



The Sanctuary Lesson 13 4Q 2013

Exhortations from the Sanctuary

SABBATH

Read first paragraph, “Throughout the book of Hebrews...” thoughts?

The lesson states, “theology has practical implications. The ‘what’ of faith leads to the ‘how’ of living that faith.”

I couldn’t agree more that our beliefs need to be practical and applicable to how we live here and now.

Can anyone tell me how your beliefs about God have real world, right now, application to your lives?

- One of the biggest for me was understanding the law of liberty, allowing each person to be free to think for themselves. Not wasting energy on trying to get people to like me, but focusing on being the healthiest person, through God’s grace I could be. No longer living in fear of what others think. Nor reacting against that fear with bravado, or extremism.
- Freedom from the burden of the Sabbath to enter into the joy of the Sabbath as Jesus taught, “Sabbath was made for man not man for the Sabbath.”
- Living healthfully, based in principle, not based on rules, thus recognizing there is no black or white list of rules, there is a principle of doing what is designed to heal, restore, redeem.
- Likewise, when it comes to our Spiritual health, we move away from a predetermined list of rules that must be kept in all circumstances, like Sabbath behavior rules, to principles of God’s kingdom. And, then like Christ we may help someone on Sabbath, even though a religious leader may want to stone us for it.
- Other examples of real world application?

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “Believers have spiritual...” Thoughts?

What does this mean?

How does blood get us into the throne room of God? Is there a security door with a DNA sampler that one must present Jesus’ blood in order for the door to open? Is it literal blood that gets us in? If one insists, yes, it is the actual blood, then where is it applied, or presented? How do they know it isn’t someone else’s blood? Do they have DNA testing kits?

If it isn’t blood that is being presented, then what is? What is the key that opens the way back into the presence of the Father?



Did Christ not have full access to the Father before His incarnation? Then what is the difference now? He now takes humanity into the full presence of the Father. Now, because of Jesus, a human being is able to enter and stand in God's presence.

Why is this significant? What prevented this from happening before Jesus? What did Jesus do that opened the way and made it possible for Jesus to take humanity into God's presence? He perfected humanity!

What does it mean that a human being does stand in God's presences? That the species human, in the person Christ, is reunited perfectly with the Father. The only question remains is, how many other individual specimens will join Him?

Read second paragraph, "The good news for us..." thoughts?

What is the implication of the veil here? That the veil was shielding God's holiness from humans, acting as a protection. Now, there is truth in the idea that God veiled His divinity, and Jesus' divinity was veiled by the humanity He took upon Himself. No question this has happened and continues to happen, lest all humanity be consumed by the life giving glory of God before he heals us back into unity with Him.

But, does this mean the veil in the Temple represented the protection of God? Perhaps a dual meaning? Perhaps the veil represents the place where Satan and Christ fought. Perhaps it represents the battle line, with angels in battle along with Christ. But the obstruction to our unity with God, that which separates us from God is NOT God, or Christ, Christ is our connecting link. What separates us from God is the lies of Satan and our own carnal nature. Thus the veil represents those lies and our fallen nature, which Christ assumed and destroyed.

If we say that the veil represents God's grace and mercy toward us, did God's grace and mercy get destroyed at the Cross? But, the veil did. No, God's grace and mercy were not destroyed at the Cross, what was destroyed was Satan's lies and our fallen nature which Christ killed at the cross and replaced with His perfect nature, via the exercise of His human brain to love perfectly at all cost.

Do we need a representative in the presence of the Father? For what purpose? To persuade the Father, or to carry out the purposes of the Father in man's behalf?

Read third paragraph, "What does intercession comprehend?..." thoughts

How do you hear it? How do you understand the meaning?

What could this paragraph lead one to conclude about intercession?

What are the options about intercession? How is it often taught?



Christ is in heaven, hears our prayers and then turns to His Father, presents our prayers to the Father, mingled with His “blood” or His “merits” or the “payment” or some other pleadings, which makes our prayers “acceptable” to the Father, because the Father wouldn’t hear our requests if Jesus wasn’t there doing something to convince Him. Is this how you have heard it?

Having come to understand God’s law as the design template for life, and the battle between Christ and Satan as one raging in our own minds upon our conception of God, what would you say Christ is doing in heaven? How would you describe intercession?

