



Come And Reason Ministries presents a **FREE**, three-session Seminar/Webinar **Saturday, November 9, 2013** from 2-6 p.m. Eastern Time, hosted by **Hamilton Community** and **Rock Point Churches**.

If you are local and would like to attend pre-registration is required at comeandreason.com

If you would like to watch the **FREE** webinar go to comeandreason.com on November 9 and follow the links.

The three presentations are:

The God-Shaped Brain: How Changing Your View of God Transforms Your Life

Our brains are in a constant state of flux. Moment by moment new connections are forming, idle tracks are being pruned back and brain circuits are changing. Discover how our beliefs change our brain wiring, our physical health, and even which genes are turned on or turned off. Do your beliefs matter – more than you ever knew!

Objectives:

- Identify the relationship between belief and physical and mental health
- Examine the scientific evidence documenting how a change in belief can alter brain function resulting in a change in health
- Formulate a methodology for separating healthy from unhealthy beliefs

Designer or Dictator an Exploration of God's Law and Justice

How we view God changes us, physically and spiritually. How we conceive of God's law and justice fires either love circuits or fear circuits and impacts our ability to love and trust. In this presentation Dr. Jennings explores the Biblical record of God's law and how tradition slowly changed humanity's conception of God and His law.

Objectives:

- Differentiate between natural and imposed law
- Differentiate the justice of natural versus imposed law
- Explore the divergence of love versus fear based beliefs upon religious and social activities

Buddha, Jesus and the Brain

Buddha and Jesus are the two individuals who have perhaps impacted more people with their ideas and examples than any others in history. This presentation will contrast the philosophical differences underpinning their teachings while examining what recent brain science reveals about Eastern vs Biblical meditation.

Objectives:

- Contrast the differences in philosophical underpinnings between the teachings of Buddha and Jesus
- Examine the impact meditation has upon brain function and structure



- Identify the physical health outcomes of meditation



The Sanctuary Lesson 3 4Q 2013

Sacrifices

SABBATH

Read first paragraph, “Central to the...” thoughts?

Do you agree that sacrifice is central to the entire gospel? If so, how is sacrifice central?

What is the gospel? I looked up on several websites and here are some definitions of the gospel I found online:

The gospel is the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that provides full and free deliverance from the power and penalty of sin according to the grace of God alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone. (<http://www.gospeloutreach.net/gospel.html>)

The gospel is the singularly most important communication of God to man. In Jesus who is God the Son, we have the revelation of God’s love and sacrifice that saves us from God's righteous judgment upon sinners. (<http://carm.org/what-gospel>)

The Gospel is called the ‘good news’ because it addresses the most serious problem that you and I have as human beings, and that problem is simply this: God is holy and He is just, and I’m not. And at the end of my life, I’m going to stand before a just and holy God, and I’ll be judged. And I’ll be judged either on the basis of my own righteousness – or lack of it – or the righteousness of another. (<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/what-gospel/>)

In a day of depressing headlines and uncertainty all around us, good news is very welcome. What better news could there be than as the old hymn says: “The vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives?” When Christians refer to the “Gospel” they are referring to the “good news” that Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for our sin so that we might become the children of God through faith alone in Christ alone. (<https://bible.org/article/what-gospel>)

Thoughts? What do you hear in these definitions of the gospel?

Who is placed at the center of all these definitions? Do you notice how these subtly place self at the center?

- Do you notice how God is depicted in all of these supposed gospels?
- Do you notice the tension in these gospels between God and man?
- As these gospels are described did you experience God and sinners being on the same side?



The Bible refers to the gospel as:

- The gospel (good news) *of God* Rom, 1:1 (and many other places)
- The gospel (good news) *of God's Son*, Rom 1:9
- The gospel (good news) *of Jesus Christ the Son of God*, Mark 1:1
- The gospel (good news) *of God's grace*, Acts 20:24

Is the gospel about us? Or is it about God?

If the good news is about God shouldn't it present God in a way that is actually good? Do you notice how many of these so called gospels present Jesus as good, but the Father as not so good?

