

# Sovereign Grace Chapel

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## “The Offence of Christ’s Work”

By: Walter Pendleton

“And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? Then is the offence of the cross ceased” (Gal. 5:11).

When men and women begin to truly know the Christ of God according to scripture they then begin to recognize that the Christ of God is not the Jesus of this religious world of Christendom. It is not merely that they begin to recognize this of some mindlessly mad “Christian cults” that spring up and soon disappear but that mainstream Christian religion itself does not know God manifest in the flesh. This lack of

By: Joe Galuszek *Gen 4:1-8*

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. (KJV)

This story has been told and retold often. This is a favorite ‘Bible story’. Along with Noah’s ark and Daniel in the lion’s den, this story is in every “Children’s Bible Stories” book that there is. The moral is given at the end: do not

knowledge includes all groups from the most formal and straightlaced of the upper crust of professing Christians all the way through to the most charismatic and informal among even the snake-handling, arsenic drinking crowd. As different as these two opposite ends of the professing Christian spectrum may be they are all still poured from the same faulty mold of works for justification before God. It may be quite shocking at first for the new believer but with time, study, and with a growth in grace, the believer comes to see this is exactly what scripture declares (Matt. 7:13-23; I Jn. 3:1). This shock, how

kill your brother, or we are all our brother’s keeper (that is from the song). They make no mention about Cain bringing the wrong offering. The only thing said is that Cain was the bad guy in this story. The words of God are clear here. The LORD had respect unto Abel AND to his offering. God also did not respect Cain OR his offering. The wording is very specific in this reading. The offering is always important, for it shows a type of Christ.

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ever, is real to the mind and heart of that new believer because of the very character of the work of Christ on the cross. And what is that?

The work of Christ on the cross, contrary to mainstream Christian religion, but even more, contrary to even true believers’ minds before they are converted and taught the truth of grace, is that the work of Christ on the cross is an offence to man and the best deeds that men can offer up to God as redemption. Christ’s work as the substitute who suffered the judgment of God in the place of many sinners is not Christ making redemption possible for all.

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This is the common thread of error that links all of professing Christian religion together from one end of the religious spectrum to the other. They all have a message that is universal in its purpose and offer and...

1. Tells all people without distinction that God loves them.
2. Tells all people without distinction that God wants to redeem them.
3. Tells all people that actual redemption is now up to them to receive or reject.

This common thread of error is a message that plays to the pride and vanity of man and his own sense of self worth and importance. It is often summed up with this exact phrase: "God has done all he can do, now it is up to you." This is a message of works (human effort) for salvation. This is not the message of God concerning His Son Christ the Redeemer.

Redemption is finished (Gal. 3:13). Believers are justified by the faith of Christ Himself (Gal. 2:16). Personal faith within the individual comes from God at the time of His choosing (Gal. 3:22-23). Christ redeemed those who were already His children and He then, at His own time, sends forth the Spirit to apply adoption as sons to their hearts (Gal. 4:1-6). There is a vast and serious separation made by God's grace itself between those saved by grace and those who are of works (Gal. 4:30).

The cross of Christ (Christ's sufferings as the substitute) is offensive to the natural heart and mind. Those who want to perform some effort in their redemption, no matter how small that effort may be, are offended when told that redemption is based upon Christ and His sufferings alone. While all the different groups of the Christian religious spectrum hold that faith is a human effort exercised by man in his freewill for justification, the truth of scripture is that faith is the free gift of God apart from human effort (Eph. 2:8-10). Men and women believe by the sovereign purpose of God in resurrection power (Eph. 1:19-20). Faith is not the same as circumcision, nor the same as church membership, nor the same as baptism, nor the same as preaching, nor the same as trying to keep the Ten Commandments, nor any other human effort because faith is not a human effort. The reason these other so-called Christians cannot say this outright is that to do so puts salvation and all its blessings (redemption, righteousness before God, justification, etc.) in the hands of God almighty to give to whom He pleases. They are offended by that message. And so be it by the scriptures own testimony. The death of Christ on the cross declares loud and clear that...

1. It is beyond man's ability to work up that which truly honors God.
2. What man does work up is shot full of pride and

self will.

3. Man's best deeds are altogether rotten in God's sight.

The offence of the cross ceases when men try to make the message of Christ more palatable to humanity. The less people are offended by the message the further one has departed from the message of Christ. It has gone so far that even faith and repentance have been made out to be the products of human will, and man loves to have it so. The true offence of the cross of Christ is not determined by the scale in which it offends infidels who believe not the Bible to be the inspired word of God, but it is rather determined by the offence it brings to Bible believing persons!

