

## Redemption in Romans Lesson 6 3Q 2010

### Expounding the Faith

Before we go into this week's lesson I want to clarify what I have been saying the last two weeks.

As you know I have drawn a distinction between the traditional penal model and our model. And I want to clarify one point to allay any possibly misunderstanding or confusion.

Our model does not suggest that God did not need to pardon or forgive us – it is just that in our model God's personal pardon/forgiveness or what some call "legal pardon" was never an obstacle to our salvation. Christ did not need to do anything to procure God's personal pardon or forgiveness as it is freely given.

Along these lines we do not suggest that God does not make a declaration regarding His justified saints. I believe He does – but His declaration is descriptive of a reality that exists and is not some form of empty claim.

Sin happens in living beings not in record books. God is cleansing sinners from sin, not "doctoring" the books.

### SABBATH

Read first sentence, "Paul has established...." Can this sentence be understood in more than one way? Do we need to define the words in the sentence, like justification, acceptance, faith and right standing?

If we conclude that justification means legal adjustment of record books do we get a different understanding than if justification means actually fixing the damage sinned caused and putting sinners right with God in heart and mind again?

How do we understand the record books?

If justification is a legal action then what is being suggested that prevents us from being accepted with God? What if justification is actually fixing what is wrong with humanity, then what prevents us from being accepted?

Second paragraph, read, “Through the fall...”

Thoughts? What does it mean to “remit” a record of sin? How does one do that? What would that entail? Would it entail destroying evidence? Would Bibles need to be burned? Would the heavenly record books need to be destroyed? Would angels need lobotomies? Would humans need memory erasure?

Does anyone see a problem with a theological system which requires records to be remitted? Is there some other way to understand this that I am missing?

Read last paragraph, “Paul contrasts...” thoughts?

Do you like how this is said? Did Christ come to undo what Adam did? Absolutely! And what did Adam do to humanity? How did Christ undo it?

Does paying a legal penalty undo what Adam did? Did Adam simply break a rule that was imposed, that in itself had no consequence and therefore all that was needed is the perfect fine to be paid? Or did Adam actually get changed, literally, and needed to be healed?

How did Christ undo this?

SUNDAY

The lesson asks us to read Romans 5:1-5:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. NIV

Then read first two paragraphs – “Being justified”... Thoughts?

What could be more glorious? How about the character of God as revealed in Christ – that God is not a liar, fraud, or twister of evidence and truth? How about that God is love and love sacrifices self to heal and restore? How about that God never required a payment or that sins be punished, such an idea is Satan’s allegations:

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

Two paragraphs later EGW states:

**The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give.** He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, **Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty.** Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rom. 3:26. {DA 762.2}

Thoughts regarding this or the presentation from the quarterly?  
 What do you hear from the lesson guide? Any questions? Any concerns?

Can sin be transferred? Are historic acts of sin transferrable from person to person? If acts of sin were transferred to Christ does that mean Hitler and Stalin reduced Christ's suffering by shorting the lives of millions thus reducing committed sins by trillions? Do we reduce Christ's suffering with abortions, thus preventing people from being born who would commit sin? Are acts of sins transferable?

Notice the logic in the lesson, it is by transferring our sins to Christ that we avoid being punished and He receives our punishment in our place.

Consider Ezekiel 18 – the guilt of one is not transferable to another, and the righteousness of one is not transferable to another. And God challenges them because they accuse God of not being fair.

Consider the parable of the 10 Virgins – all appeared ready but five didn't have oil, why couldn't the five who had oil share it with those who didn't?

But some will have delayed to obtain the oil for replenishing their lamps, and too late they will **find that character, which is represented by the oil, is not transferable. That oil is the righteousness of Christ. It represents character, and character is not transferable.** No man can secure it for another. Each must obtain for himself a character purified from every stain of sin. The Lord is coming in power and great glory. It will then be His work to make a complete separation between the righteous and the wicked. But the oil cannot then be transferred to the vessels of those who have it not. {BEcho, May 4, 1896 par. 2}

Is it only righteous character that is not transferable or is sinful character also not transferable?