Here are some other texts:

- The gospel (good news) *of the kingdom* Mt 24:14
 - What kingdom?
 - Where is the focus of this gospel?
 - Is the gospel about God's heavenly kingdom or our salvation?
 - Jesus told Nicodemus, "no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." (Jn 3:3) If the gospel is the gospel of the kingdom of heaven, and one must be born again to see it, then is being born again the same as the gospel?
- Revelation 14 tells us an angel comes from heaven with an "eternal" gospel. (14:6)
 - What does eternal mean? not just eternity future, but eternity past
 - Was there a gospel *of God* before sin? Was there good news about God before sin?
 - What did the war in heaven start over?
 - If you were lied to and told that your spouse was cheating, what would be good news to you? The truth that your spouse is loyal!
 - Is the good news primarily about us or about God?
- Most significantly the Bible also describes the gospel as the "gospel *of the glory of Christ*", which the Bible then defines as "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God." 2Cor 4:4-6
 - What is the gospel? What is the good news? The truth about God as revealed in Christ!
 - Is the gospel primarily about our deliverance from sin or primarily good news about God Himself?

The gospel is the good news that God is NOT the kind of being Satan has alleged, that God's kingdom is NOT like human kingdoms. Did you notice that the gospel definitions I read said things about Jesus paying our penalty so we could be saved, or forgiven or pardoned? But the Bible says:

Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, **for he will freely pardon.** "For **my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,**" declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are **my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.** (IS 55:7-9)



Did you notice that God freely pardons? And this free pardon is NOT the way of humans, our ways are lowly, God's ways are higher, holier, loftier than ours. Yet, we insist on lowering God down to our human methods, motives, and actions and teaching a false gospel that God is the source of pain and suffering and God must inflict it on His children. Rather than freely pardon, we say that God pardons after Jesus pays a penalty in our behalf.

Thus, all the gospel definitions we read earlier, are definitions based on false premise and misunderstanding of God's law. These false gospels are what arise when people fail to see God as Creator and Builder and instead believe God runs His universe like humans run earthly governments with imposed laws that have no inherent consequence and thus require the ruling authority to police breeches in the law, have judgments and inflict punishments. Then the gospel becomes perverted to mean Jesus paying our legal penalty.

But the gospel is the good news about God Himself, that God is not like a Roman dictator. God law isn't imposed. God builds, God creates, God designs and His law is an expression of His character and He constructed the universe to run in harmony with His own nature of love. Deviations from this design protocol are not compatible with life. Therefore, we are dead, terminal, in trespass and sin, and God so loved the world that He sent His only Son that whoever trusts Him will be saved. He did not send His Son to condemn the world but to save it through him!

So, then, now that we know the gospel is about God, His character of love, His methods of love, His kingdom of love, then how do we understand the connection of sacrifice with the gospel?

Would it be that God sacrifices to fix what Adam broke?

The first paragraph says the basic meaning of sacrifice "describes the act of approaching, the act of bringing something into the presence of God."

What does this suggest? How can it be rightly understood and how can it be easily misunderstood? Does the law concept one hold impact how one understands it?

If one believes God's law is like human law, imposed and then enforced, then what does one believe sacrifice to approach God means? Payment, appeasement of the offended deity.

But if one believes God's law is the design parameters for life and we are out of harmony, then what does one understand sacrifice to mean? First, Christ's sacrifice to remedy our situation, to actually cure humanity. Second, denial of self, the sacrifice of the destructive things our hearts have become attached to, the dying to self, the crucifixion of selfishness, for the purpose of being restored into harmony with God so that we may experience regeneration and eternal life.

Notice, sacrifice is NEVER to appease, influence, alter, impact or change God. It is the process necessary to heal and transform sinners.



Thus the next paragraph has it right, “Similarly, the English word *offering* comes from the Latin *offerre*, the presentation of a gift. The word *sacrifice* is a combination of the Latin *Sacer* (holy) and *facere* (make) and refers to the act of making something sacred.”

Thoughts?

Doesn't this mean the act of healing, restoring, cleansing, recreating, purifying, the sinner? In other words, the sacrifice is NOT for God's need, to pay penalty, to appease anger, to turn away or absorb wrath, but to heal, transform and regenerate humanity back into God's original design!

As the Scripture says, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2Cor 5:21)

So why does God WANT sacrifice? Because He wants to see us healed, saved, restored, cleansed! And we can only be healed through the sacrifice Christ has made.

Was sacrifice needed in heaven before sin? Was sacrifice needed in Eden before sin? What does this tell us? That sacrifice is the means of healing, restoring, cleansing the sinner.

Now listen carefully so you don't misunderstand – the sacrifice of Jesus for the eradication of sin, salvation of humanity, securing of the universe, is not **The** good news, it is **the expression, outworking, effective action** of the Good News of who God is! In other words, the good news is about God and His character which is fully expressed in the actions of Christ sacrificing Himself for our salvation. But the good news about God was true before He sacrificed Himself, it was just obscured by Satan's lies. Thus the good news is always about God!

