



Proverbs 1Q 2015 Lesson 2 From Ears To Feet

I received this email this week from a physician in California:

Dr. Jennings, I can't begin to tell you what a blessing the God and Your Brain DVD's have been to my patients. I am continually getting great reports from them and several have said they have never heard anything like this before. It has opened up new avenues of thought, and now they notice the imposed law ideation when they listen to sermons in the church or on TV.

The [Bible Study] lessons have continued to "feed us" as we listen to these weekly. The Journal of the Watcher is truly inspired and I have been telling my patients and church members about how this points out so clearly the Law is indeed a Law of Love. I especially like how this exposes sin as selfishness and self-preservation, the opposite of God's character and His desire for us to be like Him. I would like to have the cards for promoting this app and I am out of the God and the Your Brain again. Do you have any new materials? I don't know how you would possibly have time!

We are praying for this message to be spread far and wide, but also to get the message back into the church.

And this was posted on our Facebook page this week:

Dr. J and the Come and Reason Class, after reading the blogs from the Compass Magazine, I felt compelled to write and let you all know I am praying for your ministry and your outreach. I am also praying for those who need to live more fully in the love of Jesus Christ. This past summer, my sister sent me a link to Come and Reason lesson studies and I've been "going" to church ever since, sometimes twice a day! All of my life I have lived in FEAR of God and His wrath, BUT I took comfort in the love of Jesus. It was as if Jesus was shielding me with His body from God's anger towards me - much like an abused mom will shield her children from an abusive father. So I grew up in a very contradictory, conflicted Adventist home, where Sabbath Sundown (Friday night) was the beginning of our own controversial showdown and by (Saturday) sundown we all felt a massive relief that it was all over.... Needless to say, I went down the destructive path of tribulations and ego, but through it all, I always felt I had Jesus by my side. Finally, the Biblical contradictions and what was going on in my daily life got to be too much and I said ENOUGH! The only truth I was going to follow was how Jesus lived His life, here on Earth- love one another as I have loved you. It was a message that gave the early Christians heart and soul - what they needed to face Rome's arena. I decided I wanted to have in my life the message those early Christians had in their hearts when they faced their mortal death. Plus, I knew there was more to God than what I learned from my past, for Christ said, if you know me, you know the Father. So I am ever so grateful when I opened the door to Come and Reason! I am uplifted by the comments made in class, too. When the one lady said it was really hard for her to "rethink" or "re-understand" how she saw God, I thought - ME, TOO! Most lessons, I listen to over and over again, read the notes, look up the texts, go for a walk with God, and then listen to the lesson again. It is very hard to break down those contradicting walls of viewpoints where God says I so loved the world that I gave my only begotten Son, to where it is preached from our pulpits how BAD, BAD, BAD we all are and how God can't wait to get rid of BAD, BAD, BAD people..... I must say it has been very hard to scrape the mark of the beast from my forehead and hand.....and I might have some deep scars from it, but I rejoice in the love and freedom I now have in my heart, mind, and soul. Thank you so much Come and Reason class for opening up such a HUGE door for me.... rather a whole new world for me and I actually look forward to church now! I have passed on this message and link to my friends and family. They are also reaping the benefits of this message of true love. Even my mother has found comfort in the Come and Reason classes. I would love for her to fully embrace the fact that she is a part of the Kingdom of Heaven



instead of hoping for it, "if only she was good enough"..... That just really breaks my heart. Thank you Come and Reason class for being part of my journey and thank you for being a part of my family.

SABBATH

Read bottom paragraph, "It's not enough..." So, how do we choose the right and not the wrong? What is necessary before we choose?

Differentiating the right from the wrong – how do we get the ability to do that?

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ **But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.**

So, the mature have the ability to distinguish the difference between good and evil – but how did they get this ability? By constant use of something – what? Constantly using solid food, - what is this solid food they are using?

Well, maybe we can figure that out by understanding what milk is – milk is for the infants, and as infants we are not yet acquainted with righteousness – so what is infant formula? Or said another way, what is the religious formula that infants like?

