



The Book of Matthew Lesson 2 2Q 2016 The Ministry Begins

I received this email from an online listener:

Dear Come and Reason Friends,

You are one of the biggest blessings I have ever received! Your DVDs and lessons could not have come on a better time in my life.

I have experienced in the past year many difficulties that if it wasn't for this wonderful view of God that I have discovered through this ministry, I would not have been able to respond in love and forgiveness. My heart is being transformed everyday by the Calvary looking God you preach. Hallelujah !! I have tears in my eyes as I write.

My life has taken a complete turn from where I was heading. My children were afraid and often confused by the rules that made no sense. They often asked me questions to which I had no answers. Questions where God would appear like a bipolar being. I often felt afraid and frustrated for not being able to have a reasonable and intelligent answer to their concerns.

My 15 year old loves listening to Dr. Jennings and even said he would like to preach some day. When I asked him what would he share about he said, "God's Wrath" He sees now that most everybody in our church has a misunderstanding of who God is(He has never preached by the way) This is very encouraging for me. To hear my boy say he wants to speak on a topic that is so miss understood and scary...

I have shared your DVDs with friends and family. Thank you. One of the great blessings that came in the last box was the lessons you sent. I wasn't expecting them but I quickly devoured them. The one on abuse so resonated with me. It helped me to see that often we make God to be like an abuser when he is not and why so many of our men and woman are like that. The other lesson on The Cosmic Conflict Over God's Trustworthiness is blessing me and many more, let me explain what I do.

I am from Central America. Most of my family is scattered in different parts of the globe. They all have the same view of God that I had growing up. A distant, exacting, and ready to punish us with tragedy type-of-God. We communicate through a family chat and often one of my brothers sends devotionals from EGW writings that have been arranged in a way that it leaves one more afraid of God. He means well but thinks fear and coercion are God's ways for that is how he views Him. Some in the group respond with comments that are fear based and some



just don't. I thought I had to do something because it saddened me to see my family surrounded in this darkness.

I'm still learning and know I will continue to learn about God's beautiful character throughout eternity but I decided to share what I have been learning through the Cosmic Conflict Lesson.

I have been translating each individual lesson and voice recording them for my family. To my surprise, they have also been taking the recordings I send and sharing them with others! I prayed that God would open their understanding to this message and seal it in their heart. I can already see the difference in the devotionals my brother sends. They are taking an amazing turn from a message of "repent or burn" towards a loving God pleading to us that we won't reject him because he loves us eternally.

On our conversations on the phone he has often said, "thank you for sharing, I have never heard it this way!" I still have much work to do and pray as I come to know my Savior better each day that I can speak for him to others.

Bless you for all you do. I will continue supporting this ministry as I am able. I want to give your DVDs to my church members and I'm requesting, if possible 100 copies of each one of your three DVDs.

SABBATH

Read the second paragraph, "I didn't understand what..." What is the meaning of life? Is there a secret that we are supposed to know? What is that secret?

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of **the mystery hidden for long ages past**,²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him—²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen. Rom 16:25-27

What is this mystery? And why has it been hidden? Who hid it? Is it still being hidden today?

And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he **purposed in Christ**,¹⁰ 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. Eph 1:9,10

What is the mystery? Is it unity, restoration, healing? Why is this a mystery? Why is this a secret?



Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you,³ that is, the **mystery** made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the **mystery of Christ,⁵ which was not made known** to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.⁶ **This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.**

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.⁸ Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,⁹ and **to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.**¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the **manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,**¹¹ according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Eph 3:2-11

What is this mystery? Again why was this mystery kept hidden? What does it mean that it is the bringing in of the Gentiles? How is this a mystery?

I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—²⁶ **the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.**²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles **the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.** Col 1:25-27

What is the mystery? It is the mystery of salvation—how God takes humans, deformed in sin and restores them back to righteousness. And what is the secret to this mystery?

My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know **the mystery of God, namely, Christ,³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.** Col 2:2-3

So what is the mystery and why has it been mysterious? It is the mystery about God, His nature, character, government and underpinning it all is the mystery of His law—the law of selfless love!