The problem we have is real – it is an actual condition of being, which when we are born is out of harmony with God and His protocols for life. Jesus came to reverse this. Because of Jesus we can be actually healed in mind/heart to love God and others more than self.

If character isn't transferable how do we receive Christ's character?

Any Scripture come to mind?

TUESDAY

Read second and third paragraph, "Commentators..." thoughts?

We are born infected with a condition we did not choose – we are not held responsible for this. But there is a free remedy which will cure us, if we refuse the remedy are we responsible for that?

Read Romans 5:12-14 – thoughts?

Here is my paraphrase:

<sup>5:12</sup> Therefore, the infection of distrust of God, which deformed man's heart and mind with selfishness and fear and results only in death, infected the human race when Adam accepted Satan's lies about God and broke trust with him. This infection of distrust and selfishness is inherited by all mankind, because all are born infected – <sup>13</sup> this is revealed by the fact that before the written law was given, the infection of distrust, fear and selfishness was already in the world. But this infection of distrust, fear and selfishness is not diagnosable without the law. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, even without being diagnosed as infected with this terminal condition, mankind still died from the time of Adam to Moses, even those who did not break a specific command, like Adam did – revealing that the problem is the infected state of our minds not a legal issue with God.

Adam, the first man, being the conduit through which the infection entered humanity, represents the one man who is the conduit of the antidote which cures the many who accept it.

While behaviors or acts of sin cannot be passed along, can the consequences of our behavior, both healthy/righteous and unhealthy/sinful be passed along to our children? Any examples?

The commandment “unto the third and fourth generations” what does it mean?

We have talked before about epigenetic changes – epi means above, so these changes are not genes to the genes, or DNA itself, but to control regions of the DNA.

Experience changes the various control groups which determine which genes are turned on and which are turned off, and these changes are passed down multiple generations:

- Fruit flies exposed to a drug called geldanamycin show unusual outgrowths on their eyes that can last through at least 13 generations of offspring even though no change in DNA has occurred (and generations 2 through 13 were not directly exposed to the drug).
- roundworms fed with a particular type of bacteria exhibit loss of a green fluorescent protein and a small dumpy appearance that lasts 40 generations. In human terms, factoring for 40 years equaling one generation, would represent 1600 years of generational history.
- What about stressful emotional events? Michael Meany at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, discovered newborn mice that were neglected by their mothers are more fearful and agitated as adults, which correlated with epigenetic changes in the genes that control stress.
- What about behavior? Men who smoke before the age of 11 increase the rate of obesity and metabolic problems in their

sons, but not their daughters. This means epigenetic changes to their Y chromosome.

- Men who experience starvation or short food supplies before they have children will confer higher mortality risks to their grandsons, but not granddaughter, where as women who experience famine will confer higher mortality risks to their granddaughters but not grandsons. Again demonstrating epigenetic changes of the X and Y chromosomes passing multigenerational.

These are examples of negative effects being passed along, what about positive changes? Can we pass those along?

- Mice genetically engineered to have memory problems were raised in an enriched environment--given toys, exercise, and social interaction--for two weeks during adolescence. The animals' memory improved--an unsurprising finding, given that enrichment has been previously shown to boost brain function. The mice were then returned to normal conditions, where they grew up and had offspring. This next generation of mice also had better memory, despite having the genetic defect and never having been exposed to the enriched environment.
- The researchers also looked at a molecular correlate of memory called long-term potentiation, or LTP, a mechanism that strengthens connections between neurons. Environmental enrichment fixed faulty LTP in mice with the genetic defect; the fixed LTP was then passed on to their offspring. The findings held true even when pups were raised by memory-deficient mice that had never had the benefits of toys and social interaction.

Thoughts?

