

## The Christian Life Lesson 4 2Q 2009

Life

SABBATH

Read memory text – John 10:10 –

What is the basis of life?

- Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3
- We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. <sup>15</sup> Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him. <sup>1</sup>John 3:14,15

Thoughts? What do these text say are the basis of life?

Knowing God which results in what? Love, we love others and selfishness is removed.

- “As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. <sup>48</sup> There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. <sup>50</sup> I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.” John 12:46-50

What judges the wicked in the end? Why don't they have eternal life? They didn't follow the Father's command which is what?

- “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34,35

How are knowing God and love connected? God is love, God is the source of love, only in connection with God can we ever experience love and then love others.

How is love connected to life?

- Love is not self seeking 1Cor 13:5
- Love emanates from God and is the design template for life
- Respiration is a law for life, a manifestation of the law of love, life is only possible in harmony with the law of respiration
- Jesus, the express image of the Father's person, the effulgence of His glory; the self-denying Redeemer, throughout His pilgrimage of love on earth, was a living representation of the character of the law of God. In His life it is made manifest that heaven-born love, Christlike principles, underlie the laws of eternal rectitude. . . . Those principles that were made known to man in Paradise as the **great law of life** will exist unchanged in Paradise restored.--Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, pp. 48-51.
- But turning from all lesser representations, we behold God in Jesus. Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. "I do nothing of Myself," said Christ; "the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father." "I seek not Mine own glory," but the glory of Him that sent Me. John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. In these words is set forth the great principle which is **the law of life** for the universe. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father's

life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the **circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life.** {DA 21.2}

What is sin? Sin in lawlessness 1John 3:4 – what does this mean?

We have unfortunately concluded that God's law is an enacted law and God is the great cosmic enforcer of His law and therefore must inflict penalties to make people pay. With this as the problem we have concocted the idea that Jesus came to appease His Father and pay our penalty.

The truth is that the law of the universe is the law of love. This law emanates from God who is love. It is not a created or legislated law but the principle, template, design protocol that life is constructed to operate upon. The reason God could not change His law is that life is not possible in any other way. Therefore, when man broke the law, the actual basis for life, Jesus came to fix it. To perfectly reproduce the law of love in humanity, to rebuild the basis of life, perfect love in the human being. Jesus did this by becoming one of us and being tempted in everyway like us yet without sin (Heb 4:15).

Now, because of Jesus each of us can receive freely from God a transfusion of His love which will heal and transform us, thus we become partakers of the divine nature and, in that relationship with God, partakers of eternal life.

SUNDAY

Read first two paragraphs "How did life originate?" thoughts?

It is commonly taught that life evolved over billions of years and science, such as rocks on earth dated to billions of years, is cited as examples of the Genesis account being wrong. How

do we harmonize the Genesis account with the facts of science?

- How do we understand rocks being billions of years of age in harmony with the Genesis account?
- How do we understand carbon dating suggesting organic material is 50,000 years old?
- How do we understand light was created on day one of creation week but the sun moon and stars were not created until day four?
- How do we understand that animal brains show a progressive complexity as we move up the “evolutionary” chain?
- Job 38:7 sons of God sang together when earth was made and Heb 1:2 (ASV) God, through the Son made the “worlds.” – In other words, Genesis 1 does not describe creation of the entire universe but creation of our solar system.
- Genesis 1:2 describes the earth as a black, empty, void with no light – what is being described? Perhaps a black hole in the Milky Way? When God said let there be light He dissipated the black hole and there was light and then He used the matter from the center of the black hole, which God had previously created billions of years before when He made the universe, to create earth and put life on it about 6000 years ago.
- Carbon dating assumes carbon 14 levels have been constant throughout earth’s history. Carbon 14 is an isotope of carbon 12 and when a living organism dies the carbon 14 levels begin to decay and can be measured to suggest age. But C14 is generated by solar radiation. The Bible tells us before the flood there was water layer above the earth which came down at the time of the great flood. The water layer would have dissipated the solar energy, like a greenhouse, creating a temperate climate over the entire globe and vastly reducing the amount of C14 in the

environment. So anything living before the flood would appear to be tens of thousands of years older than it really is.

Read third paragraph “What is true...” and bottom pink section – thoughts?

- When did God create human life?
- In what condition was human life when God created it?
- Did God give humans an ability to pass their life along i.e. procreation?
- Who decides whether two people procreate?
- When Adam and Eve sinned did they change themselves such that humanity was no longer functioning as God designed?
- When Adam and Eve had children were they born in sin conceived in iniquity (Ps 51:5)?
- Did God create Adam’s children in sin? Does God create sinners?
- Has God, by His direct action, created each of us? Or has God created mankind in Adam and each of us through His laws of nature, design template and principles of governing and His sustaining power?
- When a man rapes a woman and she becomes pregnant is that God creating? Does Love create by rape?

The lesson cites Psalms 139:13,14:

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

- What does this mean?
- Does it mean God creates each of us as individuals?
- It is a commonly assumed and taught idea that each of us were created by God as we are, is this true?
- If it is when children are born with spinal bifida, congenital heart defects and other deformities was God having a bad knitting day?

