

The Prophetic Gift Lesson 10 1Q 2009

The Message of the Prophets

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph “Sin is the greatest...” thoughts?

What is sin? What are the roots? Lies about God and selfishness. Lies about God break the circle of love, the law of love, resulting in fear and selfishness. This is a terminal condition without remedy. I really liked how the lesson stated,

“Sin kills, and no modern medicine can cure it.” That is exactly what the Bible teaches. The Bible does not teach that God kills the wicked because of sin.

- Evil will slay the wicked; Psalms 34:12
- The wages of sin is death. Romans 6:23
- Sin when full grown brings forth death James 1:15
- The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Galatians 6:8

Thoughts? Why is sin a terminal condition? Sin is lawlessness, meaning sin is outside the law of life operations. It would be like saying sin is breathlessness or pulselessness.

Why is it impossible for man to “merit” anything by his own good works?

If someone is born with cystic fibrosis, a terminal genetic lung disease, is there any good work they can do to heal themselves? Likewise there is no good work we can do to heal ourselves.

Read last paragraph – thoughts?

Who does the justifying? Have you ever heard it is Jesus? The lesson is right, God justifies, through Jesus.

- What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² 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? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ 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
- God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. 2 Corinthians 5:19

What does it mean to be justified? Does it mean to have Jesus pay our legal penalty to the Father?

Justify simply means to be set right, to take what is not right and make it right. To take what is terminal and make it healthy. Now, what is not right that needs to be set right? Our minds, hearts, characters!

What are we not right about? Primarily we are not right about God! Jesus came to set us right about God, to put us back into unity and harmony with God! And then when we trust Him in mind/heart He then, via the Holy Spirit transforms us to be like Him!

Why do good works follow? If you had pneumonia and had fever and cough and then were treated with antibiotics would your symptoms get less as you got better? Acts of sin are symptoms of hearts that are filled with fear and selfishness. As Christ applies His remedy to our hearts we live differently!

Are we saved by faith?

- For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10

We are not saved by faith – we are saved by God’s grace through faith. What does this mean?

If you have a terminal condition and someone develops a cure for it, but that someone is a person you hate and distrust will you take the remedy? No, we must trust in order to get well, in order to be saved. But if you have a terminal condition and have a father who is loving, kind and gentle and you absolutely trust him, but he has no remedy will your trust in your father get you well? No, it takes both, restored trust and a remedy that actually works to heal and restore.

We are saved when we trust God because of what Christ accomplished. If you have a disease and trust a doctor who has a remedy, do you have to understand how the remedy works in order to benefit from taking it? But do you have to trust the doctor?

Why is our salvation rooted in Jesus Christ? Because He has revealed the truth about God which destroys the lies and wins us back to trust and Jesus overcame the infection of fear and selfishness and restored the law of love perfectly into humanity. Jesus is the means through which the law of life is restored back into humanity again.

MONDAY

Read second paragraph “In the Old Testament...” and then bottom green section - thoughts?

First, what is the great mistake made by many who study the sanctuary service? Using the Old Testament symbols to understand Jesus and His ministry, rather than allowing Jesus the living Word be the lens through which we understand the Old Testament service.

Jesus is the Word made flesh. He is God's thoughts made audible and visible. He is the heavenly light come to earth. He is the starting point. It is through Jesus that the Old Testament comes into focus. Too many have spent careers studying the Old Testament trying to squeeze Jesus into their concepts.

But Jesus said,

- Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved." Matthew 9:17

The new wine is the truth that Jesus brought but too many try to force it into the old wineskin and they fail to drink the healing waters of life.

We have much work to do in our church to free our minds of old wine on this subject.

- The significance of the Jewish economy is not yet fully comprehended. Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. The gospel is the key that unlocks its mysteries. Through a knowledge of the plan of redemption, its truths are opened to the understanding. Far more than we do, it is our privilege to understand these wonderful themes. COL 133
- In the cleansing of the temple, Jesus was announcing His mission as the Messiah, and entering upon His work. That temple, erected for the abode of the divine Presence, was designed to be an object lesson for Israel and for the world. From eternal ages it was God's purpose that every

created being, from the bright and holy seraph to man, should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator. Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God. Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One. But by the incarnation of the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His temple. God designed that the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high destiny open to every soul. But the Jews had not understood the significance of the building they regarded with so much pride. They did not yield themselves as holy temples for the Divine Spirit. The courts of the temple at Jerusalem, filled with the tumult of unholy traffic, represented all too truly the temple of the heart, defiled by the presence of sensual passion and unholy thoughts. In cleansing the temple from the world's buyers and sellers, Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin,--from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul. "The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver." Mal. 3:1-3. DA 161

What is the cleansing of the sanctuary about? About cleansing the living temple of God, the place where God dwells by His Spirit from the defilement of sin. It is not primarily about cleansing books in heaven. In fact books cannot be cleansed, because sin does not happen in books, sin happens in people. Only the hearts, minds, characters of intelligent beings can be cleansed from sin.

What about the blood? In the old system blood was taken all over the place and without blood things were not cleansed, but if we use Jesus as our lens what do we learn?

- 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. John 6:53-56

What is Jesus trying to open our minds to? Where does Jesus want the blood administered, in buildings or in the hearts and minds of people? Is Jesus talking cannibalism? No, then what does the blood represent?

