

In The Beginning...

East of Eden: Depravity and Grace

Genesis 4

- **The Way of Cain 4:1-16**
- **Civilization Without God 4:17-24**
- **A Godly Remnant 4:25-26**

The Way of Cain (vs. 1-16)

- **The blessings of Paradise are withheld from us, but the worship of God is not! (vs. 3,4a)**
 - Though fallen and sinful, man has an in-born ‘Godward’ pull. See [Rom 1:18 ff](#); [Rev 22:17](#)
 - God does *not* abandon His rebellious creatures, despite our sin. Grace!

The Way of Cain (vs. 1-16)

- The blessings of Paradise are withheld from us, but the worship of God is not! (vs. 3,4a)
- God's primary concern: the inner attitude of your heart. (vs. 4b-5a)
 - *offering* = a gift of homage, allegiance showing one's respect for God
 - The gifts reflected the difference in their heart's attitude to God. See I John 3; Heb 11:4
 - See Micah 6:6-8. The outward practice of religion has no value in God's sight if our hearts are like that of Cain.

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- God's primary concern: the inner attitude of your heart. (vs. 4b-5a)
- The battle within (vs. 5b-7)
 - Emotions serve to reflect and reveal the inner state of our heart. So pay attention to them!
 - When we sin we are *supposed* to feel bad. When we live as God intends we're *supposed* to feel good.
 - Act right, feel right; act wrong, feel wrong.

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 - Taming the evil beast within...
 - Grace in our depravity: the Spirit [Rom 8:12-13](#)
 - Gaining a taste for what truly satisfies!

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- The battle within (vs. 5b-7)
- The downward spiral (vs. 8-9)
 - Left unchecked, sin goes from bad to worse. We are always either moving toward God or moving away from God.
 - Rom 1:18-32. God gives the willful sinner over to ever darker, empty and twisted experience.

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- **The battle within (vs. 5b-7)**
- **The downward spiral (vs. 8-9)**
- **Inescapable, Painful Consequences (vs. 10-14)**
 - We are free to choose the 'passing pleasures of sin for a season' but we are not free to avoid the inescapable, painful consequences of sin sooner or later.

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- **The battle within (vs. 5b-7)**
- **The downward spiral (vs. 8-9)**
- **Inescapable, Painful Consequences (vs. 10-14)**
- **The amazing grace of God! (vs. 15-16)**
 - Grace that is greater than all Cain's sin...
 - Behold then the kindness and the severity of God... (Rom 11:22)