

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 43 (#912223)
WEEK 9 (912349)
©2012 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare
TITLE: Program 43 – Sin Is Like An Angry Lion, Crouching At Your Door**

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Let me play with your imagination for just a moment. I want you to imagine a great big lion. I want you to imagine him ready to spring and I want you to turn around and I want you to look at him straight in the face and see what is written across his forehead right above those sinister eyes. It is sin and I want you to know that sin, Beloved, is crouching at your door. We’ll talk about it today.

PART ONE

This picture of these lions reminds me of our trip to South Africa. We went to South Africa to inaugurate the opening of our new Training Center there and to see the work and to travel through the country and just to share the Word of God with those precious, precious people but during that time we

also went to a park. A park where we could look at the lions and it was so exciting because on the last hour we saw these two lions lying beside the road. I mean they were full. They were satisfied. They had found their prey. They had sprung on that prey. They had eaten and they were so content that they just looked at us and we didn't scare them at all. They were really too full to move. I want to ask you a question. You haven't been filling the lion's belly have you by sinning? We want to talk about sin today. I know that that's not a pleasant subject but we need to know what we're not to do. We need to know what God considers sin so that we do not give the devil a place of occupation in our lives. So that we don't open the door to the devil because listen, when you sin that's exactly what you're doing. You're opening the door to the devil. Because as I said before, sin and the devil are hooked at the hip. Let me read Ephesians chapter 4. In verse 26 it says, **“Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.” (Ephesians 4:26-27)** We saw that that means a place of occupation. In other words don't invite him into the house. Well what you have to understand is that when you sin, you're inviting the devil in. Have you got it? When you sin, you're inviting the devil in and once he comes in he is very hard to evict. So you don't even want him getting close to the door. Now why do I say that? Well what I want us to do is to look at some very important verses. I want you to understand how sin and the devil go together and when you allow sin in your life then God has to deal with you. Especially as a child of God because judgment begins at the house of God. And if it [begins at the house of God] as it says in Peter, (PARAPHRASE, 1 Peter 4:17) then what in heaven's sake is the world going to do if God's going to judge His own people? But He judges us because if He does not judge sin in our lives then we become further entangled with the devil and we become miserable. So the first place I want us to go is to Hebrews. Now all the T's come first in the New Testament and the longest one's first, Thessalonians and then Timothy. Then Titus and

Philemon, he’s just about a page or two and then we have the book of Hebrews. And in Hebrews chapter 2 we see how sin and the devil in a sense are connected at the hip. And Hebrews chapter 2 is talking about the fact that Jesus became a man, that He became a human being, that He took on flesh and blood and He had to take on flesh and blood because man sinned and the only way to get rid of man’s sin is to have man pay for his sin. So Jesus became man so that He might pay for your sin. Listen to what He says. Verse 14, “**...since the children...**,” since you and I, “**...share in flesh and blood...**,” since we’re human beings, “**...He Himself...**,” speaking of Jesus, “**...likewise also partook of the same...**,” He became a human being, “**...that through death....**” Now watch, “**...He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.**” (Hebrews 2:14) All right now why does death have power over us? Because the Bible tells us in Romans that, “**...The wages of sin is death....**” (Romans 6:23a) The payment for sinning is death. And so when we sin there has to be a penalty that is paid and penalty is death. So what Jesus did when He hung on that cross God took your sins and my sins and the sins of the whole world and [Jesus who knew no sin was made to be sin for you and me.] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Corinthians 5:21) For instance just take something big and say, “Okay, this is sin.” And then put it on Jesus. That’s your sin coming upon Jesus. And so what He’s saying is that Jesus was made sin for us. So when He was made sin for us and He paid the penalty, that just destroyed the power of the enemy because what gives him the power of death is sin. So you get rid of sin and there’s no death, and that’s what Jesus did. Jesus died for your sins and my sins. He paid for them in full. So now the devil has no power over us. Now let me read that to you one more time so that you get it because it’s very important. And it says, “**Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself [Jesus] likewise...partook of the same...**,” He also became flesh and blood, “**...that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the**

