

The Gospel, 1844, and Judgment Lesson 12 3Q 2006

The Pre-Advent Judgment

The text I couldn't remember last Sabbath was "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus," Ephesians 2:6

SABBATH

Read second paragraph – thoughts? Is it a message of hope and promise that God is going to return to punish evil? What does it mean to punish evil? Can evil be punished without punishing intelligent beings?

If God were to restrain Himself and not use His power to inflict an external punishment upon evildoers, would evil doers then have no punishment?

Does sin and evil have no inherent consequence and penalty? What is it?

And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." Genesis 2:16,17

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:4,5

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. James 1:13-15

So, who was telling the truth? Was Satan right, there is nothing wrong with sin, the only problem is with God, He is a power monger and if you don't do what He says He will use His power to kill. But if God would leave us alone and not interfere we could live forever in a much happier state than with His constant meddling? Was Satan right? Would sinners, left alone live forever?

Or if God had not immediately interceded then sinners would already be dead and it is because of God's gracious intercessions that we are given opportunity to live and find eternal healing?

Does sin damage the sinner? Does it change the nature, character, methods? So does God have to inflict a punishment upon the sinner? Does evil have to be externally punished? Is there a punishment for evil? What is it? Self-destruction and death without God's grace.

Read Memory Text "And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Revelation 22:12).

Go to WEDNESDAY's lesson and read first two paragraphs – thoughts?

What do the memory text and these two paragraphs really mean? Does it mean that God is in heaven weighing all the good deeds you have ever done against all the sin you have committed in order to figure out your reward? Or is God in heaven weighing your sins against the blood of Jesus in order to figure out your reward?

What is the underlying premise from the quarterly? That God is determining the outcome of our lives and our reward – is that premise correct?

What is more reasonable? That each of us determine whether to accept the remedy Christ has provided and based on our choice we are either healed or we die from our own sick condition.

The works we do are merely a reflection of the condition of the heart, "from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." So the works are merely evidence or signs of the condition of the heart and thus the determination of our destiny is not based on our works but on the condition of our heart. And what determines the condition of our heart? Whether we have trusted God and opened the heart to Him for healing. We are born infected with a terminal condition and only by receiving the remedy of God's love/character reproduced within us are we healed.

What is the reward for the righteous? What is the reward for sin? The wages of sin? So who determines who gets life and who gets death? Is the eternal destiny of each person determined in a courtroom in heaven? Or is it determined in the heart/mind of the believer? What determines your eternal destiny? Whether you have trusted God and experienced healing in the inner man! And what is the reward? Life for the righteous and death for the wicked! And why does He bring His reward with Him? Because when Christ reveals Himself those who are in harmony with Him are transformed by His life giving glory and those out of harmony

beg for the rocks and trees to fall on them and are tormented in their hearts/minds by such overwhelming pure love.

One of our distant SS members, Ray van den Hoven sent this in:

The people who beheld the Saviour at His advent were favored with a fuller manifestation of the divine presence than the world had ever enjoyed before. The knowledge of God was revealed more perfectly. But in this very revelation, judgment was passing upon men. Their character was tested, their destiny determined. {DA 475.2}

## SUNDAY

Second to last paragraph read “Notice a theme...” What is the kingdom they will be given? Jesus prayed, “Thy kingdom come thy will be done.” Jesus said, “the kingdom of God is within you.”

Is it not the kingdom of love? And how do the saints get this kingdom and how does this kingdom eradicate evil? What does this have to do with 1844?

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." Daniel 7:13,14

This is one of our texts for today, what is being described? There are 4 texts describing the same event, Daniel 8:14, Daniel 7:9-14, Malachi 3:1-3 and parable of the 10 virgins in Matthew 25. So this is one of the texts referring to the events of 1844. And what is it describing? Christ receiving authority, power and glory – for what purpose?

