



Sin and Grace

Genesis 4:1-16

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One story:

- ❖ Paradise (Genesis 1-2)
- ❖ Paradise Lost (Genesis 3 – Revelation 20)
- ❖ Paradise Regained (Revelation 21-22)

Genesis 1-11

- ❖ Creation (1)
- ❖ Creation (2)
- ❖ Fall (3)
- ❖ Cain and Abel (4)
- ❖ Genealogy (5)
- ❖ Flood (6-9)
- ❖ Genealogy (10)
- ❖ Tower of Babel (11)

Genesis 1 application:

- ❖ God created.
- ❖ His creation is good.
- ❖ His creation reflects his glory.
- ❖ Jesus reconciles us to God.
- ❖ We are to worship God and reflect his glory.

Genesis 2:1-15 application:

- ❖ Work is not bad.
- ❖ Work is not everything.
- ❖ Work is a gift from God.
- ❖ Work is an opportunity to worship God.
- ❖ We need rest.
- ❖ Jesus gives us ultimate rest.

Genesis 2:15-25

- ❖ We need relationships.
 - ❖ With God
 - ❖ With people
 - ❖ Like us
 - ❖ Different from us
- ❖ Jesus took our shame so we can be unashamed.

Lies of the Deceiver:

- ❖ You can be the judge.
- ❖ You cannot trust the goodness of God.
- ❖ You can save yourself.

Bad News ...

- ❖ Our common disease = sin/evil
 - ❖ Alienation from God
 - ❖ Alienation from ourselves/shame
 - ❖ Alienation from each other
 - ❖ Struggle with nature

... Good News

- ❖ The healer king is coming.
- ❖ We are his ambassadors.



Fig leaves/Idols?

- ❖ Perfectionism
- ❖ Relationships
- ❖ Religiosity
- ❖ Need for approval
- ❖ Addiction
- ❖ Plastic surgery
- ❖ Comfort

The Gospel:

- ❖ Sin separates us from God.
- ❖ How will you cope?
 - ❖ Turn to God, and he will cover you.
 - ❖ Hide from God, and life will destroy your fig leaves.

Questions for self-discovery:

- ❖ How do you react to your own mistakes?
- ❖ How do you react to the mistakes of others?
- ❖ Are you desperately afraid of conflict?
- ❖ Can you recognize your own fig leaves?

Reality of Life

❖ Sin

- ❖ Ever-present
- ❖ Seeks to consume
- ❖ Subtle

❖ Grace

- ❖ Ever-present
- ❖ Seeks to counsel and restore
- ❖ Subtle

Genesis 4:1-2

Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man." Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Meaning of Names

- ❖ Cain
 - ❖ Successful
- ❖ Abel
 - ❖ Worthless

Genesis 4:2-3

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.

Genesis 4:4-5

And Abel also brought an offering — fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Two Offerings

- ❖ Cain
 - ❖ Deuteronomy 26:2
- ❖ Abel
 - ❖ Deuteronomy 15:19-23

Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings.