Check this historic SDA position:

God's people, rescued from the fire by Jesus Christ, have a sense of their sin, feel humbled and ashamed. God sees and recognizes their repentance, and notes their sorrow for sin, which they cannot remove or cancel themselves. **But as they pray their prayers are heard, and this is the reason that Satan stands by to resist Christ; because He hears their prayers, He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. He regenerates the sinner, and pardon is written off against his name. This stirs Satan up to resistance. He steps in between the repenting, believing soul and Christ. He seeks to cast his hellish shadow before that soul, to dampen faith, and to make of none effect the words of God...**

If Satan stands between the soul and Jesus Christ, then the love and acceptance and pardon of Christ are eclipsed--man will be constantly striving to prepare a robe of righteousness to cover his deformity and sin, when Christ wants him to come to Him just as he is, and believe in Him as his personal Saviour. In His tender love, a forgiving Father brings forth His best robe in which to array His returning child. . . . { Upward Look 20.4 }

Thoughts? What do we learn from these insights?

- We cannot cure or heal ourselves of the sin problem, which is what kind of a problem?
 - A defect in heart motive, domination of fear and selfishness
- When we go to Jesus, who has procured remedy, our prayers our heard and
- Jesus intercedes according to God’s will to do what? What is intercession? Consider for a moment, without even remembering this passage, what is the problem of sin? Where is the defect? It is in the character, heart, mind of human beings. Thus, if one just thinks it out one concludes that Christ’s intercessions are to do something to heal and fix us. So, the historic view says that His intercessions, regenerate the sinner, in other words, to heal, recreate and cleanse us, thus pardon is written, i.e. we are no longer deviant from God’s design. This is why we are pardoned, not because of a legal payment
- But Satan is enraged, he seeks to obstruct this healing truth by intercepting the truth and obstructing it in our minds and replacing it with lies of all kinds
 - What lies have interfered with your ability to internalize the truth that God is seeking, through Christ to heal you?
- So, then man puts all kinds of behavioral performance as conditions upon coming to Christ, like must quit smoking, quit Sabbath job, quit meat eating, quit homosexuality BEFORE baptism i.e. before coming to Christ,



- When, in truth, Christ wants us to come as we are, with all our sickness of sin because He is the Remedy! Only in unity with Him can we be free.
- And then Christ heals us, metaphorically putting His perfect robe of righteousness upon us!

MONDAY

Read Heb 10:22: “let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

Thoughts?

What is being cleansed? Notice it is not a record book, a legal ledger or any courtroom documents. What is being cleansed is our conscience, our hearts, our minds, our characters. We are actually being transformed, healed and renewed.

Under number 3 the lesson states, “The cleansing in the true tabernacle in heaven, however, is a cleansing of the conscience, brought about by the blood of Christ (Heb 9:14). The justification of the repentant sinner is symbolized by this cleansing. We can have a clear conscience because we have been forgiven.”

Thoughts about this? Any concerns and questions?

The sad reality is this is a mix of true and false, of God’s law and man’s law, of design protocol and imposed rules.

The first part is absolutely right, it is a cleansing of us, our conscience. They use the symbolic language of the blood of Christ, which is what? And how does this cleanse us?

The lesson suggests our conscience is cleansed by being forgiven. Did Jesus forgive those who put Him on the Cross? Did they experience a cleansed conscience?

Can a person experience a cleansed conscience without being forgiven by the person they offended? (Certainly, God’s forgiveness is necessary for our cleansing, but what about the offended person?)

What cleanses the conscience? What contaminates it?

- The conscience is contaminated by selfishness, by operating out of harmony from God’s design. The conscience convicts of defect, because the motives are selfish.

So what cleanses the conscience?

- Being reborn, being renewed, being transformed, dying to self and rising to newness of life in Jesus Christ, which is symbolized by the blood (unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood), which is partaking of Christ, such that it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me.



- It is having the thoughts, motives and attitudes of the heart brought into harmony with God, it is having the law of God written upon the heart, or circumcision of the heart by the Holy Spirit, which in truth is Bible forgiveness, the process of healing and restoration.

The lesson says the justification of the sinner is *symbolized* by the cleansing of the conscience – is it? Or is the cleansing of the conscience the actual justification, the actual setting right what is wrong. The cleansing of the conscience, of the heart and mind is NOT symbolic of justification, it is justification.

You see when you mix human law and God’s law you get a confused theology, and actual take what is real and turn it into symbol, and take symbols and make them appear to be reality.

In this case, they confuse justification, thinking the real justification is a legal status change, a declaration and a notation on a heavenly ledger. But, in reality, what is wrong that needed to be set right is our character, conscience, mind/heart, and thus a change in heart is real setting right, or justification, which is sometimes symbolically represented as a change in status in heaven.

Questions?

TUESDAY

Read Heb 10:19-25, then Read first paragraph, “Read Heb 10...” thoughts?

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Thoughts? What gives us confidence? What is our confidence based upon?