devil.” (Hebrews 2:14) Now remember I told you to imagine a lion getting ready to spring. And look that lion straight in the face and look above his eyes and just see sin there. “...**Sin is crouching at [your] door...**,” (Genesis 4:7b) and when you open the door to sin or when you allow sin to overtake you then God has to chasten you. God has to deal with you. God’s not gonna throw you out of the family because Jesus paid for all your sins. But because Jesus paid for all your sins and because every time you take communion or every time you take the Lord’s Supper, you’re remembering the death of Jesus Christ for our sins and you’re confessing your sins and you’re making everything right with everyone else before you take that bread and that wine, what you’re doing is you’re agreeing with God. Now where did I get this, “...**Sin is crouching at [your] door...?**” (Genesis 4:7b) Well I want you to go to Genesis chapter 4 and if you’ve studied the book of Genesis with us and we have inductive study courses that are just absolutely awesome and they’re all over the United States of America. They are all over the world. People are hungry to know God’s Word and there’s a group of people that have determined that knowing and understanding God’s Word for themselves is the most important thing that they can do in order to live a life of victory and so they’ve paid the price. So they’ve joined a Precept class. This requires five hours of homework a week but boy, I mean you plumb the depths of the Word of God and you know that you know and people all over write me and tell me, “I made it, Kay, because I knew the Word.” “I made it, Kay, because this is what I learned studying the Bible inductively. I am so thankful for Precept Ministries International.” You see all around the world people are feeding the hungry but they’re giving them human bread. They’re giving them human food and not giving them the bread from heaven and they’ve got to have the bread from heaven. Of course they have to have physical food, but it is really the spiritual food that they need. All right in Genesis 3 Adam and Eve sinned. And Romans 5 tells us, “... **By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; ... [in] that**

all have sinned [all die].” (**Romans 5:12b, KJV**) So because of Adam and Eve’s sin then the children that they had were born sinners and what we find is that they were born not in the image of God but they were born in the image of Adam, in the likeness of Adam instead of the likeness of God. In chapter 4, verse 1 it says, **“Now the man...,”** speaking of Adam, **“...had relations with his wife ... and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD.”** (**Genesis 4:1**) Now we don’t have time to go into the technicality of all of this but really what she thought was she had given birth to the Messiah because when Adam and Eve sinned God promised a Savior in Genesis 3:15 that saves us by crushing the head of the serpent which is the devil. And so she thought that she’d given birth to the Messiah. And it says, **“Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel...”** (**Genesis 4:2a**) So Cain was born first and then Abel. **“...And Abel was a keeper of [the] flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD [from] the fruit of the ground. Abel, on his part ... brought [also] ... the firstlings of [the] flock and of their fat portions....”** (**Genesis 4:2b-4:4a**) That means he took an animal from the flock. He killed the animal and so they offered to the Lord, Abel did, the fat from the offering. **“...And the LORD had regard for Abel and ... his offering.”** (**Genesis 4:4b**) He liked Abel’s offering. **“But for Cain and ... his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. [And] the LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? ...Why has your countenance...,’** why has your expression, **“...fallen?”** (**Genesis 4:5**) Why this sour look? Why this anger on your face? And then He says, **“If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up?”** (**Genesis 4:7a**) In other words look, do what I say. Well what did they know? Well we know from studying Hebrews that they had to bring a blood offering and Cain did not bring that. He did it his way. So his countenance

fell. So what does that have to do with a lion crouching at his door? Well it’s right there and we’ll tell you right after this break.

PART TWO

You know we’re into stories. We love stories and God tells us a lot of them but the stories that He tells us unless He tells us that it’s a parable is absolutely true. So when we look at Adam and Eve and they’re two sons Cain and Abel, I want you to know this really happened. I want you to know that these were real people and I want you to understand that when they brought their offering to God, Cain was in rebellion. Cain was saying, “I will worship You, God, the way I want to worship you.” And this is why Cain is angry because things are not going his way and many, many times, Beloved, this is what breeds anger in our lives. We look at our life and we say, “I don’t like this. I don’t want this.” And we forget that God is sovereign. Maybe your angry because of the parents you had. Maybe you’re angry because of some abuse that you faced and I want you to know God’s angry. If your parents were wrong, God is angry. If you suffered abuse, God is angry. Remember, God is the one that gets angry more than anyone else and you see it in the Word of God. But His is always a righteous anger. It has no tint of humanity in it. It is a holy anger. It is a righteous anger. It is a godly anger because God has always angry with sin. And yet what do you and I have to take us through something like this? We have the promise of the sovereignty of God. The promise that God is ruling over all and I just take my hands and put them above my head and make my fingers in the shape of a triangle and what I have is my arms encircling me, and that’s what sovereignty means. It means God rules over all. So everything in my life is under the control of God, even the hard things, even the difficult things, even the painful things and God promises that “**...All things [will] work together for [my] good....**” (Romans 8:28b) But I have to believe Him. I

