

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Genesis 4:9**.
- B. This lesson is delivered to the combined class (older, younger, adults and teens) in Worth, IL.
- C. The question asked in 4:9 is not the first recorded in the Bible, but it is the first question that man ever asked God.
- D. Cain's question to God showed his unconcern and indifference toward being involved with others.
- E. We are not like the monkey in the library with the Bible and Darwin's *Origin of Species*, try to figure out if we are our brother's keeper or our keeper's brother.
- F. Hebrews 3:12,12 make it abundantly clear that we are, our brother's keeper.
- G. Illustration of breaking one twig, as opposed to breaking many twigs.
- H. This morning we are going to take a look at the "let us" patch. As we journey I believe we shall see our responsibility as brother keepers, and our responsibility to grow together in love.
- I. We shall have a three-fold approach; 1) Going, 2) Growing, and 3) Glowing.

I. GOING (ACCOMPLISHING THINGS TOGETHER).

- A. We have talents for God. We are charismatic people. We need to use the gifts or talents that we have for the glory of God (Rom. 12:6).
- B. No faithful child of God can successfully claim they have nothing to use in His service.
- C. Example of the one-talent man being blessed if he would have used that talent.
- D. Once we understand our talents and abilities, Paul tells us how to use them:
 1. Make peace.
 2. Build up one another (Rom. 14:19).
- E. As we are going we need to take every opportunity to use our gifts, for the glory of God, especially those who are our brothers and sisters (Gal. 6:10; Rom. 13:12,13).

II. GROWING (STAYING AWAY FROM SIN, TOGETHER).

- A. A group of people can be swept away in sin (1Cor. 10:8-10).
- B. These things were written as an example (see v11). Our response is a holy and clean life (2Cor. 7:1).
- C. Again Hebrews 3:12,13.
- D. Another passage that can be used is Hebrews 10:24.
- E. Hebrews 10:25 is used to say that everyone should attend the assemblies, but v24 tells us why.
- F. God is the only spectator in worship, we should never come to worship to please ourselves and "see what we can get out of it, but we" should come to worship to see what we can give to it.

III. GLOWING (IMPROVING THINGS TOGETHER).

- A. It is usually difficult to put new life in old programs. Just as difficult as putting new fire into old Christians. But it can be done!
- B. "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7).
 1. Illustration of the statement by Conrad Hilton (I didn't dream big enough).
 2. Illustration of the elephant, chain and 'stake, and box car.
 3. Illustration of the fleas in a box.
 4. Illustration of the cows in the field with no fence.
- C. Conclusion of the examples:
 1. If you think you can't do something, you probably can't.
 2. If you think you can do something, you will become that person.
- D. The problem is that some of my brethren aren't glowing for Jesus.
 1. They can brighten a room by leaving it.

2. The act like they have been baptized and weaned on a sour pickle.
- E. I believe that Jesus had a "glow" about Him that; made everyone feel comfortable and happy when He was near.
- F. The apostle Paul, again gives good advice (Gal. 5 :26).

IV. **BROTHER KEEPING IS AN ATTITUDE.**

- A. We have not attained the unity of the faith and the brother keeper attitude described in the NT. Everyone can improve.
- B. Therefore, when we ask, "Where do we go from here?" we see that brother keeping will be a matter of attitude.
- C. See Phil. 3:12-17.

CONCLUSION (PLAN OF ACTION).

- A. Let us, respond to this lesson in a positive way by looking at one more passage.
- B. Let us:
 1. Be diligent (Heb. 4:11). Jesus is our example (1Pet. 2:21).
 2. Hold fast (Heb.4:14). Be faithful unto death.
 3. Draw near (Heb. 4:16). Resist Satan and he will flee (Jas. 4:7).
- C. The answer to the world's oldest question is "yes" we are our brother's keeper.