

Further Study – April 11, 2021

Read: Hebrews 10:39-11:6 and Genesis 4:1-17

If you heard the sermon this week, was there any part of the message or scripture passage that was particularly important or meaningful to you? If so, what?

Understanding Questions:

- For what characteristic does the writer of Hebrews praise Abel? What reasons are given for this praise?
- What details does the writer of Genesis give us about Cain and Abel? What did they each do for work? What offerings did they give? How did God respond to each of them?
- What are the consequences of Cain's actions? What does God say to him following the murder?

Application Questions:

- If you listened to the sermon, do you find the medieval interpretation of Cain and Abel's story compelling? That is, that God was not so much displeased by their offerings but by the fact that Cain was haughty about his privileged status and was trying to "earn" favor rather than responding to God in faith and love? Does drawing a parallel between Abel and Cain to the faithful Christian life versus self-righteous Christian life ring true to you?
- What do you think the writer of Hebrew means when faith is described as "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." How does that apply to Cain and Abel and their responses to God? Does this definition fit with how you understand faith? What do you yourself hope for, but not necessarily see?
- Cain asks God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" What do you understand God's answer to this question to be? How do you see this applying to our world today?