“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.” John 13:3-5

What did Jesus do in John 13 when “the Father had put all things under his power”? He washed the feet of His disciples! What does the dirt on

the feet represent? Sin! And what does the washing represent? Cleansing from sin. And what does the Daniel text say happened in 1844? Jesus receives all power and authority from the Father and then what do you think He does with this power? He cleanses – what does He cleanse?

Malachi 3 – the Levites – the priests – the believers. And how does He cleanse? By revealing the truth, by pouring out the Spirit, by recreating us in heart/mind/character.

And how is evil eradicated? It is eradicated in the hearts/minds of God's creatures who trust Him.

## MONDAY

Middle paragraph read "It is very clear..." Thoughts? Is it very clear? What does it mean the little horn is punished? What is the little horn? Is it a person? How do you punish an non-individual? How do you punish a political power? Take away its power? How is power taken away from someone? By taking away its followers and how does God do that? Does He do it by killing everyone who doesn't agree with Him or by revealing truth so that those who have believed in the lies of the little horn power reject that power?

MT 16:15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

MT 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

MT 16:17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

What does this mean the gates of hell will not prevail? What are gates used for in war? Defense – they are not used for offense – Satan took this planet by deception and lies. He holds it by keeping people in darkness and filling the hearts and minds with fear. Christ came in human form and said, upon His life His victory He would build His church and the devil's kingdom would not be able to stand. The truth we have about God as revealed in Jesus will destroy the gates of hell, destroy the gates of lies, fear, insecurity, misunderstanding that holds people in bondage and set people free!

ISA 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven,  
O morning star, son of the dawn!  
You have been cast down to the earth,  
you who once laid low the nations!

ISA 14:13 You said in your heart,  
"I will ascend to heaven;  
I will raise my throne  
above the stars of God;  
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,  
on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.

ISA 14:14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;  
I will make myself like the Most High."

ISA 14:15 But you are brought down to the grave,  
to the depths of the pit.

ISA 14:16 Those who see you stare at you,  
they ponder your fate:  
"Is this the man who shook the earth  
and made kingdoms tremble,

ISA 14:17 the man who made the world a desert,  
who overthrew its cities  
and would not let his captives go home?"

What happens? The truth is revealed and the people look upon Satan and his puppets and recognize the truth and the power of Satan is broken, he loses his hold on people, his power is taken away.

What about the idea that these are critical elements in Hebrew thinking – does God think in Hebrew cultural context? Or were those Hebrews trying to understand God from the confines of their context? Do you think we can see God better if we think like a Hebrew of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC?

Why did God give them an eye for an eye, death for picking up sticks on Sabbath and their system of “justice”? Was it because God gave them the greatest revelation of His character and methods or because He stooped to meet them where they were and gave them a very dim light because that is all they could handle?

Bottom green read – are we vindicated? Does God in the judgment declare the saints “innocent”? Some suggest that in the judgment God looks upon us and doesn’t see our sinful and wicked character but sees the robe of His Son’s righteousness covering us and then declares us innocent or vindicated. Yes or no?

No, God does not simply declare us innocent or perfect! Why? Because we are all really sick and terminal and what good would it do if Christ replaces our medical records with His medical records and tricks God into thinking we are healthy when we are not? Or is it that we have actually partaken of the remedy Christ has provided and that we have actually been healed in the inner man?

Consider Zechariah 3

ZEC 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. <sup>2</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

ZEC 3:3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. <sup>4</sup> The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes."

Then he said to Joshua, "**See, I have taken away your sin**, and I will put rich garments on you."

ZEC 3:5 Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by.

So what happens? Satan accuses and God says...

WEDNESDAY

Teacher’s comments states “God isn’t just sitting around doing nothing. Jesus isn’t reclining on a heavenly chaise lounge. The Holy Spirit isn’t on vacation. Instead, the lives and works of all who’ve ever lived are under review...That’s good news. God actively is involved in our lives. Better news. Jesus pleads our case, if we’ve trusted Him for salvation. Best news: He’s on His way, and a reward is with Him!”