- Jesus protecting us from the Father?
- The certainty our legal payment is made?
- The truth about God as revealed in Jesus, which wins us to trust and results in actual change of character within and friendship with God?

From my paraphrase:

Heb 10:19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since Jesus died to bring us the truth about God and eradicate selfishness from humanity we no longer need to be afraid but can confidently enter the Most Holy Place – God’s very presence, ²⁰ because Christ’s death revealed the truth about



God and ripped open the veil of lies told by Satan that blinded our minds and destroyed the infection of selfishness that separated us from him. ²¹ And since we have this great ministering priest who ministers the truth to all, ²² let the truth permeate us, cleansing, transforming and changing us as we draw near to God in heart, mind, purpose, method, principle and character ²³ having ultimate confidence and trust in him who has revealed himself to be completely trustworthy. ²⁴ And think constantly how we can work with God to help each other grow in character to be like Jesus. ²⁵ Don't stop meeting together, as some have done, but continue to encourage each other – and do so even more as you see the Day of our ultimate deliverance approaching.

Thoughts?

In what is our confidence? John 17:3, this is life eternal that they might know you the only true God... Our confidence is in our intimate knowledge of and friendship with God.

Read second paragraph, “Originally, the word...” Thoughts?

Why is it necessary to have Jesus as our go-between, the One who stands between us and the Father?

- Is the Father against us?
- Does the Father need convincing?
- Does the Father need a legal loophole to allow us back?
- Does the Father need changing?

What is it that keeps us out of the Father's presence?

- Is it the Father's attitude of intolerance to sin?
- Or is it the inability of sinful beings to tolerate His holy presence?

Thus, Christ goes from the Father out to sinners in order to bring sinners back into unity with the Father. His work is in sinners, in our hearts, minds, characters, NOT in the heart mind and character of the Father.

Read bottom pink section, “What things in life challenge your confidence in God or your full assurance of His good will for you?”

- Doctrines or church teachings
 - God must punish
 - God is angry/wrathful
 - Jesus pays legal penalties
 - God inflicts death
 - Hell as commonly taught etc.
 - A patient told me this week of a story she heard as a child, told for children, it was the story of the measuring rod. An angel came from heaven with a measure rod and measured each child and if the child didn't meet the measure they were cast aside. She



told me this instilled her with terrible fear and she never felt she measured up and worked so hard to be good, but never felt she was good enough

- Life experiences
 - When bad things happen to good people
 - When let down by others
 - When prayers seem to go unanswered
 - When expectations we hold of God are not met
 - A patient recently told me she went through a trial, and was taught her entire life that in trials God comes with His comforting presence and we “feel” His warming, comforting presence, which didn’t happen in this particular case. This caused her all kinds of doubts, about her faith, about God etc.
- Testimony of others
 - When we are led astray into false beliefs about God
 - When parents misrepresent God, abusing children in the name of God etc.
- Misunderstood science/nature
 - Classic evolutionism etc.

How do you deal with these challenges?

The integrative evidence based approach, understanding the truth about God in the setting of the Great Controversy. Identifying God’s testable laws, and understanding reality through these.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson asks us to read and consider several passages from Hebrews:

Heb 3:6: “But Christ is faithful as a son over God’s house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.”

Thoughts? What truths can be gleaned from this text?

- Jesus is faithful, trustworthy, doesn’t fail, doesn’t waiver, doesn’t let us down, keeps His word and we can count on Him to do what He says
- We are His house – we, the living intelligent beings, are His house, the place where He dwells, the place contaminated by sin, which is in need of cleansing.
- But, we are only a place where He dwells, in other words, we are only part of His house, if we stay in union with Him, if we stay faithful, if we continue to trust, if we don’t sever our connection. If we do, we close Him out and thus we are no longer a dwelling place, thus no longer His house. Not because He doesn’t want us to be, but because we won’t allow Him in.

Heb 3:14: “We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.”

Thoughts? What truths can be gleaned from this text?



- We can share in Christ – meaning we can share in His perfection of character, in His love, in His goodness, we can have our thoughts brought into unity with His, our desires into unity with His
- But only, if we choose to abide with Him, journey with Him, walk with Him, love Him, open the heart in trust to Him, internalize Him, which means to hold firmly to Him and don't let Him go.

Heb 4:14: “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.”

Thoughts? What can be gleaned from this text?

- Jesus is victorious and reigns in heaven so
- We don't need to be afraid, or doubt, or worry, because He is going to make it all turn out right in the end, including in our lives, as long as we don't close our hearts to Him

Heb 6:18 “God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.”

Thoughts? What can be gleaned from this text?