have to listen to Him. I have to embrace His truth. Well what Cain did was Cain chose to walk His own way and Cain becomes angry because God has not accepted His offering, because God hasn't done things Cain's way. I want to take you just for a minute to Hebrews 11 and let me show you this so that you understand from Hebrews chapter 11 about Cain and Abel's sacrifice. In Hebrews chapter 11 it says in verse 4, **“By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he...,”** Abel, **“...obtained the testimony that he was righteous....”** (Hebrews 11:4a) Abel was righteous because he did what God said was right. **“...God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.”** (Hebrews 11:4b) Well how did Abel die? Let's go back to Genesis. Let's go back to the story of this conflict with these brothers and I want you to listen carefully. What happens when Cain becomes angry and the way that he vents his anger. In Genesis chapter 4, verse 4, **“...The LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and ... his offering He had no regard....”** (Genesis 4:4b-5b) Because God had set the pattern for offering. **“...Without [the] shedding of blood [there's] no remission [of sins.]** (Hebrews 9:22b, KJV) So Cain just brought the fruit of his work. He was a tiller of the ground. Abel, yes he raised animals but he brought a blood sacrifice. Cain did not bring an offering that was pleasing to God. And I wanna tell you something. You can be in rebellion against God. You can be angry against God. You can say that God is wrong, that God shouldn't have done this and why if He's God did He allow it. But you know what? All of that fretting and all of that stewing and all of that venom that you begin to pour will not change God. God is holy. God is righteous. He may not do things the way that you think He ought to do, or He may not be the kind of God that you want Him to be but I wanna tell you something. He's not gonna change. If you're going to be in a relationship with God, you have to change and the only way that you can change is to come to God through Jesus Christ and to believe that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for

your sins in full and therefore He destroyed Satan’s power over you because your sins were taken care of and therefore death has no power over you. Have you ever done that? Have you ever believed in Jesus Christ? Have you ever come to God and said, “God, You are God and I am man. And I am the one that needs to change not You but I can’t change unless You change me. God, here I am. Do with me as You please.” When I said, “Do with me as You please...” Oh my goodness, He saved me. He saved me from my sin. He saved me from myself. He changed my life and He’ll do the same for you if you will just simply say, “God, here I am. I believe.” All Cain had to do was listen to God but watch what happens. It says, **“But for Cain...,”** verse 5, **“...and ... his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. [And] Then the LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well....’ (Genesis 4:5-7a)** What is doing well? It’s doing what God says. **“If you do well, [would] not your countenance be lifted up...?” (Genesis 4:7a)** Have you ever looked at an angry person? Have you ever watched them? You can see it. It’s etched in their face. It’s in their eyes. It’s in their expression. It’s in the way that they move. He says, **“If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at [your] door....” (Genesis 4:7)** Sin is there like a lion. In Peter it says, [our adversary, the devil, goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he might devour.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Peter 5:8) And He says, **“...If you do not do well....” (Genesis 4:7b)** If you do not do what I say, **“...Sin is crouching at [your] door.” (Genesis 4:7c)** It is ready to spring on you. It is ready to devour you. Look at that lion in the face and understand, Precious One. It is out to get you and it’s sin and sin and the devil go together. And He says, **“...If you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you....” (Genesis 4:7b)** Sin desires to have you. Sin desires to control you. Sin desires to destroy you. Sin desires to devour you **“...But you must master it.” (Genesis 4:7c)** You must master it by doing well. By

doing what God says. And **“Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about [that] when they were in the field...,”** (Genesis 4:8a) now listen, this is anger let loose. **“...That Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.”** (Genesis 4:8b) That’s anger let loose. That is sin devouring you and it says, **“[And] Then the LORD said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ And he said, ‘I [don’t] know. Am I my brother’s keeper?’ [And] He said, ‘What [is this that you have] done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground.’”** (Genesis 4:9-10) There was punishment that followed. There was punishment and we’re not going to look at it. We’re going to go back to Ephesians chapter 4 and I want to read it to you very carefully. **“Be angry, and yet do not sin....”** (Ephesians 4:26a) Do not let anger overtake you. **“...Do not let the sun go down on your anger...,”** it says, **“...and do not give the devil an opportunity.”** (Ephesians 4:26b-27) O Beloved, just know this that sin, yes, it’s always crouching at the door but you can win the victory because you are always led in triumph in Christ Jesus.