- A genuine conversion changes hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong. The religion of God is a firm fabric, composed of innumerable threads, and woven together with tact and skill. Only the wisdom which comes from God can make this fabric complete. There are a great many kinds of cloth which at first have a fine appearance, but they cannot

endure the test. They wash out. The colors are not fast. Under the heat of summer they fade away and are lost. The cloth cannot endure rough handling. {Mar 237.2}

Christ came to fix everything Adam's sin did to humanity. In order to do this He took upon Himself a humanity just like ours. And only through unity with Christ can we experience a real transformation in our minds, brains, characters and even how our DNA is expressed.

## MONDAY

First paragraph, read – “When Adam and Eve....” – this is well said.

Read second and third paragraph, “As the blood...” thoughts?

Does God have wrath toward sin? What about toward the sinner? What about this idea that it is because of love He has wrath?

Is it true that God's love motivates Him to destroy that which destroys His creation? Is it true He has a holy hatred for that which damages the objects of His love?

Will God eventually eradicate the universe of sin?

What is damaging God's creation? Sin, and God hates it and is going to destroy it – how?

Question – what is sin made of? What is this sin stuff that God has wrath toward? Is sin physical? Is it made from molecules? Or is sin ideas and attitudes of hearts and minds of intelligent beings?

How can God eradicate this? What eradicates lies? Truth – is God's supreme revelation of truth, at the end of time, when He reveals Himself without any veil in between Him and His creatures the fullness of His wrath? Will truth consume lies? What happens to those steeped in lies?



What about selfishness in hearts and minds? What eradicates selfishness? Love – is God’s supreme, unveiled, loving presence what ultimately consumes selfishness? What happens in the hearts and minds of those solidified in selfishness?

**Those who have chosen Satan** as their leader and have been controlled by his power **are not prepared to enter the presence of God.** Pride, deception, licentiousness, cruelty, have become fixed in their characters. Can they enter heaven to dwell forever with those whom they despised and hated on earth? Truth will never be agreeable to a liar; meekness will not satisfy self-esteem and pride; purity is not acceptable to the corrupt; disinterested love does not appear attractive to the selfish. What source of enjoyment could heaven offer to those who are wholly absorbed in earthly and selfish interests? {GC 542.1}

Could those whose lives have been spent in rebellion against God be suddenly transported to heaven and witness the high, the holy state of perfection that ever exists there,-- every soul filled with love, every countenance beaming with joy, enrapturing music in melodious strains rising in honor of God and the Lamb, and ceaseless streams of light flowing upon the redeemed from the face of Him who sitteth upon the throne,--could those whose hearts are filled with hatred of God, of truth and holiness, mingle with the heavenly throng and join their songs of praise? **Could they endure the glory of God and the Lamb? No, no;** years of probation were granted them, that they might form characters for heaven; but they have never trained the mind to love purity; they have never learned the language of heaven, and now it is too late. **A life of rebellion against God has unfitted them for heaven. Its purity, holiness, and peace would be torture to them; the glory of God would be a consuming fire.** They would long to flee from that holy place. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. **The destiny of the wicked is fixed by their own choice. Their exclusion from heaven is voluntary with themselves, and just and merciful on the part of God.** {GC 542.2}

Like the waters of the Flood the fires of the great day declare God's verdict that **the wicked are incurable**. GC 542

### WEDNESDAY

Read third paragraph, "It is true..." thoughts?

What is the premise? Why is sin bad? What happens to those who sin? In order for God to be just what must He do? Punish – in this model where does the pain and suffering and death originate? Does it suggest God inflicts punishment?

What would happen to sinners if He didn't? Would they live eternally in sin, or is sin terminal?

Read last paragraph, "When the Israelites..." thoughts? If our faith is not legalistic, then why is there so much emphasis on legalities?

### THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, "As humans...." Thoughts?

How would you explain Christ is our substitute?

What does it mean to be on vantage ground with God?

The lesson says it very well in the third paragraph, "Look at the opposing..." thoughts?

### FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions 2 and 3