When we seek for appropriate language in which to describe **the love of God**, we find words too tame, too weak, too far beneath the theme, and we lay down our pen and say, "No, it cannot be described." We can only do as did the beloved disciple, and say, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." [1 John 3:1.] **In attempting any description of this love, we feel that we are as infants lisping their first words.** Silently we may adore; for silence in this matter is the only eloquence. This love is past all language to describe. **It is the mystery of God in the flesh, God in Christ, and divinity in**



humanity. Christ bowed down in unparalleled humility, that in his exaltation to the throne of God, he might also exalt those who believe in him, to a seat with him upon his throne. All who look upon Jesus in faith that the wounds and bruises that sin has made will be healed in him, shall be made whole. {CE 77.1}

What is the mystery? God's character of love, which manifests in all His actions, but most powerfully in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus—but then how this love is more than sentiment—this love is power—power to heal and restore sinners to unity with God!

What is this mystery of which Paul writes to the Ephesians and to the Colossians..."which hath been hid from ages and from generations?" {ST, March 25, 1897 par. 2}

Many have endeavored to define the **mystery** which Paul here mentions. **But it embraces much, and our ideas in regard to the love, the goodness, and the compassion of God are strangely limited.** Because our knowledge of spiritual things has become so dwarfed and enfeebled, we have not advanced from light to greater light. **The Lord has not been able to open to our understanding many precious things.** In view of the losses which we have sustained by our **earthliness and commonness**, [could this mean our earthly law concept, our common-law concept of God's government?] we have much to make us humble. {ST, March 25, 1897 par. 3}

God had a knowledge of the events of the future, even before the creation of the world. He did not make his purposes to fit circumstances, but he allowed matters to develop and work out. He did not work to bring about a certain condition of things, but he knew that such a condition would exist. **The plan that should be carried out upon the defection of any of the high intelligences of heaven,—this is the secret, the mystery which has been hid from ages.** And an offering was prepared in the eternal purposes to do the very work which God has done for fallen humanity. {ST, March 25, 1897 par. 4}

What is the mystery? How could the Creator God, the Ruler of all reality—humble Himself, divest Himself of all divine prerogatives, become a human being, with a corrupt and weakened humanity, be abused by His own creation and die a horrible death—how could this be?

This is the mystery—they mystery of God's character of love!

The incarnation of Christ is a mystery. The union of divinity with humanity is a mystery indeed, hidden with God, "even the mystery which hath been hid from ages." It was kept in eternal silence by Jehovah, and was first revealed in Eden, by the prophecy that the Seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, and that he should bruise his heel. **To present to the world this mystery that God kept in silence for eternal ages before the world was created, before man was created, was the part that Christ was to act in the work he entered upon when he came to this earth. And this wonderful mystery, the incarnation of**



Christ and the atonement that he made, must be declared to every son and daughter of Adam, whether Jew or Gentile. **His sufferings perfectly fulfilled the claims of the law of God.** [what does this mean? How do we understand it, through what law lens? The law of God claims to be the foundation upon which life is built. It claims there is no other way of operation in which life is eternally secure and sustainable. How did Jesus suffering fulfill this claim? By demonstrating that love is more powerful than selfishness and His resurrection was its proof.] None of the apostles could have filled the deficiency, had there been any. {ST, March 25, 1897 par. 8}

Is love more powerful than selfishness? Have the claims of God's law been sustained and fully met in Christ?

Can we participate in that victory and experience that love in our lives?

Read bottom pink section, "How can we avoid..." What about witnessing to ISIS?

Christian de Chergé was a French Catholic monk and the Trappist prior of the Tibhirine monastery in Algeria. With the rise of radical Islam in 1993, Father Chergé knew that his life was in danger. But instead of leaving Algeria, Father Chergé chose to stay and continue his witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. On May 24, 1996 Father Chergé was beheaded by Muslim radicals. Anticipating his death, Father Chergé had left a testament with his family to be read upon the event of his murder. The testament in part reads:

"If it should happen one day — and it could be today — that I become a victim of the terrorism which now seems ready to encompass all the foreigners living in Algeria, I would like my community, my Church, my family, to remember that my life was given to God and to this country. I ask them to accept that the One Master of all life was not a stranger to this brutal departure. I ask them to pray for me: for how could I be found worthy of such an offering? I ask them to be able to associate such a death with the many other deaths that were just as violent, but forgotten through indifference and anonymity.