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “Adam and Eve lived...” thoughts?

Did God “grant” them face to face communication or did God “design” and “desire” face to face communication with them?

Does it make a difference to say God “granted” them faced to face communication? What does it suggest? Does it subtly suggest that perhaps they had to petition, that it was an inconvenience to God, that God really didn't desire it Himself?

Read second paragraph, “Adam and Eve...” thoughts?

Does such language give anyone pause? Does it confuse anyone? What does it mean? How do we understand it? How do you handle such descriptions?

Thoughts?



From whose perspective is this being described? “Adam and Eve stood as criminals before God...”
From God’s perspective, Adam and Eve’s or both?

Is it likely, Adam and Eve felt condemned, but where did such condemnation arise? Did they hear God in the garden condemning them? “Adam who told you you are naked?” Implies what? “Adam I didn’t say that. Your own conscience is condemning you. You are changed! Your condition is out of harmony with how I built life to operate.”

Is their condemnation coming from God or from their own condition?

So, after Adam and Eve changed themselves, God goes on to tell them all the consequences of what their actions have caused, but also, the promise of a redeemer to heal and save. Was God punishing or was God informing when He told of the curse on the ground etc.?

Well here is another quote from the same author that the Study Guide quotes. Does this make it more clear?

Satan had peculiar interest to watch the development of events immediately after the fall of Adam to learn how his work had affected the kingdom of God, and what the Lord would do with Adam because of his disobedience. **The Son of God, undertaking to become the Redeemer of the race, placed Adam in a new relation to his Creator. He was still fallen;** but a door of hope was opened to him. **The wrath of God still hung over Adam, but the execution of the sentence of death was delayed, and the indignation of God was restrained,** because Christ had entered upon the work of becoming man's Redeemer. **Christ was to take the wrath of God which in justice should fall upon man.** He became a refuge for man, and although **man was indeed a criminal, deserving the wrath of God,** yet he could by faith in Christ run into the refuge provided and be safe. **In the midst of death there was life if man chose to accept it.** The holy and infinite God, who dwelleth in light unapproachable, could no longer talk with man. **No communication could now exist directly between man and his Maker.** {RH, February 24, 1874 par. 29}

Does this make it more clear? What law construct to you read such ideas through?

Did you notice the last two sentences, no direct communication with man was possible – who spoke to Adam in Eden telling him of his expulsion from Eden? Who spoke to Moses on the mountain? So, do we take all of this literal, or realize there is some generalities going on that need to be more precisely understood?

Let’s break it down:

The Son of God, undertaking to become the Redeemer of the race, placed Adam in a new relation to his Creator. He was still fallen; but a door of hope was opened to him.

- What is the relation Adam has without Jesus?
- Before sin it was open and free, after sin, separation, disconnect, dying in terminal condition separated from the source of life



- What is the new relation that Adam has because of Jesus?
- Jesus becomes the connecting link to restore Adam back into unity with God, to heal Adam and reconnect Him to the source of life.

The wrath of God still hung over Adam, but the execution of the sentence of death was delayed, and the indignation of God was restrained, because Christ had entered upon the work of becoming man's Redeemer. **Christ was to take the wrath of God which in justice should fall upon man.**

- What does this mean?
- What is wrath – the Biblical definition of wrath?
- “When that happens, **I will become angry with them; I will abandon them,** and they will be destroyed. Many terrible disasters will come upon them, and then they will realize that these **things are happening to them because I, their God, am no longer with them.**” (Deuteronomy 31:17 – GN)
- “**I will fight against you with all my might, my anger, my wrath, and my fury.** I will kill everyone living in this city; people and animals alike **will die of a terrible disease....** Anyone who stays in the city will be **killed in war or by starvation or disease...It will be given over** to the king of Babylonia, and **he** will burn it to the ground. I, the LORD, have spoken...I will set your palace on fire, and the fire will burn down everything around it. I, the LORD, have spoken.” (Jeremiah 21:5,6,9-10,14 – GN)
- “The LORD **has abandoned** his people like a lion that leaves its cave. The horrors of war and the LORD’s **fierce anger** have turned the country into a desert.” (Jeremiah 25:38 – GN)
- “Very well, then, **I will give you freedom: the freedom to die by war, disease, and starvation.**” (Jeremiah 34:17 – GN)
- “**You will feel my anger when I turn it loose on you** like a blazing fire. And **I will hand you over** to brutal men, experts at destruction.” (Ezekiel 21:31 – GN)
- “**I will attack the people of Israel and Judah like a lion.** I myself will tear them to pieces and then leave them. When I drag them off, no one will be able to save them. **I will abandon** my people until they have suffered enough for their sins and come looking for me. Perhaps in their suffering they will try to find me.” (Hosea 5:14,15 – GN)
- **God’s anger is revealed** from heaven against all the sin and evil of the people whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known. **God punishes them,** because what can be known about God is plain to them, for God himself made it plain... They say they are wise, but they are fools; instead of worshiping the immortal God, they worship images made to look like mortals or birds or animals or reptiles. **And so God has given those people over to do the filthy things their hearts desire,** and they do shameful things with each other. **They exchange the truth about God for a lie;** they worship and serve what God has created instead of the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever! Amen. Because they do this, **God has given them over** to shameful passions....**Because those people refuse to keep in mind the true knowledge about**