- God never changes
- God never lies but is always truthful and in fact is the source of truth
- Our hope therefore is not misplaced, so we can have great encouragement to know that what God says He will ultimately do

Do you notice all of these texts have an element of human activity in our salvation process?

Can a sinful human save themselves without God?

Can God save a sinful human against that human's will, or without that human's participation?

No, it is a cooperation between God and each individual human being. Where is the balance, which part is God's and which part is man's?

God's part is to reveal the truth and cure the condition, thus providing Remedy.

Our part is to think about it, choose the truth, and trust God, opening the heart in trust and thus partake the Remedy.

We must hold fast, not give up, not let go, stay steadfast, continue in the treatment plan, follow the prescription, take our medicine, etc. etc. which is the dying daily Paul talked about, which is the partaking of that which Christ achieved in our behalf. We do not create our Remedy, we only partake the Remedy that Christ has procured for us.



The healing of the soul occurs via supernatural work of the Holy Spirit within when we abide in trust, and have a heart that loves and follows the truth.

Bottom pink section, “It is so easy to become discouraged because of our sins. How can we overcome those sins and yet, at the same time, not give up when we fail?”

Thoughts?

How do you understand “sins”? Are “sins” the primary problem, or the symptom of the primary problem?

The primary problem is a heart that is fearful and selfish, which results in acts of sin. Thus the solution is not to do something to our “sins” but to do something to our hearts!

When the heart is transformed so is the behavior.

This doesn’t mean “sins” are trivial, not at all, only that they are not the primary issue that needs resolving.

Consider it like someone with pneumonia and fever of 106 F. The fever is not the problem; it is a symptom of the problem. Yet such a fever is not trivial and in fact could cause serious brain damage and even kill the person. Sins are like the fever, they can cause serious damage and even destroy a person, yet they are still mere symptoms of the true problem and the true problem is a heart infected with fear and selfishness. Thus the solution is not to get sins paid but to be reborn, recreated and renewed in the inner man.

This is why Satan infects Christianity with legal atonement models and imposed law constructs. Satan wants people focusing on “sins” because he knows such an approach will never solve the problem, that people will still die in their sin, just like giving someone Tylenol for fever from pneumonia while ignoring the pneumonia would not cure the person.

We must come back to the truth about God’s character, kingdom of love and law of love, the design protocol for life. We must recognize our true condition and God’s plan to heal and restore us so that we can intelligently cooperate with Him for actual change of heart. Being reborn is not a legal process but a recreative process.

THURSDAY

Top of the lesson Heb 10:24 “And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.”

Thoughts?

How can we stimulate each other to love and good deeds?



What stimulates me is when I am loved, when someone does kindness for me, it awakens love in my heart, isn't that way for you as well?

Do you get more love and good deeds by a whip? What about a verbal whip? What about a sermon on hell and threatening people with burning if they don't do good deeds?

- The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely--because he is required to do so--will never enter into the joy of obedience. He does not obey. When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God. The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right--because right doing is pleasing to God. {COL 97.3}
- A sullen submission to the will of the Father will develop the character of a rebel. By such a one service is looked upon as drudgery. It is not rendered cheerfully, and in the love of God. It is a mere mechanical performance. If he dared, such a one would disobey. His rebellion is smothered, ready to break out at any time in bitter murmurings and complaints. Such service brings no peace or quietude to the soul. {ST, July 22, 1897}

The lesson states, "Unfortunately, it is easier to provoke and antagonize others than it is to spur them on to Christian love, isn't it?"

Thoughts?

Read fourth paragraph, "One point of Hebrews..." thoughts?

Would it matter whom one was worshipping? Was there a problem with worship attendance with those who put Christ on the cross? What about those who burned heretics in the Dark Ages, or the Puritans in American who burned witches, did they have a problem with worship attendance?

Can one attend worship faithfully and not be on God's side?

Does this mean that worship together is irrelevant? Of course not, why is worshipping and meeting together beneficial?

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, "The Mediator..." thoughts?

What does the mediator do that enables us to find our way into God's presence?

What are the demands of the divine law? In other words, what does the law demand in order to enter God's presence?