My life has no more value than any other. Nor any less value. In any case, it has not the innocence of childhood. I have lived long enough to know that I share in the evil which seems, alas, to prevail in the world, even in that which would strike me blindly. I should like, when the time comes, to have a clear space which would allow me to beg forgiveness of God and of all my fellow human beings, and at the same time to forgive with all my heart the one who would strike me down.

Obviously, my death will justify the opinion of all those who dismissed me as naïve or idealistic: 'Let him tell us what he thinks now.' But such people should know that my death will satisfy my most burning curiosity. At last, I will be able — if God pleases —



to see the children of Islam as He sees them, illuminated in the glory of Christ, sharing in the gift of God's Passion and of the Spirit, whose secret joy will always be to bring forth our common humanity amidst our differences.

I give thanks to God for this life, completely mine yet completely theirs, too, to God, who wanted it for joy against, and in spite of, all odds. In this Thank You — which says everything about my life — I include you, my friends past and present, and those friends who will be here at the side of my mother and father, of my sisters and brothers — thank you a thousandfold.

*And to you, too, my friend of the last moment, who will not know what you are doing. Yes, for you, too I wish this thank-you, this 'Adieu,' whose image is in you also, that we may meet in heaven, like happy thieves, if it pleases God, our common Father. Amen!"
—Father Christian de Chergé*

<http://brianzahnd.com/2015/02/last-testament-beheaded-christian/#more-4442>

Is such love a mystery? What has hidden the truth about God, His character and methods?

It has been hidden behind a wall of lies and false teachings originating with Satan in heaven and it was Christ who revealed the truth about God's character and the plan of salvation—that it is about actual state of being, not legal standing or legal processes.

The imposed law construct, penal substitution theology is part of the wall of lies that keeps the mystery of God hidden. This week I was listening to Christian radio, and the topic was about Easter. Someone called in and asked the two theology professors, who were guests on the radio program, to explain the purpose of animal sacrifices in the Old Testament:

First Theologian: The reason in Leviticus 17 for...that **there has to be punishment with death for sin**, and so in Leviticus 17 when the animal sacrificial system is being established it says this, Leviticus 17:10 “Any Israelite or any alien living among them who eats any blood—I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from his people. For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.” See blood represents life and **there has to be the punishment of death for sin, so therefore an animal had to take the punishment and give its life—it's blood—so that the offerer could live. That was the substitution.** What my former professor here at Moody used to call, **the exchange of life.** Louis Goldberg called it that, the exchange of life. **The animal dies, the person lives.** And so that's the reason for the Old Testament sacrifice for atonement.”

Second Theologian: “A couple of things in the New Testament. In Luke's gospel it talks about how on the night that he was betrayed and Jesus was having the Passover meal “And in the



same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.” That is it's the death of Jesus that comes about because of **his blood loss among other things, his blood loss as well is the thing whereby he was our atoning sacrifice.** His death is required for us as well in order to save us. Paul talks about in Romans 5:9 “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of *God* through Him.” And so it's very much the same principle. **In the Old Testament, the death of an animal was required to take care of the human sin problem and now we have not the death of an animal but of the very Son of God who dies for us.** And so his loss of blood is the thing whereby he succumbed on our behalf..

We use the illustration of a credit card. The bill comes at the end of the month and you can't afford it so what do you do? You pay the minimum. And the next month you've gotten more credit on it, and you have the last bill accruing and more interest and you pay the minimum. That's what the Old Testament sacrifices were like, they were paying the minimum. But when Messiah came he paid the interest and the principle and took it all away. That's what his atonement was like.

Host: And all future bills

Second Theologian: Yes, all future bills as well (Chris Fabry Live March 23, 2016, Moody broadcasting, The second hour beginning at minute 12:25 the guests are Michael Vanlaningham and Michael Rydelnik

<http://www.moodyradio.org/Chris-Fabry-Live/2016/03-2016/2016-03-23---The-Centurion---Bible-Q---A/>)

Do you hear the layers of falsehood, distortion, darkness—I was heartbroken as I listened to this, millions of Christians being steeped in such a distortion of reality. Their entire explanation is through the false law lens. Can anyone bring evidence to bear demonstrating the falsehood of these ideas promoted on that radio program?