The life was in the blood and in this case the blood is the life of the lamb, who is Jesus. Christ is the Truth, it represents the application of the truth which destroys the lies which win us to trust and the blood represents the life of Christ, His perfect character which is reproduced in those who trust! It represents the application of Christlikeness into the believer!

- The leaven of truth works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous. By it the impure are cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb. COL 102

Why is it that only blood atones? What does atone mean? It means at-one, and blood means truth and life of Christ, thus the blood taken into the heart, mind means the truth taken in which removes the lies wins us to trust, and then the character of Christ taken in which restores us to Godliness we are at-one with God again! All through the work of Jesus Christ!

Why would going into the Most Holy place without blood mean death instead of atonement? Because the blood represents

healing, restoration to Godliness and therefore we can live in the life giving glory of God. But what happens to unregenerate sinners who come into God's unveiled love? They are destroyed, why?

Does God need the "blood" of His Son ministered to Him in some way in order for God to be able, willing or otherwise encouraged to forgive? No! This is paganism. God was in the Son reconciling the world to Himself. God does not need blood ministered to Him – we do!

Read last paragraph "The pre-Advent..." Thoughts? Who determines whether you are saved or lost? Whose decision is it? Does God have to "decide" who is saved or lost or does each person make their own decision?

What do we make then of the pre-Advent judgment?

- He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." Revelation 14:7

When in history is this text referring before or after the second Advent? Before, this is a pre-Advent judgment and who is being judged? What is the emphasis of the text?

"Wake up earth, get with the program, figure it out. Give honor and glory to God, the Creator and Sustainer of all because the time of His judgment has arrived, the time in which God is being judged.

Romans 3:4

- God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.
KJV

- May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written, “That You may be justified in Your words, And prevail when You are judged.” NASB
- By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, “That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.” ASV
- Certainly not! God must be true, even though every human being is a liar. As the scripture says, “You must be shown to be right when you speak; you must win your case when you are being tried.” GNT

Who is on trial? What is God waiting for? He is waiting for a people to drink the blood of Jesus, the truth about Him, judge rightly about Him and be transformed to be like Him!

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph “The fourth commandment...” thoughts?

What about the Pharisees in Christ’s day? Did they question which day of the week was the Sabbath? Did they observe it rigidly? Did that make them friends of God? Something more than the right day of the week is needed.

Read third and fourth paragraphs “In a certain...” thoughts? While the lesson has said some very good things this week, here they are wrong. In fact, here they argue the enemies position.

- From the beginning it has been Satan's studied plan to cause men to forget God, that he might secure them to himself. Hence he has sought to misrepresent the character of God, to lead men to cherish a false conception of Him. The Creator has been presented to their minds as clothed with the attributes of the prince of

evil himself,--**as arbitrary**, severe, and unforgiving,--that He might be feared, shunned, and even hated by men. Satan hoped to so confuse the minds of those whom he had deceived that they would put God out of their knowledge. Then he would obliterate the divine image in man and impress his own likeness upon the soul; he would imbue men with his own spirit and make them captives according to his will. 5T 738

God is not arbitrary, never arbitrary, such assertions are lies. The assumption that the Sabbath is not rooted in some natural phenomenon and that there is no reason for it is false.

What is the reason for it and what natural phenomenon is it rooted in?

The Sabbath was given at the end of creation week of this planet and what was happening in the universe that week? A war over whether God can be trusted – Did God use His power to force all beings in the universe bow to Him or did He give evidence of His character creating a new planet with new life forms and sharing with them His ability to create and govern?

And then, after this what did God do? Universe I rest my case take 24 hours aside and consider the evidence for yourself, no pressure, no coercion, come to your own conclusion. What does it say about God that in the context of an assault on His rulership that rather than using His power to force all into conformity He instead created a day for freedom to think? The existence of the weekly Sabbath is proof that with God we are free.

The Sabbath is rooted, grounded in the natural phenomenon of the Law of Liberty, a principle upon which the universe runs. It is for Freedom that the Sabbath exists for without Freedom there is no love. Love cannot exist in an atmosphere without freedom and constructs that teach the Sabbath is arbitrary rip the Sabbath away from God's character of love,

away from the law of liberty and instead put forth false conceptions of God who would arbitrarily use His power.

True Sabbath keeping then is more than going to church on a certain day, it is more than avoiding work on a certain day, true Sabbath keeping is internalizing into one's character the principles it was created upon – The Truth presented in Love and leaving others Free! This is what a true Sabbath keeper looks like. And they will stand in sharp contrast to the worshippers of the Beast who will use power to coerce, for no one can buy or sell save him who has the mark of the beast.

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph – thoughts? Very well stated!

Read last paragraph “In Matthew...” thoughts?

Does the paragraph seem to suggest that the fire goes out?
Does the fire ever go out? Why or why not?

THURSDAY

How will Christ return? Why is this important?

Why the delay in Christ's return? What is He waiting for? Love cannot flow where lies about God are retained. When Christ returns He returns with the fullness of God's love.

- for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. Song of Solomon 8:6,7
- the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten

thousand times ten thousand stood before him. Daniel
7:9,10

What will happen to those whose characters are solidified in selfishness and lies about God when the truth and love of God burns freely on earth again?

FRIDAY

Question 1 read and discuss.