Tim Keller

**“The essence of sin is to build an identity
outside of God.”**

Genesis 4:6-7

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

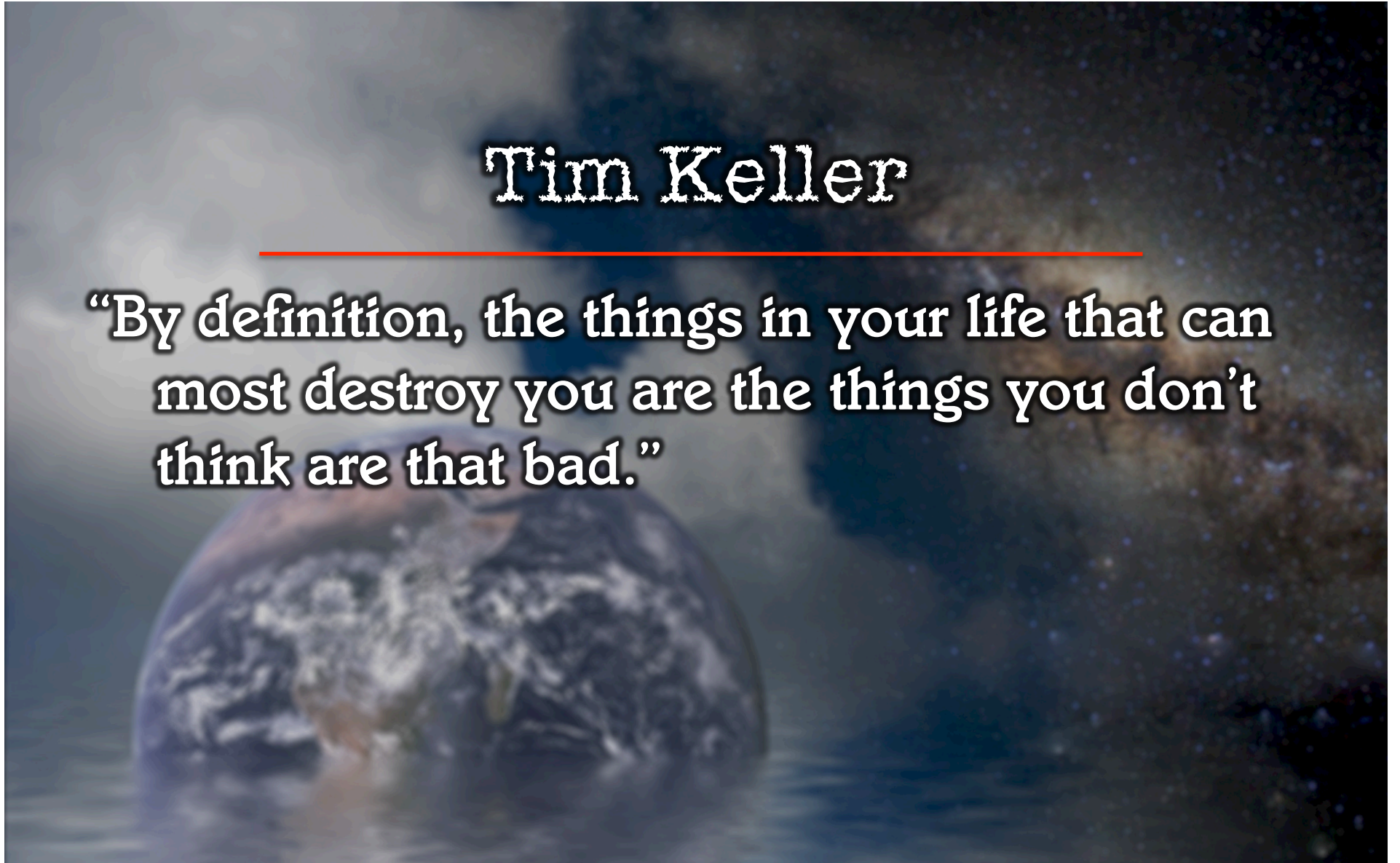
1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.



Tim Keller

“By definition, the things in your life that can most destroy you are the things you don’t think are that bad.”