God, he has given them over to corrupted minds, so that they do the things that they should not do.” (Romans 1:18,19,22-26,28 – GN)

What is God’s wrath according to Scripture? Letting go to reap what sin does.

So how do we understand the quotation that the wrath of God hung over Adam and eventually fell upon Christ?

- That Adam’s own choice changed Adam and put Him outside the design protocol God constructed life to operate upon. God respects the free choices of His creatures and without some actual change in mankind man would reap what He had chosen, complete and total separation from God. But Christ, chose to take Adam’s condition, i.e. place, and cured the condition, thus restoring humanity back to God’s ideal. At the Cross God surrendered Christ, let Him go, to the free choice Christ made, to go through that awful experience of destroying the infection of fear and selfishness, aka sin.

He became a refuge for man, and although **man was indeed a criminal, deserving the wrath of God**, yet he could by faith in Christ run into the refuge provided and be safe. **In the midst of death there was life if man chose to accept it.** {RH, February

- Why could God’s forgiveness alone, personal pardon in Eden not save Adam? Because pardon doesn’t fix what is broken. Christ came to fix mankind, to actual heal, transform and renew humanity.
- Thus, Christ took our terminal condition and at the Cross the Father let Christ go to reap what Christ had chosen – which was what? To save us!
- When reading difficult, dark speech language like the two earlier quotes, do we bring other references from the same author to bear to give further insight to potential meaning, like this one:

We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. The sinner brings the punishment upon himself. His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure result. Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner, works in him a change of character, and makes it more easy for him to transgress again. By choosing to sin, men separate themselves from God, cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death. {ISM 235.2}

- When we bring it all together, what emerges? That Adam and Eve deviated from God’s design and stood outside the “law”, which is the design parameters for life. This is a terminal condition. They stood condemned, by their condition, and because God is a God of truth, He truthfully acknowledges, or judges their condition to be terminal. But His judgment doesn’t cause it to be such.



- God did not want humanity to die from their terminal condition, thus Christ committed Himself to become human for the purpose of reconciling humanity back to God. What did this require? To fix the deviation in God's design. To restore humanity back into harmony with God. God was not changed by sin, mankind was, thus Christ died to heal the human race, not to assuage the anger and wrath of God.

MONDAY

Read second paragraph, "God established..." thoughts?

Is the paragraph talking about the sacrifices done by the patriarchs or since Sinai? It appears Sinai since it talks about all the types of sacrifices one could bring.

Do you agree with their conclusion that God set this up so believers could enter into close relationship with Him?

Does this mean that without these sacrifices believers could not enter into close relationship with Him?

Then, could believers enter into close relationship with God without animal sacrifices?

Then, what was the purpose of the sacrifices of animals? Was it designed to BE the way into relationship with God or to TEACH the way into close relationship with God?

Too often through human history God gives teaching tools to teach a greater reality, and people mistakenly think the teaching tool is the reality.

Imagine using mirror as an analogy of looking into God's law to see the defects in one's character – but then people mistake the teaching tool for the reality and believe mirrors are necessary to see the defects of sin. So people build churches and houses and sanctuaries and worship centers with lots of mirrors. We create mirrors in the shape of crosses, ensure people carry them with them everywhere. We institute a mirror service where we all pull out a mirror and looks into them. We have a mirror moment before major tests and sporting events. Mirrors become holy relics passed down from generation to generation. We aren't allowed to place other objects on top of the mirror. Only sacred water can be used to clean the mirrors.

Do you see a problem with this?

Thus, the sacrifices, which were only to teach the way back into close relationship with God, became misunderstood as the *means* to a close relationship with God. And people have taken the teaching tool and extrapolated false ideas about God and the heavenly sanctuary.