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}

The law of God, as presented in the Scriptures, is broad in its requirements. Every principle is holy, just, and good. The law lays men under obligation to God; it reaches to the thoughts and feelings; and it will produce conviction of sin in everyone who is sensible of having transgressed its requirements. If the law extended to the outward conduct only, men would not be guilty in their wrong thoughts, desires, and designs. **But the law requires that the soul itself be pure and the mind holy, that the thoughts and feelings may be in accordance with the standard of love and righteousness.**--RH, Apr 5, 1898. (2SM 211.) {2MCP 564.1}

The divine law requires us to love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves. Without the exercise of this love, the highest profession of faith is mere hypocrisy. . . . {A New Life NL 32.1}

That which God required of Adam before his fall was perfect obedience to His law. God requires now what He required of Adam, perfect obedience, righteousness without a flaw, without shortcoming in His sight. God help us to render to Him all His law requires. We cannot do this without that faith that brings Christ's righteousness into daily practice. {2SM 380.4}

While the law is holy, the Jews could not attain righteousness by their own efforts to keep the law. The disciples of Christ must obtain righteousness of a different character from that of the Pharisees, if they would enter the kingdom of heaven. **God offered them, in His Son, the perfect righteousness of the law. If they would open their hearts fully to receive Christ, then the very life of God, His love, would dwell in them, transforming them into His own likeness; and thus through God's free gift they would possess the righteousness which the law requires.** But the Pharisees rejected Christ; "being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness" (Romans 10:3), they would not submit themselves unto the righteousness of God. {MB 54.2}

The duty we owe to God is revealed in his word in unmistakable clearness. Here the obligation of man is declared so explicitly that the day of Judgment will reveal no excuse for not serving God. God's great moral standard of righteousness is to be met. **His law requires your heart's supreme affection for your Maker. It requires you to do unto others as you would have them do to you.** "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth," is a positive declaration; but



"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven," is equally positive. {BEcho, February 15, 1889 par. 8}

This is the voice of God to you, my brethren and sisters who profess to keep the law of God. **That law requires that you love your neighbor as yourself.** Are you doing it? {RH, March 11, 1884 par. 10}

The Chinese New Year commences in February, and lasts one week. They have a custom of settling all quarrels between themselves and all outstanding debts; and if there are any who are unable to pay their debts, they are forgiven them. Thus the new year is commenced with all difficulties and accounts settled. This is a heathen custom that the Christian world would do well to imitate. **God's law requires all this of us, and more,--we are to love our neighbor as ourselves.** That is, we are to deal with our neighbors in everything just as we would wish them to deal with us. If we wish them to act fairly and justly toward us, then we should act fairly and justly toward them. We are simply to do as we would be done by. {RH, December 16, 1884 par. 4}

This work Christ has laid upon every one whom he has purchased. The Lord will give ample light to all who will be true and loyal to him, but he will show no more favor to Phariseism and self-righteousness today than when he walked in his humanity in our world. The soul that encourages an atmosphere of doubt, God cannot favor with constantly increasing grace. His mercy and the gracious influences of his Spirit remain the same for all who will receive them. **His offer of salvation does not change. It is man who changes his relationship to God.** Many place themselves where they cannot recognize his grace and his salvation. They are under a delusion as to what constitutes Christianity. **And while man refuses to become pure, holy, and undefiled, as God's law requires him to do, he is walking away from Christ.** {RH, February 15, 1898 par. 10}

Christ saw that that which prevented the truth from reaching many hearts was their misconception of the nature and claims of the law. They neglected to cultivate spirituality. They did not know the Lord whom they professed to serve and obey. They did not discern the relation of Jesus to the Father, neither did they know by experience the paternal character of God, or understand that **his law requires us to love God supremely, and our neighbor as ourselves.** If they would have emptied the soul of selfishness, pride, and self-love, and humbled their hearts to be instructed by the greatest Teacher the world ever knew, they would have recognized the grace of God in the gift of Jesus to our world to save those who were ready to perish. {ST, November 23, 1891 par. 5}

God's law requires that justice and right be exercised between man and his fellow man; it requires that we shall not injure our neighbor in his property, his feelings, his health, or his good name. It requires compassion for the afflicted, even if he be our enemy, that in all our associations with our fellow beings we shall show the same love and care that we would wish to have exercised toward ourselves. Who can stand before this great moral standard, and plead not guilty? {ST, January 7, 1897 par. 3}



Christ came to this world to live the law and represent the character of God, that the delusions which Satan had brought upon the world might be dispelled. In the sermon on the mount, He who gave the law became an expositor of the law. That sermon, so full of what it means to love and obey God, is the unfolding of His character. **The law is shown to be a representation of God's character**, that man may see that he must render obedience to the law if he would become a member of the royal family, a child of the heavenly King. **This law requires nothing short of perfect spiritual obedience.** {ST, February 24, 1898 par. 5}

Do you notice the law does not require a legal payment, it requires perfection why? For the same reason someone who breaks the law of respiration by tying a plastic bag over their head cannot be saved with a legal payment, they can only be saved by removing the bag and putting them back into harmony with the law.

So what does our Mediator do? He heals, perfects and restores humanity back into harmony with God's design for life, His law!