## Theme: Requirements of Acceptable Sacrifice

Memory verse: Proverbs chapter fifteen verse eight: The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

## Text: Genesis 4:1-5

Cain and Abel were both sinners because they were born of sinful parents. Concerning the sinfulness of both Sons and indeed all mankind, the Bible says "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin...." As Cain and Abel made their approach to God, they brought offerings to Him. No doubt Cain and Abel must have learnt that after the fall of Adam and Eve, God clothed them with coats of skin. Despite the knowledge, Cain approached God with an offering without blood a product of the fruit of the ground which had been cursed. Cain wanted to reconcile with God without sin offering which was the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22).

Our sins must first be dealt with through cleansing by the blood before we can have fellowship with God which is acceptable. Abel brought an offering involving the shedding of blood and similar pattern which God had showed his parents in the Garden of Eden. Before a gift can be accepted, the giver must first be accepted. Like Cain, many religious people are missing this fact and are caught in the error. They want to get to God with almsgiving, pilgrimage, fasting and many other things (Prov. 14:12).

Jesus is the only way appointed and approved for our salvation. Our sins are forgiven through His death; and we are justified by us resurrection (Romans 4:25). Abel was counted righteous by putting faith in the sacrifice which is a shadow of what Christ did for us. Much more, sinners will be made righteous today if they trust His (Christ‘s) reality.

