keep pressing on brethren. Remember, we don't have to let our mess ups, or the mess ups of others, keep messing us up. Why? His mercies are fresh every morning. Glory... Philippians 3:7-21

Some of us never aim to fail, we just fail to aim... or we're aiming at the wrong thing. Whatever we set our sights on, we usually hit it. Sometimes it's our past that we have in view... and when it is, it will manipulate our future toward failure, if our past mess ups and regrets are not filled with grace! (Philippians 3:12-16)

Paul gives us such great advice.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

A little poem to encourage:

"Whatever wall you're climbing or the valley you're walking through...
Don't let those watching, manipulate or be a distraction... for you.
Some will cheer you on and others are there to simply see you fall...
But only you have the power to give... so give, and give it your all!"

Brethren...MARK THEM which live as we do (living to take hold of the surpassing value of the knowledge of Jesus), and you FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their mind earthly things.) Philip. 3:17-19

Just the words "enemies of the cross of Christ" should cause everyone to examine themselves - such a powerful statement. Lord let me never cause you to weep and let me never be considered an enemy of you.

Love Not As Cain

We looked at Cain, in light of the Older and Newer Testaments and gleaned a few thoughts about life and love. Cain was a man of great passion and love. He loved who and what he loved but his life

and love were fundamentally flawed. What seemed and felt RIGHT, was wrong and what was WRONG seemed and felt right. Why? Here's the thing. Man's greater issue is not WHAT he believes but WHO he believes. Cain believed Cain and not God, therefore it affected what he believed. The way of Cain, like the way of all who line up on the wrong side with God, is a WAY that rejects and replaces God's way for their own. And that's where his troubles began. Who you believe will directly and indirectly dictate what you believe. And if you're believing the wrong one then what you're believing to be right will be off, too.

For example, as it applies to Cain. The description is called "the way of Cain" and we are told that we should not love as Cain in (1 John 3:11-12. John says, "love not as Cain, who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. Cain's works, which he (Cain) loved, that he would risk his life and kill for, he loved more than God's way. That's why his way and doings are called evil.

Don't let your mess ups... or the mess ups of others, even those you put a lot of stock in, mess you up! Mess ups can be cleaned up... even the dirtiest one, unless you want to wallow in it like a hog that keeps going back to the mire. Move on, don't let your guilt go un-graced, and help others get out of the muddy rut they're in, and you'll be glad you did. Forgiveness and freedom is always better... and Jesus can forgive way better than you can sin. And His freedom and forgiveness gets sweeter and sweeter when it's shared. Glory... (Micah 7:18-20)

We need a renewed heart for the fresh work of the kingdom, that we might have a fresh and new song of praise unto the Lord.

Philippians 3:12-15 & Psalm 144 & Romans 12

Extending Life and Power

The life (Jesus) and power (His word) of faith — extends — through the believer to touch those — who hear Him and see what He sees. Faith doesn't extend to others it's the same life and power of faith that feeds and powers your faith. For the life and power of faith is what's needed for them to believe and trust. They need Jesus and His message to believe and

trust.

We often give the wrong impression and idea of grace when we tell people that God accepts us — as though He approves of us — as we are. It would be best when we explain it, to explain it correctly. How then? God accepts and welcomes us — despite the way we are — because He receives us — when He saves us — because of His redeeming grace through Christ. We are adopted, accepted and approved only in Christ — on the merit of Christ's righteous life and love and not our own. He accepts Christ and because we trust Jesus, God credits His righteous life and love for ours. So what we are, what we've done and will ever do was adequately judged and condemned through the substitutionary life and death of Jesus. And this He does (accept us) with the eternal intent to transform us into the likeness of Jesus. He has gone as far as predestining it to be — our salvation, sanctification, separation, sealing and security for all eternity are all according to His will and praise. His word, work and wondrous work in our lives are to echo His praise.

God satisfying God... God propitiates God.