Christ is the means, the way, the truth and the life. It is through Christ that we enter into close relationship with God.



TUESDAY

Abraham and Isaac at Mt Moriah – thoughts or questions about this?

Why did God instruct Abraham to do this?

An explanation is offered in the lesson, read second paragraph, “It was to impress...” thoughts?

Did Abraham’s behavior demonstrate accurately the behavior of God toward Jesus?

Did God doubt and need to have His faith tested?

Did God use His power to kill Jesus?

No! When one accepts the imposed law construct, then one misunderstands this entire account and believes it is a mini crucifixion and extrapolates falsely that God killed Jesus. But they fail to actually apply what happened. First, Abraham did NOT kill Isaac. So even, if one does, incorrectly, try to extrapolate the lesson to God and Jesus, then one must conclude that God did NOT kill Jesus, but that is not what they do.

This exercise was NOT to teach what God did to Jesus but to teach Abraham something about God’s heart and willingness to sacrifice to save us and strengthen Abraham’s faith in God.

When Jesus said that Abraham longed to see his day and saw it, he was referring to Mt Moriah. What did Abraham see there?

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, “In a passage...” thoughts?

How do you understand this?

If a person was dying of renal failure and needed a kidney transplant could one say, the laws of health demand it. Thus the donor is meeting “legal” requirements, where “legal” refers to the laws of health? But would using such language help us understand or hinder our understanding?

This is the problem with legal language, if one has clear comprehension of God’s law, as the protocols upon which life is built, then legal language can be used, but far too often the language is misunderstood and instead darkens the mind and misrepresents God because people falsely conclude God’s law is imposed like human law.

If we have imposed law constructs then the blood (life) becomes legal payment, rather than healing solution. People teach ideas that the blood of Jesus, instead of cleansing from sin, is taught to contaminate with sin. Have you ever heard the blood of Jesus being taught to contaminate?



The ransom concept is also misunderstood in the imposed model to be a legal price paid to free us from our legal condemnation etc.

But, what is the function of a ransom? To free one held in captivity or bondage.

And what holds us in bondage? Lies we believe and our own terminal condition.

Thus what is the ransom that frees us from this bondage?

- The truth about God that destroys lies AND
- A perfect human nature achieved singly by Christ
- The sanctuary service depicted this in many places. The blood is symbolic of the truth about God and the perfect nature that is applied throughout thus cleansing all it comes in contact with. Not contaminating it.
- The animal, representative of Christ, when the sins were confessed, symbolizes Christ taking our terminal condition. The animal was slain, and the fat of the inner organs were cut away and burned. This symbolizes the work Jesus did at the Cross of destroying the infection of sin, which tempts us to act selfishly. Some might say the carnal nature. And the rent veil also symbolizes the destruction of lies and the fallen nature, which opens the way back to God.

To whom is the ransom “paid”?

In other words, who needs the truth and the new nature to set them free? We do. Christ did this for us! The Father didn’t need the truth presented to Him and the Father doesn’t need a new nature developed for Him.

This idea of ransom being paid to God or the law is a lie, based on a false law construct which came out of Imperial Rome and has infected the church and actually obstructs God’s plan to heal and restore us. Our minds need cleansing!

THURSDAY

First paragraph, “Though after Christ’s...” thoughts? Why was there no more need for animal sacrifices?

What was the need before Christ’s death? If the need was to teach something, then why is that need gone? Because the system was corrupted to teach lies about God and obstruct the truth and God didn’t want us falling back into that corruption.

Sadly, many have done just that by the way the OT sacrificial system is taught, as a system of legal payments, again misrepresenting God.

What teaching tools has God given us to help us learn in the aftermath of Christ’s death?



Communion – what do we learn from these symbols? Can it be misunderstood and actually cause misunderstanding about God? How?

Are we cleansed by the wafer or the wine? What is its purpose?

Other lessons?

Baptism, are we cleansed by water baptism? Or is it a teaching tool a symbol to teach the real cleansing of our hearts and minds being immersed by the Holy Spirit?

Others?

What does it mean to be a living sacrifice? We present ourselves to God to be cleansed, healed, restored, to be made holy and renewed in Godliness.

What does this look like?

We say no to selfishness and yes to love for God and others. We are willing to sacrifice self to promote the kingdom of God.

What can we do to cooperate with this?

What defiles the soul?

- Lies about God
- Deviations from God's design, such as selfishness

FRIDAY

Read question 1 and discuss

Read and discuss question 2