First identify the lies:

- Sin requires punishment
- Animal blood can atone for sin
- The death of an animal was required to deal with sin
- The physical blood of Jesus is what atones for sin
- Our sins are like legal debts that accrue and need to be paid
- That physical blood of Jesus pays for that debt

Now the evidence that exposes the lies

- Sin requires punishment
 - Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—¹³ **for before the law was given,**



sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. Rom 5:12-14

- Sin is a state of being out of harmony from God’s design for life. This state-change occurred when Adam sinned, and all sinners are born in a terminal condition—dead in trespass and sin. This condition is what causes death, not breaking rules, thus people were dying before the written law was given, because they were already out of harmony with God’s design law—from birth.
- Oswald Chambers wrote: **The Bible does not say that God punished the human race for one man’s sin**, but that the nature of sin, namely, my claim to my right to myself, entered into the human race through one man. But it also says that another **Man took upon Himself the sin of the human race and put it away** — an infinitely more profound revelation...

Sin is something I am born with and cannot touch— only God touches sin through redemption. It is through the Cross of Christ that God redeemed the entire human race from the possibility of damnation through the heredity of sin. **God nowhere holds a person responsible for having the heredity of sin, and does not condemn anyone because of it.** Condemnation comes when I realize that Jesus Christ came to deliver me from this heredity of sin, and **yet I refuse to let Him do so.** From that moment I begin to get the seal of damnation. **“This is the condemnation [and the critical moment], that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light.”** (John 3:19)
<http://utmost.org/the-nature-of-degeneration/>

- In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. **Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice.** {DA 761.4}
 - The idea that sin needs to be punished is Satan’s idea, and those who promote it are promoting Satan’s idea of law and government
 - God’s idea is that sinners need to be cured, remedied, healed and restored— while sin is eradicated from their beings!
- Animal blood can atone for sin
- The death of an animal was required to deal with sin
 - The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual



reminder of sins,⁴ because **it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.** Heb 10:1-4

- The physical blood of Jesus is what atones for sin
- Our sins are like legal debts that accrue and need to be paid
- That physical blood of Jesus pays for that debt
 - 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.⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Jn 6:53-56
 - The blood is metaphorical—we are not saved by being washed in red corpuscles. We are saved by having our hearts washed by the truth and love—the very life of Jesus who is the source of truth and love and who developed a perfect character of which we may partake!

The entire construct presented in the radio show is based on false law construct, the idea that God’s law functions no different than human law, and thus requires punishment. This is the darkness in which the world is currently trapped; this is the lie that obstructs the final message of mercy from going to the world.

SUNDAY

Title—John the Baptist and “Present Truth”

What is present truth? The truth needed for the people living at that time?

Let’s see if we can uncover progressive truth. What was the truth for these times in history and see if each point in time has a more complete truth for us today:

- Adam and Eve after their fall?
 - Savior is promised to deliver humanity from sin
 - What is the more complete truth? Jesus has come and has defeated Satan and the species has been saved, now it is just a matter of individual salvation
- What was the truth for Noah’s day?
 - A way of salvation is prepared for all who will choose
 - What is the more complete truth for us today? That we are to choose not mere temporal salvation from a flood, but eternal salvation from sin
- What was the truth for Moses day?
 - God will deliver from slavery and lead to a promised land
 - What is the more complete truth for us today? That through Christ God has defeated the ruler of this world, freed us from the slavery of sin, and is leading all who will follow to



the eternal promised land—but how many of us are like ancient Israel—grumbling along the way?