- If it is true that God creates us as we are, then when a child is born with a defect, what right do we have to try and repair it? If God created the person that way wouldn't we be obstructing the divine will to try and fix it?
- If God is using His divine creative power to make each of us then how do we explain the multiple birth defects of children born to alcoholic mothers? Shouldn't God's power be stronger than alcohol?
- I have many patient's who ask, "Why did God want me to have bipolar disorder? Why did God want my child to have schizophrenia?" The truth is He didn't!
- Then how do we understand Psalms 139? David is acknowledging the incredible beings God designed and created and gifted with such wonderful abilities. David is admiring God's continue sustenance of a planet in rebellion allowing God's life sustaining energies to continue to support planet earth and the creative process.

The lesson states that "human life in a very special sense – is sacred." Besides the obvious, a discrete human being, what actually constitutes human life? What about

- A sperm?
- An ovum?
- A fertilized egg?
- A zygote?
- A hair follicle?
- A skin cell?
- A toenail?
- A denucleated ovum?
- A decucleated ovum with a foreign nucleus added?
- Blood?
- Organs like heart, lung, spleen, appendix, uterus, testicle?

When God created Adam and formed him out of the dust of the ground there was a time before God breathed into him the breath of life. Adam had all the organs, he had all the cells, all

the DNA, but wasn't alive, was Adam, before he became alive, more sacred than any other part of God's creation? What made Adam more sacred than other parts of creation?

When he was brought to life he was brought to life as a being in God's image – not just physically but mentally, with the ability to love, to give, to sacrifice for others. The living law of God was written on Adam's heart. Adam was the showcase, centerpiece of creation revealing most clearly a God of love!

- Reproduction, as God designed, is the process of two people giving of themselves in love to bring forth new life. Rape is a violation of this, it is not two people giving in love but one person abusing, violating and exploiting another.

Now, the last question in pink, “How should our stance on the origin of life impact our views about things such as the death penalty, abortion and euthanasia?” – thoughts?

- Should the church, Christians, use their energy to reform governments, get the right politicians elected, the right judges in office and seek to use the power of the state to enforce its beliefs on society?
- In Christ's day what was society like? Were there human rights abuses of all kinds? Was there hedonism and perversions? Did Christ or His disciples use their energies or that of the church to try and get the right senators or governors into office or change the laws of Rome? What lesson is there for us?
- What is the mission of the Church? To represent Christ! To take the message of eternal salvation to people and change hearts and minds. And when that happens what automatically happens to society?

Don't be fooled into investing in agendas that have laudable goals but use ungodly methods to achieve those goals, i.e. the position of protecting innocent life by the use of coercion, intimidation, force and imposition. God's methods are the methods of truth, presented in love while leaving others free.

We want to promote life and health in the context of freedom because love can only exist in an atmosphere of freedom.

I recently read the following:

- the brain nerves that connect with the whole system are the medium through which heaven communicates with man and affects the inmost life. Whatever hinders the circulation of the electric current in the nervous system, thus weakening the vital powers and lessening mental susceptibility, makes it more difficult to arouse the moral nature. {Ed 209.2}

Do you believe that the brain nerves are the only medium God can communicate with man? If this is true does it give any insight into what it means to be human? In other words can you be a person, have an identity, worship, love, know God or anything else without a brain?

MONDAY

Physical Education

Why is physical education and activity important?

- Healthy body, which improves brain function
- Creates neurotrophic factors to make brain healthy
- Balanced development of neural circuits which improves mental capacity
- Cerebellar development which improves organization of thought

Read last paragraph “The way we treat...” thoughts?

Read pink section – thoughts?

- Why are some foods unsuitable for human consumption? Are the foods unhealthy because God said so or did God say not to eat them because they were unhealthy?



## TUESDAY

Read top memory verse, 2Cor 5:17 – what does it mean to be “in Christ”? Would it mean to be in union, harmony, love, oneness, fellowship, unity of mind and heart?

What things become new when we do this?

Read middle section beginning “This eternal life...” when did this rebirth experience take place for Peter? What was the essence of what happened? Prior to Peter’s denial of Christ was Peter converted?

- And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *to have* you, that he may sift *you* as wheat: <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. <sup>33</sup> And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. <sup>34</sup> And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me. Luke 22:31-34 KJV

When was Peter converted? Did Peter love Jesus prior to his conversion? Then what happened at conversion? He lost his love for himself – prior to conversion Peter loved Jesus but he still loved himself more, that is why he acted to protect self by denying Jesus. But after his denial he finally died to self and loved Jesus more than self.

## WEDNESDAY

### Social Life

What is the importance of social life? Why is church attendance important? What happens in the brain when we minister to others? What happens in the brain when we exploit others?

Brain research shows that fellowship with others increases the development of the prefrontal cortex. This is the portion of the brain in which we experience love, empathy, compassion, sympathy, reason, worship, conscience etc.

Isolation results in deterioration of the higher cortical centers.

#### THURSDAY

Read middle section "As we grow..." thoughts? Does Christianity bring liberty or restriction? Who is the one who is free and who is a slave, the person who worries so much about what others think that they work themselves to death trying to please their boss? The person freely using illegal drugs? The person who lives sexual immoral life? Where is real freedom?

How does God's law bring freedom?

FRIDAY - Read questions and discuss.