Heb 6:1,2:

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about cleansing rites [baptism], the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

What do you hear is infant formula?

1. Do's and don'ts, the commandments, behavioral religion, keeping track of deeds and sins – any examples of this type of infant formula theology?
 - a. Notice, it isn't that this isn't part of the journey – it is just the starting point, the infant stage, we can't grow up if we aren't first born as babies in the world – and likewise we can't grow up to be mature Christians if we are first reborn as babes in Christ.
 - b. There is a healthy level of repentance from acts that lead to death, when we realize the truth of God's design for life, His character of love, and surrender ourselves in trust to Jesus. This is David praying, search me and see the wicked way in me, create in me a clean heart oh God!



- c. However, at this stage we come to conviction of our sinful selves, and it is typically very childlike; we feel guilty and ashamed of the bad things we have done, and live in fear of punishment and rejection. At this stage we are vulnerable to have our understanding of God distorted and because we feel bad about ourselves, we accept the lie that God is mad at us; because we punish ourselves in our own minds, we believe the lie that God wants to punish us; because we want to do something to “make up” for our badness, we believe the lie that God needs something done to Him to make up for our badness. Thus we fall victim to the false legal theology and gratefully accept Jesus’ payment for our sins and for being our substitute. We are thankful to know that the Father won’t punish us because Jesus took our punishment. We experience great relief and peace but are still unacquainted with righteousness because we believe lies about God and our own sin condition.
 - d. But it is so wonderful to be free from the terrible torment of guilt, fear and shame in which we lived before coming to repentance from our acts that lead to death, that many stay here as babies in their experience with God and develop an entire theology based on baby formula, mixed with their childlike view of God’s law, distorted to be like imposed human law – this is penal substitution theology.
 - e. I have patients, who have had homes in which parents were loving and nurturing and shouldered so many of life’s responsibilities and the children lived in such fear of making mistakes that they didn’t want to grow up and preferred to be cared for and stay childlike in their functioning. Some Christians are so afraid of making mistakes they don’t want to grow up so they stay childlike in their belief system and functioning.
2. Faith in God – how is this infant formula?
 - a. Because faith, or trust, is the also a starting point, it is in faith that we confess, repent from acts that lead to death, but our faith is to grow beyond that of its infant form.
 - b. But sadly many don’t grow past this level, life is all about repenting from acts and having faith that Jesus has paid the penalty. They stay infants, unacquainted with righteousness claiming faith in the legal payment made to protect us from God, but not living in a daily faith relationship with God who sent His Son to provide what was necessary to restore us to righteousness.
 - i. Infant faith – Rahab lies in faith & Gideon and the fleece
 - ii. Mature faith – the three worthies in Daniel, the centurion who said just command my servant be well and it will be so & Paul going to his death in Rome – having faith in God not to be miraculously delivered
 3. Instructions about baptism – how is this infant stuff?
 - a. Again, it is a starting point, it is the beginning of the new life in Christ, it is the mere change in heart attitude toward God, it is not the experience of victory over self, the crucifying of the flesh, the establishment of mature character, the growth in wisdom and understanding – it is merely a basic understanding that God can be trusted, surrendering of self to Him and a choice to commit one’s life to Him.
 - b. And many infants, will request rebaptism, because they think it is somehow meritorious to salvation