The standard by which all men will be judged has to be the same standard by which all men shall live. You cannot have a standard of judgment and a different standard to live by. Therefore, the qualities by which we will be judged is the same qualities that we are to live by. Acts 17 reveals this standard and it is found only in one — the Lord Jesus Christ. If we are not as righteous as He at the judgement it is because we were not as righteous as He in this life. 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 and Titus 2:11-14 help see how we become the righteousness of God through the sacrificial and substitutionary life and death of Jesus. The life He lived, qualified Him to die the death that He died. And the death that He died, qualifies us to trust, believe and receive the life that He lived.

The cross... the message of the good news of God's redeeming grace in Christ Jesus. This message includes and radiates His unique birth, His sinless life, His sacrificial death upon His cross and the power of the resurrection. His resurrection was validation... it justified everything He said, everything He thought, all that He did, what He said, when He did, what He did, proving that He was both, man and God. And because He was God's Son, and Mary's Child, He was unlike any other ever born and we can count on Him to fulfill all that He promised, including saving those who believe and returning for them, before the end of time. Yes, the gospel of Christ and His redeeming grace, graciously given and applied to those who trust Him and His message with their lives.

And as Paul teaches us in Romans... for ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, therefore, no flesh can ever be justified in His sight by keeping and doing the law. God is the only—justifier—and He only justifies believers by His grace, which is only found and applied through

the life and sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. Justification took place when Jesus became sin for us, when God's just wrath fell upon Him, for every believer—that every believer could become what they couldn't become apart from Jesus being their substitute upon the cross—His is every believers, righteousness—the righteousness of God. Believers, upon trusting Jesus, have been imputed with God's righteous, because they, by grace and through faith, have traded their lives and sins for His life and righteousness.

The cross, as it is often referred to, speaks of the sacrificial and substitutionary death of Jesus. The place of judgment and salvation offered in the life and shed blood of the Lamb of God. He was cursed to free us from our curse and condemnation. Paul, says God "set forth" or "presented" or "offered" us His ONLY answer and solution to our greatest dilemmas with sin, selfishness and death. His answer for humanities depravity is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is God's ONLY propitiation—that is, the only offering that can satisfy God and cover the sinner in His mercy and righteousness. And this grace can ONLY be applied when we entrust our lives and ways and sins to Him and His message.

The cross speaks of love and grace, mercy and wrath, reconciliation and redemption, judgment and justice, righteousness and forgiveness and so much more, that we'll spend an eternity learning the depths of its meaning. But here are are few more things about the message of the cross.

- It Reaches the wretched (Mat15:17)
- It Rescues the perishing (John3:15)
- It Reconciles the enemy (Col.1:21)
- It Redeems the slave (1 Cor. 6:20)
- It Regenerates the sinner (Titus 3:5)
- It Reveals the heart (Luke 2)
- It Rejoices the believer (Gal 6:14)
- It Repulses the world (1 Cor. 1:18)
- It Renews the laborer (1 Cor. 1:18)
- It Reminds the church (Rom 1:16-17)
- It Restores the backslider (Hosea 14:4)
- It Reproves the wayward (2 Cor. 7)
- It Revives the humble (Isaiah 57:15)
- It Replenishes the kingdom minded (Romans 1)
- It Rewards the faithful (Hebrews 11)

Glory, hallelujah to the King!!! Now these question is for you: what has or what does or how has the message of the cross effected you?

#nestingwithjesus #1john #1john3 #genesis #genesis15 #genesis15and6 #james1 #james3
#galatians3 #hebrews11 #philippians3 #theprize #extending #extendinglifeandpower
#dontletyourmessupsmessyouup #messupsdonthavetomessusup #ungracedguiltkills #presson
#ungracedguiltmanipulates #imputedrighteousness #lookuntojesus #genesis4 #genesis3 #Jude
#thebookofbegginings #pride #lovelikeJesusnotlikeCain #donotlovelikeCain #thewayofCain
#cainandable #acceptable #genesis4and4thru6 #grit #grace #favor #failure #failures #quitting
#quitters #prideshowsnopartiality #acceptabletoGod #Cain #hedidnotlaydownhispride #Able
#upfromtheashesoffaliure #getupandlookup