

The Gospel, 1844, and Judgment Lesson 13 3Q 2006

The Gospel and Judgment

Any thoughts from the class regarding this lesson? After reading this lesson what impact did it have on you? If you take it as the quarterly reads did you experience good news or was it depressingly sad news?

SABBATH

Memory Text Read: What does it mean? Does it mean we have one who is pleading with the Father in our behalf, or we have one who along with the Father, in addition to the Father is working in our behalf?

"Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. 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. I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father." Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. John 16:25-29

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:31-34

So, is Jesus up there pleading to the Father or pleading along with the Father to us?

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. {2MR 37.1}

"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

Where does the Holy Spirit get the message He brings to us? From Christ and what is Christ doing in heaven? Pleading? For and with whom?

Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are, that He might know how to succor those who should be tempted... **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}

Read the entire Sabbath lesson – thoughts?

What is the point of the second paragraph that atonement comes only through the Cross? What do the lesson authors mean? How are they using the word Atonement and Atonement? In its definition of appeasement or payment or expiation or propitiation, to pay a debt, to make up for a deficiency, is this the Biblical meaning of Atonement?

Atonement is an English word, and thus was not used in the Bible. But back in 1611 when the KJV of the Bible in the NT the word atonement is only used once and it is in Romans 5:11 "And not only so, but we also joy

in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.” What did Atonement mean in 1611?

At – one –ment, unity, oneness, harmony, reconciliation. There was nothing in the meaning at all that meant appeasement or payment or propitiation or make amends, it means to bring two parties which are at odds back into “one”.

Does it make a difference to think of what Christ came to accomplish if we view the atonement as a legal payment, propitiation, expiation versus seeing the atonement as God working to restore us to unity with Him? Which is more likely?

“And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.” Ephesians 1:9,10

“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1:16-20

So what is the purpose of the Day of Atonement? To bring all things back into unity and oneness with God! In order to do this is it about reviewing records and removing sins from record books or about cleansing hearts and minds and restoring intelligent beings into unity with God?

SUNDAY

Read all three paragraphs – thoughts? Does this encourage you? What do you think it means “with such a God?” What kind of God have they described?

Does it worry you to have every secret thing to come into review? Is it, as the lesson suggests frightening?

What if you were sick, having internal pain, nausea, vomiting and felt a lump growing in your abdomen and you went to your doctor, would you

want your doctor to exam you closely? Would you want every secret and hidden thing to be exposed? Or would you prefer that when you go to the doctor your healthy brother stands in as your substitute and your brother is examined in your behalf?

What is the purpose of the atonement?

"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.

What about the idea of judgment and the text that says judgment starts with the house of God?

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}

Why does judgment start with the house of God? Because they are where the revelation of God begins and thus they are the first to make judgments about whether to accept God, as Christ revealed Him to be and trust Him, or reject this God and not trust Him.

What about the idea that Christ in our place in the judgment? That we are covered with Christ's righteousness and the Father doesn't see us?

Is God in the deception business? Is He in the business of declaring righteous those who are not? Is heaven no more than a con job? Some unrighteous people have Christ's robe of righteousness covering them and the Father overlooks the fact they are unrighteous or He can't see through the robe of His Son and therefore God doesn't really know? Is this what is going on?

Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear in God's presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul. "I counsel thee," He says, "to buy of Me . . . white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear." Rev. 3:18. {COL 311.3}

This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us. "All our righteousness are as filthy rags." Isa. 64:6. Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God "was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin." ... By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah. {COL 311.4}

## MONDAY

Read middle paragraph "Central to the..." What does the blood symbolize? What is the purpose of ministering the blood in the old system? It symbolizes the life of Christ and the death of sin. Where did Christ say the blood was to be administered?

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. John 6:53-56

Where is the blood to be administered? Into what temple? Into the temple of the Holy Spirit? To do what? What is the blood symbolic of?

“In the study of the Bible the converted soul eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God, which He himself interprets as the receiving and doing of His words, that are spirit and life.”  
Fundamentals of Christian Education 378.1

“The leaven of truth works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous. By it [the truth] the impure are cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb.”  
Christ’s Object Lessons 102

So what is happening? Jesus took upon Himself our defective Humanity, Jesus a unique being in all creation, born of a woman under the law of sin and death yet His Father was the Holy Spirit so that even though His physical body was defective, within His heart and mind was the perfect, unadulterated Law of Love the Law of God. And this is the source of all life, and is symbolized by the blood of the Lamb, the shed blood of the Lamb is symbolic of the war between these two antagonistic principles, when Christ was tempted to save self, but chose instead to love and voluntarily surrendered self – thus love defeated selfishness in the person of Jesus. Now in us, we are to partake of the “blood” life of Christ, have our hearts and minds so united with His that we are recreated within and die to the old man and then it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me. This is what it means to apply the blood and this is what Christ is working to do in each of us.

WEDNESDAY

Romans 8:1 there is not condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus? Why? What does it mean to be “in Christ Jesus”? To be in unity with Him, to be at-one with Him. And why is there no condemnation? Because there is nothing to condemn? The rebellious selfish condition has been purged and unity with God and His Law of Love has been restored.

Read first paragraph, How would you explain this paragraph?

## THURSDAY

Read the entire day – notice in the first paragraph that the sinner must defend themselves against the scrutiny of God, it says “And though they have nothing in and of themselves to give them merit before God...” and “while these things never could justify them before God...” But in the EGW quotation she describes that Christ defends the saints against the attacks of Satan, she says, “We cannot answer the charges of Satan against us.” And “He [Christ] is able to silence the accuser...”

Does it make difference to picture us cowering before God and worrying about how we can stand before Him versus the picture that God is actually working to free us from Satan’s powerful deceptions?

What is Satan alleging and what is the purpose of the records?

Satan alleges it isn’t fair that God saves some and not others. He points to our sins and says, “See these are as bad as me and if You save them then You must save me. You are not fair. You are arbitrary. You are untrustworthy and Your actions in saving these sinners reveals that I was always right about You.”

But Christ opens the records which reveal the history of our sickness, but also reveal that we have accepted Christ’s remedy and that we have actually been healed and restored back into unity with God, that God’s law of love is written again in our hearts and thus God is not arbitrary.

I had a patient who was a Jehovah’s witness and she was in a helicopter crash and crushed her pelvis and refused a blood transfusion. Multiple doctors and nurses and staff pled with her to accept the blood transfusion but she refused and she died. Others, who were in accidents and accepted transfusions lived. Now if someone sued the doctor and alleged that doctor is arbitrary that he saves some but lets others die – will the medical records become important in the case? This is the reason for the heavenly records – they exonerate God revealing why some are saved and some are not.

Teacher’s comments states “we, as Christians, find it hard to accept the simplicity of salvation. Why do you think that is?” Could it be that so many erroneous, non-sensical, distorted and twisted theories have entered into Christian teaching that makes what is taught confusing and unintelligible?