4. Laying on of hands
 - a. Another elementary or starting point, after trust, repentance and surrendering self, and publicly committing self to start your life anew as a newborn babe in Christ through baptism, then the laying on of hands to impart the Holy Spirit to nurture, enlighten, and help your grow – but this is again a starting point.
5. Resurrection of the dead
 - a. This is one of the basic teachings, that helps us overcome our fears and survival-of-the-fittest instincts of self-preservation. When we first come to Christ we generally come focused on self, fear of punishment, fear of dying, fear of facing our record of sin or others knowing our sins, and thus, as babes we are given the promise of resurrection to calm our fears. Just as when an angel appeared to prophets and they were afraid, the first thing said was something to reassure “don’t be afraid you are highly esteemed.” So, too, in our infancy, we must be reassured of the resurrection and that death will not be victorious – God says “Don’t be afraid, I have overcome death.”
6. Eternal judgment
 - a. Another basic teaching for the infants, who come all self focused, fearful of getting punished, relieved to experience God’s grace and forgiveness, reassured of the resurrection, yet, like children consumed with self, wanting to be sure everything is “fair” and those who haven’t repented get what is due them. So, God gives them a basic teaching, there will be a final judgment, you can stop worrying, stop keeping score, stop holding resentments, forgiven and trust me, I settle up accounts in the end.
 - b. But we are to mature past this level, to grow up to understand judgment is actually the accurate diagnosis of the condition of each character. The infants are not acquainted with righteousness because they stay focused on repentance from acts that lead to death, and thus falsely teach that unrepentant acts must be punished, and promote a human imposed law construct of courtrooms, judicial proceedings and imposed punishments. The mature, have grown and realize that sin damages the sinner and those who refuse the infusion of Christ via the Holy Spirit will be diagnosed as terminal and let go to reap what they have chosen.

Notice that the mature develop by practice the ability to discern good from evil. But the immature, do not develop the ability to think for themselves, instead they surrender their thinking to others, theologians, pastors, parents and trust others to do their thinking for them.

Listen to this quotation from one of the founders of our church:

“If we mistake the wisdom of man for the wisdom of God we are led astray by the foolishness of man's wisdom...”

One of the most common ways this happens is the exchanging of God’s design law for human imposed law, teaching that God’s law requires God to impose punishments. If you read the Compass Magazine blog and dialogue you saw this very clearly.



“Here is the great danger of many in -- **They have not an experience for themselves...**

What are the three threads of evidence? Scripture, Science and Experience – and without bringing the knowledge Scripture and science into personal experience it is useless. This is another reason penal theologies fail – they look at sin and its solution as something happening in a courtroom in heaven, rather than experiential in the believer. As a psychiatrist, working with people, I realized true religion is transformational in the believer; it actually heals, restores, and results in peace of mind and victory over selfishness. Penal views fail as they focus on legal pardon, not transformation, and thus are not loved based but fear based in their primary motivation]

“They have not been in the habit of prayerfully considering for themselves, with unprejudiced, unbiased judgment, questions and subjects that are new and that are ever liable to arise. They wait to see what others will think. If these dissent, that is all that is needed to convince them that the subject under consideration is of no account whatever. Although this class is large, it does not change the fact that they are **inexperienced,,,**

Haven't done it for themselves, i.e. no experience, in any subject matter this is a problem. If study swimming from a book, but never swim, no experience and will drown unless a lifeguard pulls you out, so if one isn't experienced with thinking for themselves what happens

“and weak-minded through long yielding to the enemy, and will always be **as sickly as babes, walking by others' light, living on others' experience, feeling as others feel, and acting as others act.** They act as though they had not an individuality. **Their identity is submerged in others;** they are merely shadows of those whom they think [are] right. Unless these become sensible of their wavering character and correct it, **they will all fail of everlasting life; they will be unable to cope with the perils of the last days.** They will possess no stamina to resist the devil, for **they do not know that it is he. Someone must be at their side to inform them whether a foe or a friend is approaching.”** {2T 129.2}

She is simply saying, if they read about swimming, but never swim, they will be unable to cope when the ship goes down and they need to swim on their own – they won't be able to and will drown. This is what penal substitution theology does to people. It indoctrinates them into a thoughtless system of rules teaching them to believe without thought.

Consider this out of the book education:

“Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator-- individuality, power to think and to do. The men in whom this power is developed are the men who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character. It is the work of **true education** to develop this power, **to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought.** Instead of confining their study to that which men have said or written, let students be directed **to the**



sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation. Let them contemplate the great facts of duty and destiny, and the mind will expand and strengthen. Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions.” {Ed 17.2}

What does a reflector do? It reflects the light of another – but a reflector as no light of its own to give! Jesus said:

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Mat 5:14-16

We cannot be lights in the world if we do not think for ourselves, if we do not develop the ability to reason, to weigh evidences, to integrate divergent threads.