- What was the truth for David's day?
 - God will deliver from enemies and establish us in his kingdom
 - What is the more complete truth for us today? God continues to deliver us from all earthly opposition and establish us in his eternal kingdom—when we accept Jesus our citizenship is in heaven!
- What was the truth for Daniel's day?
 - God will watch over his children in captivity and has a plan to deliver and save
 - What is the more complete truth for us today? God is watching over us here on earth today and has a plan to deliver and save us for all eternity—but like Daniel we may wait our entire life!
- What was the truth for Nehemiah's day?
 - Leave the world behind, build the temple of God and prepare for the Messiah
 - What is the more complete truth for us today? We are to leave the world's view of religion and law behind and establish in our Spirit temples the truth about God and His character and methods of love, preparing to meet the Messiah
- What was the truth for John the Baptists day?
 - Turn away from the kingdoms of the world for God's kingdom of love has come
 - What is the more complete truth for us today? Turn away from selfishness and sin for God's kingdom of love is at hand—Jesus is about to return!
- What was the truth for Paul's day?
 - The truth about God has been revealed and the remedy for sin has been provided to all humanity through Jesus Christ
 - What is the more complete truth for us today? The full integration of the truth about God as seen in Scripture, science and experience in the setting of the Great Controversy over God's character and methods of love—these truths are applicable to all people regardless of race, culture, or religion.
- What was the truth for Luther's day?
 - Christianity is infected with lies and must be purified with truth
 - What is the more complete truth for us today? That the root infection is the imposed law construct and we are called to worship Him who made the heavens, earth, sea and all that in them is, called back to Designer worship!
- What was the truth for EGWs day?
 - The purifying process is to continue as we come back to the truth about God's character of love in the setting of the Great Controversy
 - What is the more complete truth for us today? God's law is the law of love and The Sabbath is a sign of God's character of love and true Sabbath keepers possess the character of Christ. That God is waiting for a people on earth to be so settled into the truth about Him and His law of love, that nothing can move them and they will be empowered to share this message in the setting of the Great Controversy all over the world.



- What is the truth for us today?
 - God is waiting for a people to be so settled into the truth about Him, His character, His methods—design law of love, so that they cannot be moved—then the winds will loosen and the end will come

With this in mind here are a couple of historic quotes:

Our warfare is aggressive. Tremendous issues are before us, yea, and right upon us. Let our prayers ascend to God that the four angels may still hold the four winds, that they may not blow to injure or destroy until the last warning has been given to the world. Then let us work in harmony with our prayers. Let nothing lessen the force of the truth for this time. **The present truth is to be our burden. The third angel's message must do its work of separating from the churches a people who will take their stand on the platform of eternal truth.** [what does this mean? Could it mean separating from institutional loyalty and methods, to become members in a body motivated by Godlike love? In other words, stop focusing on level four and below, divisions, and rules, but on level five and above, God's design law, character, methods and principles?] {6T 61.2}

The very work that is essential for every one who receives the present truth, is to aim at perfection of character, and thoroughness in winning souls to Christ. Be determined that you will advance and improve in your work, and then you will be continually progressing; for those who have received this light feel that they **must bring more of the Spirit of Christ into their own life and character as they advance,** else they cannot bring it into the lives of others. {RH, July 26, 1887 par. 5}

“It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. **At this time** a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. **His character is to be made known.** Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy and truth...**The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is the revelation of His character of love.**” Christ's Object Lessons, p.415

Read last paragraph, “Notice how central Jesus is...” What do you think of this idea of a final reckoning?

The lesson asks us to read MT 3:7-12:

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for



Abraham. 10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

What does it mean? How do you understand it? What law lens do you look through? What do you understand the terms to mean?

What causes the division? Is Jesus a divider or uniter? Does Jesus do the dividing or is the dividing caused by sin? What do you understand judgment to be?

From *The Remedy*:

But when he saw the lawyers and theologians of the Pharisee and Sadducee schools arrive where he was dipping people in the Jordan, he said to them: "You poisonous snakes! What are you doing here? Do you think you can get right with God by washing in the Jordan?"⁸ Your hearts must be cleansed and characters renewed, so that your lives bring forth actions in harmony with God's character of love.⁹ And don't try claiming that you're right with God just because you're genetic descendants of Abraham. Biological descent is irrelevant. The descendants of Abraham are as numerous as the stones lying on the shore.¹⁰ The axe of selfishness is already cutting through the roots of Israel, and every person who refuses to be renewed in love and bring forth character of righteousness will be cut off and destroyed.

¹¹ "I immerse people in water, symbolizing their repentance. But One is coming after me whose sandals I am not even fit to hold. He will immerse you in the Holy Spirit and in the cleansing fire of God's love and truth.¹² He sifts the wheat from the chaff, purifying his people by consuming all defects with unstoppable fire."