1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

James 1:14-15

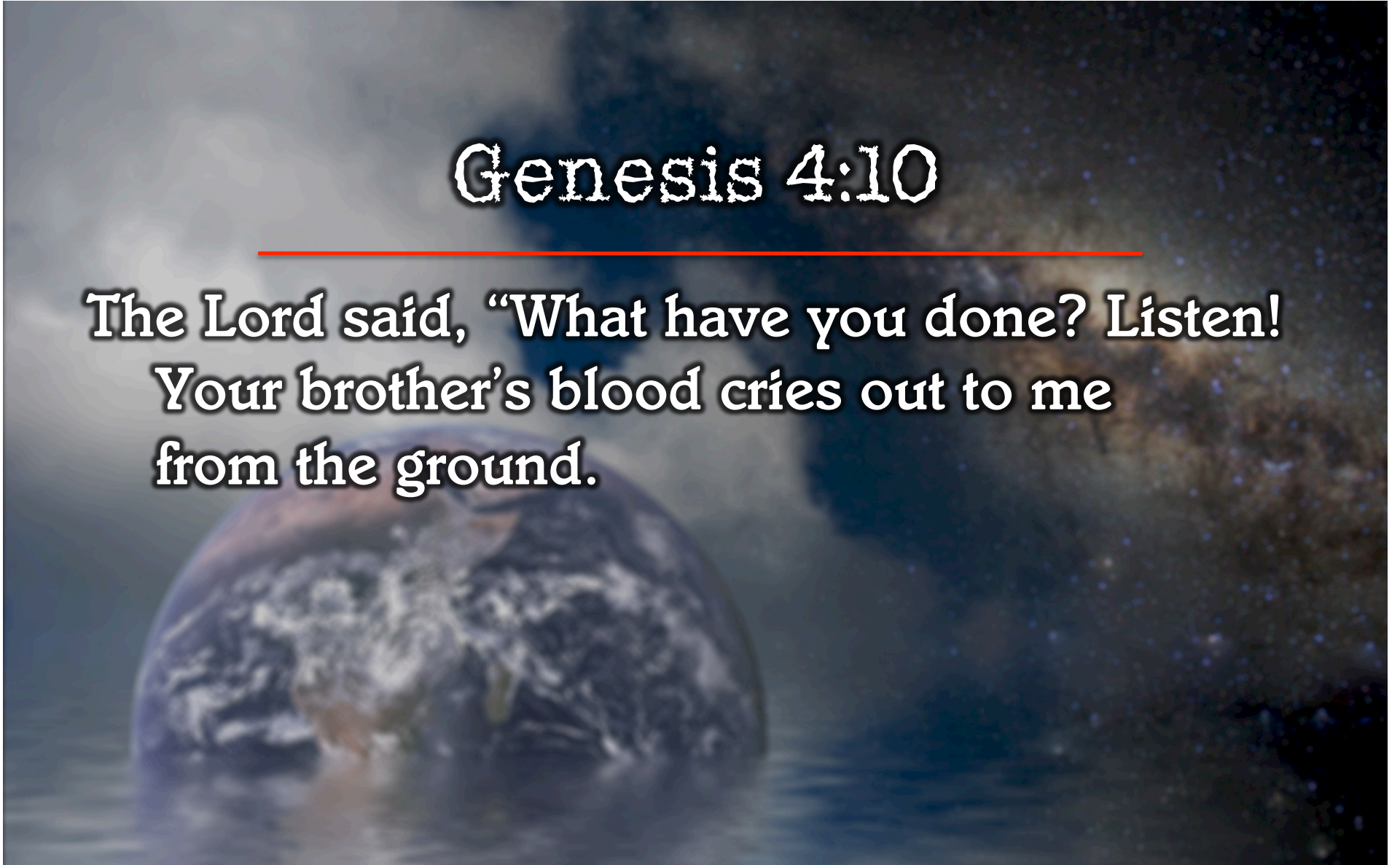
but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Genesis 4:8-9

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Genesis 4:10

The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen!
Your brother's blood cries out to me
from the ground."



Genesis 4:11-12

“Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

Hebrews 3:7-8

So, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts

as you did in the rebellion,

during the time of testing in the wilderness,

Hebrews 3:9-11

“where your ancestors tested and tried me,
though for forty years they saw what I did.
That is why I was angry with that generation;
I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray,
and they have not known my ways.’
So I declared on oath in my anger,
‘They shall never enter my rest.’”

Genesis 4:13-14

Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

Genesis 4:15-16

But the Lord said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. So Cain went out from the Lord’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Reality of Life

❖ Sin

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❖ Grace

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Hebrews 12:22

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,

Hebrews 12:23

to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

Hebrews 12:24-25

to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a
better word than the blood of Abel.
See to it that you do not refuse
him who speaks.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper