

C-A-I-N - “N”—No Place with God

I. Sin has consequences!

“And Cain said unto Jehovah, My punishment is greater than I can bear.” (v. 13).

A. God often uses physical consequences to humble men so that they might repent! **(Rev 9:5-6)**

Rev 9:5-6 - And they were not given *authority* to kill them, but to torment them *for five months*. Their torment *was* like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶ In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

B. Sadly, men do not often change even when humbled. **(Rev 9:20-21)**

Rev 9:20-21 - ²⁰ But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

C. Is suffering always a bad thing? Explain!

1. What did Joseph learn about his suffering? **(Gen 50:19-20)**
(Genesis 50:19-20 NKJV) “Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for *am* I in the place of God? {20} “But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.”

2. We may never see the ways God uses tragedy in our lives. We must trust God!

3. If we would see, the good always outweighs the bad!

"Would you trade your worst problems for your greatest blessings? Would you give up the promise of eternal life for the eradication of your temporary grief or pain? Would you exchange your life itself for the luxury of not having a flat tire? Would you give up the love of your family in exchange for a day without disrespect or unkindness from others? Would you trade (fill in the blank with any of your greatest blessings) _____ for the removal of (fill in the blank with any of your worst problems) _____? No, you would not. Your blessings always outweigh your problems." - Tim Nichols

(Ex. The opposite of count your blessings:

When you are discouraged, feel that all is lost; Say the prize you're seeking is not worth the cost; Think about your troubles, count them o'er and o'er; Every time you count them, there will be one more.

Count your many problems, name them one by one; Think that victory never, never will be won; Cite your many troubles, count them o'er and o'er, All your disappointments and vexations soar.

II. Real repentance is more than just regret (2 Cor 7:9-10)

When examined superficially, the conclusion drawn from this statement of Cain is that he is showing some type of repentance. However, upon further consideration it is clear that his attitude continues to be improper and can have no place with God. Notice, he is **never sorry** for his **lack of obedient faith**, never sorry for his **anger**, never sorry for his **actions** toward his brother, and never sorry for his **callousness toward God**. He only regrets the punishment his actions bring. Also notice, he never directly asks for forgiveness, either.

God does show Cain some mercy in the sense that He gives some protection from others who would render further evil, but still Cain must bear the consequences of his 12 actions—sin sets him in a place away from God: “And Cain went out from the presence of Jehovah, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.” (v. 16).

Discuss:

- **What is involved in repentance? Is being sorry that you were caught in a wrong the same thing?**
- **When someone truly repents of sin, what will be seen—fruits of unrighteousness or fruits of repentance?**
- **We talked about Cain's heart earlier. What effect did the state of his heart have on his ability to seek repentance?**