MONDAY/TUESDAY

Is about Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. Read memory text Monday and first paragraph Tuesday, "Matthew 4:1...

Why was Jesus led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted, and why are we to pray to lead us not into temptation?

Jesus had a different mission than us—what was Jesus' mission? To overcome Satan, to overcome temptation, to exercise His human brain to be righteous, to reject sin, to develop as perfect character! Thus Jesus had to face the temptations and using His human brain choose no in order to develop a perfect character.



Why did Jesus have to do this? Because Jesus had to fix what Adam broke—and because of Adam’s sin there were no humans with sinless character, and all humans suffered with internal temptations. Jesus came to develop a perfect character and destroy the infection of selfishness and fear which tempts us.

Read bottom Tuesday pink section. There is no excuse for Adam and Eve’s sin, but what about each of us being born with sinful natures—is that our fault?

What do we not have an excuse for? For rejecting the free remedy which will heal and transform us!

WEDNESDAY

The lesson asks us to read MT 4:13-16:

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. ¹³ Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—¹⁴ to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people living in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

What is being said? What is the point? That Jesus the light of truth shines into the minds of people darkened by Satan’s lies about God.

THURSDAY

The call of the fishermen, read last paragraph, “Jesus chose...” What does this tell us about the mindset we need in order to be useful in God’s cause?

FRIDAY

The top section states, “Though, no question, some parts of the Old Testament, such as the sacrificial system, are no longer binding upon believers, we must never make the mistake of somehow relegating the Old Testament to an inferior status to the New.”

First the lesson is correct, the Old Testament is not less inspired than the New Testament—but it was written by different people, with different assumptions, different immediate concerns, different levels



of revealed truth, different premises. The New testament has the advantage of having Jesus in person to clarify and interpret and set in right ways the meaning of the Old.

But what of the idea of the sacrificial system being binding—was it ever binding? And if so, in what way, for whom and for what purpose?

Read and discuss questions



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Request for Stories: Dr. Jennings is working on a new book on the power of love to transform lives. **He is seeking stories of how love was transformational in a person's life.** This could be by experiencing the truth about God's love and coming to understand His character of love, or by experiencing love through how someone treated you.

Please understand the following regarding submitting your story:

1. Submitting a story does not guarantee it will be included in the upcoming book (not all stories will fit with the flow of the book, the publishers and editors will have a say in what stories are included). Just because a story is not included doesn't mean the story is not valuable, only that it did not fit with the flow of this particular book.
2. Please limit the story to 1500 words
3. When you submit the story please include the following signed statement:
 - a. This story is mine to share and I authorize Timothy Jennings to use this story in any of his books in all formats without expectation of any compensation.
4. Please indicate one of the following:
 - a. I **do not** want my real name to be used. Please change the pertinent details to protect my confidentiality.
 - b. I **do** want my real name used. Please keep the pertinent details accurate to me.

If you would like to submit a story please email it to: stories@comeandreason.com

Dr. Jennings has been named a *Champion of Health* by True Health Broadcasting Network in association with Health Institute for Preventive Care, Access, Research and Education (HIPCARE) and True Health TV and will be presented with the "*Legacy Champion of Health*" award at a Gala on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC), Atlanta, Georgia.

This award is being presented to Dr. Jennings, as it states in the award letter, "because of your unselfish commitment to community health exemplified by your leadership in the community and as author of "*The God-shaped Brain*" and "*Could it be this Simple? A Biblical Model for Healing the Mind*".

The God-Shaped Brain is now available in Korean and is available at this website: http://book.naver.com/bookdb/book_detail.nhn?bid=9519886

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings' New Testament Paraphrase—FREE for ios and android systems.

The Journal of the Watcher is now available as a **HARD COVER book at Amazon** as well as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android, you can now get it in itunes. It is also available as an APP for Apple and Android devices.



April 1-2, 2016: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Spring Branch Hispanic SDA church, Houston, TX.

May 18-20: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at *The Struggle Is Real* Conference at Seacoast Church in Charleston SC, for more info and to register click this link <http://www.2016summit.net>