

SERMON SHEET

11/10/24

Study of Hebrews #46 "Living by Faith: Abel" Text: Hebrews 11:4

I. Introduction & review

1. Faith's basic attribute
2. Faith's ultimate reward
3. Faith's primary understanding

II. By faith Abel worshipped acceptably (v. 4a).

III. Through faith Abel speaks eternally (v. 4b).

1. We must live by faith.
2. Only by faith are we commended as righteous.
3. We are called to worship God acceptably.
4. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

IV. Conclusion – a final word

QUOTES

1. ESV Study Bible:

At no point does the Bible suggest that offerings work automatically, as if the worshiper's faith and contrition did not matter; and Cain's fundamentally bad heart can be seen in his resentment toward his brother and in his uncooperative answers to God in the rest of the passage.

2. Simon Kistemaker:

- *We should not look at the gifts but at the giver.*
- *Even after his death, his example encourages people to seek the Lord, because he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Abel, then, is the father of believers of the time before Abraham. His faith in God still speaks as a constant witness.*

3. Al Mohler:

- *Repeating "by faith" also teaches us to avoid the error of moralizing the Old Testament stories. This happens quite often among evangelicals, particularly in children's Sunday school curricula... While the Old Testament narratives do indeed contain moral lessons we ought to learn, the author reminds us that these moral lessons are not the main point. We must remember that the moral lessons of the Old Testament come within the context of the storyline of the gospel.*
- *The writer draws some [encouraging] applications from these individuals, but he does so while reminding us that the reason these men lived as they did was because they walked by faith—looking to a Redeemer.*

4. Michael Reeves:

*What happy confidence this gives! All my many failures do not define me, nor do my acts of goodness. I have been crucified with Christ, and now **He** is my identity. Every day I stand before God... not on the basis of my. Own righteousness and performance but on the basis of Christ's. I don't flit in and out of God's love; I'm kept there for my righteousness is "the same yesterday today and forever" (**Heb. 13:8**).*

5. Kent Hughes:

It is very significant that this great chapter on faith begins with a worshiper—because worship is fundamental to everything else we do in life.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

- **Gen. 4:1-8; Ps. 51:6, 10, 17; John 4:23-24; Matt. 15:7-9; Mark 7:21-23**
- **Rom. 6:1-14; Rom. 12:1**
- **Heb. 9:26; Heb. 10:11-14**
- **Phil. 3:3; Prov. 3:5-6; Rom. 1:5; Gal. 2:20; Heb. 13:8; 2 Cor. 5:21**
- **1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17; Heb. 13:15-16**