.....**Gen (cont)**

The LORD was always concerned with the offering. He gave directions to the smallest detail of what they were to be and how they were to be offered. It was not just dumb luck that Abel brought a lamb. For if they were totally ignorant, how would they have known to bring an offering at all? Genesis 4:9 is the beginning of a conversation between the LORD and Cain. God spoke to this man; it is reasonable to assume He had spoken to Cain, Abel and Adam.

God clothed their parents in the skins of an animal after they had sinned in the garden of Eden (GEN 3:21).

## .....Gen (Cont.)

This was another picture of substitution, the work of Jesus Christ. Cain was a bad man; this was shown in the choice of his offering to God. He gave of the fruit of a cursed earth. No blood was shed in Cain's offering and without blood, there is no remission of sin. The blood of a lamb could not take away sin, but it was a shadow of Who was to come. These offerings in the Old Testament were pictures of what God's only begotten Son was going to do for His people. Cain thought he could please God with what he had done with his own hands. This showed that Cain's heart was not right with God. He was against God before he killed Abel. His offering showed that, and Cain's behavior was the result of the hatred that was already in his heart. Death awaits all who do not follow God's ordained way.

**1 Thes 4:13-18**

**By: Joe Galuszek**

**F**or the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: "Comfort on another with these words." This world, as it is now, is not all that believers have. Our Lord is coming back. He is not finished with this world or with His people. Jesus Christ will return to this world, bodily. He will descend from heaven. Do not

worry if we are alive when He comes back. If we are alive then, it will not prevent the return of those who have gone on before us.

The dead in Christ will rise first. Paul's refers to these, before verse 16, as "them which are asleep." In PSA 23:4 David said that we "walk through the valley of the shadow of death." Believers do not walk through the valley of death, only the shadow of it. Christ Himself said in JOHN 11:26: "whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Believers will never die. This is one of those "great and precious promises" given by Christ Jesus to His people. Those who sleep will awake on that day when the Lord descends from heaven with a shout and with the trump of God. Then those that are alive and remain will rise with those that were asleep in Christ to meet the Lord Jesus Christ in the air. After that nothing else much matters, for we have this promise: "and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I do not know all that will happen then, but I do know some things from the scriptures. His people are going to live and reign on the earth with Him. They are going to be perfect like Him; these mortals will put on immortality. Their corruptible bodies will be made incorruptible. This earth, one day, will be totally cleansed and remade, and in it will be righteousness. Jesus will be the light. There will be no darkness. Comfort one another with these words.

**2 Tim 2:11-19**

- 11 *It is* a faithful saying: For if we be dead with *him*, we shall also live with *him*:
- 12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:
- 13 If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.
- 14 ¶ Of these things put *them* in remembrance, charging *them* before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, *but* to the subverting of the hearers.
- 15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- 16 But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.
- 17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;
- 18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.
- 19 ¶ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

**ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED?**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) C.M.

Alas! and did my Savior bleed  
 And did my Sovereign die?  
 Would He devote that sacred head  
 For sinners such as I?

Thy body slain, sweet Jesus, Thine,  
 And bathed in its own blood;  
 While all exposed to wrath  
 divine, The glorious Sufferer  
 stood.

Was it for sins that I have  
 done He suffered on the tree?  
 Amazing pity! grace un-  
 known! and love beyond  
 degree!

Well might the sun in darkness  
 hide and shut its glories in,  
 When God, the mighty maker,  
 died For His own creature's  
 sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing

face

While His dear cross ap-  
 pears,  
 Dissolve my heart in thank-  
 fulness, and melt mine eyes  
 to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er  
 repay the debt of love I owe:  
 Here, Lord, I give my self  
 away 'Tis all that I can do.

Newsletter

We will start placing the newsletter on the website. It will be in PDF format. This will require you to have the adobe reader to view it and print it out if you would like. You can go to the Adobe site and download their viewer for free.

Pamphlets

For sometime now we have said we were going to place our pamphlets on the website. You should now be able to see them there and print them out also. They will be in the PDF format as well.

Articles on the Web

We also have some messages on the site that may not have appeared in our newsletter.

*Mailing Address:*

*Sovereign Grace Chapel*

*PO Box 15*

*Kellysville, WV 24732*

**Sovereign Grace Chapel Web Page:**

<http://www.sgchapel.com>