Thoughts?

Is Jesus in heaven pleading our cases? To whom?

While Jesus, our Intercessor, pleads for us in heaven, the Holy Spirit works in us, to will and to do of His good pleasure. All heaven is interested in the salvation of the soul. Then what reason have we to doubt that the Lord will not and does not help us? We who teach the people must ourselves have a vital connection with God. In spirit and work we should be to the people a wellspring; because Christ in us is a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. Sickness and pain may test and try our patience and our faith, but the brightness of the Presence of the universe is with us and we must hide self behind Jesus. . . . {2MR 37.1}

Who is Jesus pleading with? When Jesus is pleading the Holy Spirit is doing something what? Working in us to do what? When Jesus talks to us today how is it accomplished? If Jesus is in heaven, limited by His humanity to one place at a time, then when He is pleading can we hear Him? No, so the Holy Spirit is the way Christ speaks to us. The Holy Spirit transmits Christ's heartfelt pleas of love from Christ to you and me. Christ is in heaven pleading to you and me!

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you." John 16:12-15

"In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God." John 16:26,27

Who is Christ pleading with or to whom is Christ pleading?

Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are, that He might know how to succor those who should be tempted. His life is our example. He shows by His willing obedience that man may keep the law of God and that transgression of the law, not obedience to it, brings him into bondage. The Saviour was full of compassion and love; He never spurned the truly penitent, however great their guilt; but He severely denounced hypocrisy of every sort. He is acquainted with the sins of men, He knows all their acts and reads their secret motives; yet He does not turn away from them in their iniquity. **He pleads and reasons with the sinner**, and in one

sense -- that of having Himself borne the weakness of humanity -- He puts Himself on a level with him. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." {4T 294.1}

"As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" Ezekiel 33:11

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." Revelation 3:20; 2

Everything that God could do has been done for the salvation of man. In one rich gift He poured out the treasures of heaven. He invites, He pleads, He urges; but He will not compel men to come unto Him. He waits for their cooperation. He waits for the consent of the will, that He may bestow upon the sinner the riches of His grace, reserved for him from the foundation of the world. . . . The Lord does not design that human power should be paralyzed; but that by cooperation with God, man may become a more efficient agent in His hands. . . . The Lord holds out to man the privilege of copartnership with Himself.--The Messenger, Apr. 26, 1893. {Ye Shall Receive Power 41.3}

With whom does Jesus plead? And the Father? And the Holy Spirit?

THURSDAY

Asks us to Read:

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Hebrews 9:22-24

What does this mean? Does this mean God couldn't forgive without Christ dying? Or we couldn't be restored to our original condition without Christ dying? When you have cancer and the doctor treats you, you want the cancer to go into... remission. The cancerous cells remit back to their

precancerous condition. Likewise, without the shedding of Christ's blood we could not be restored to our presinful condtion.

Now what about the application to "heavenly things"?

For we know that when this tent we live in—our body here on earth—is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last for ever. And now we sigh, so great is our desire that our home which comes from heaven should be put on over us; by being clothed with it we shall not be without a body. While we live in this earthly tent, we groan with a feeling of oppression; it is not that we want to get rid of our earthly body, but that we want to have the heavenly one put on over us, so that what is mortal will be transformed by life. God is the one who has prepared us for this change, and he gave us his Spirit as the guarantee of all that he has in store for us. 2  
Corinthians 5:1-5 GNT

Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved. In the resurrection every man will have his own character. God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the breath of life, and bidding the dry bones live. The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect. It lives again bearing the same individuality of features, so that friend will recognize friend. There is no law of God in nature which shows that God gives back the same identical particles of matter which composed the body before death. God shall give the righteous dead a body that will please Him. {6BC 1093.2}

Christ is working to cleanse us, you and me and bring us back into full unity with Himself and His Father.