I am concerned that some educators in our institutions are more concerned with indoctrinating into “right” theology, than teaching students how to think and reason and weigh evidences for themselves.

Come and Reason Ministries is NOT here to teach you WHAT to think, but to teach you HOW to think, how to reason, how to weigh the evidences, so you can develop the ability to discern the right from the wrong in any circumstances and you can be the masters of destiny!

So, what is necessary to be able to choose the right from the wrong? The ability to discern the right from the wrong. And what is necessary to do that? Practicing thinking for yourself, weighing the evidences God has provided, not allowing others to do your thinking for you – and experiencing for yourself the truth in your life. Using the divine plan of education which is the integration of Scripture, Science and Experience.

I came across this article this week in my reading and it was so powerful and made such a distinction between mature and immature I wanted to share it with you:

“There are **two classes** of educators in the world. **One class are those whom God makes channels of light, and the other class are those whom Satan uses as his agents**, who are wise to do evil...

What do you think this author will say next as the distinguishing issue separating those who are channels of light from God and those who are Satan’s agents? Do you think it will be the 10 Commandments, which day one worships upon or the judgment?



“One class contemplates the character of God, and increases in the knowledge of Jesus, whom God hath sent into the world. This class becomes wholly given up to those things which bring heavenly enlightenment, heavenly wisdom, to the uplifting of the soul. Every capability of their nature is submitted to God, and their thoughts are brought into captivity to Christ. The other class is in league with the prince of darkness, who is ever on the alert that he may find an opportunity to teach others the knowledge of evil...

What do those who God makes channels of light focus upon? The truth of God’s character as revealed in Jesus! And what is the knowledge of evil? Lies about God’s character, the mixing of evil with good – we went through examples of that last week, like mixing God’s design law with human imposed law, or God as the source of life and inflicted death.

“If place is made for him, he will not be slow to press his way into heart and mind...” {CE 70.2}

“Is it the Lord's purpose that false principles, false reasoning, and the sophistries of Satan should be kept before the mind of our youth and children? Shall pagan and infidel sentiments be presented to our students as valuable additions to their store of knowledge?...

What is the essence of paganism? That God must be paid, appeased, or some legal blood payment made.

“The works of the most intellectual skeptic are works of a mind prostituted to the service of the enemy, and shall those who claim to be reformers, who seek to lead the children and youth in the right way, in the path cast up, imagine that God will be pleased with having them present to the **youth that which will misrepresent his character, placing him in a false light before the young? -- God forbid.**”

“The greatness and power with which the Creator endowed Lucifer he has perverted; and yet, **when it suits his purpose, he can impart to men sentiments that are enchanting...**

This is quite profound, because there is error that some who profess to promote the truth of God’s character fall into. Some look into the OT and suggest every time the Bible teaches God used power to put people into the grave, it was actually Satan. They teach Satan has lost all control and can only act out to destroy when unrestrained. Not so, Satan can act as an angel of light and even perform miracles of healing if it suits his purposes. In the OT, God did act in some very specific circumstances to put people into the grave – but it is an error to ever view this as punishment for sin. Every act was an act of mercy and love, a therapeutic intervention to keep open the channel for the Messiah! Each of those persons will live again.

“Everything in nature comes from God; yet **Satan can inspire his agents with thoughts that appear elevating and noble.** Did he not come to Christ with quotations of Scripture when he designed to overthrow him with his specious temptations? **This is the way in which**



he comes to man, as an angel of light disguising his temptations under an appearance of goodness, and making men believe him to be the friend rather than the enemy of humanity. It is in this way that he has deceived and seduced the race,--beguiling them with subtle temptations, bewildering them with specious deceptions...

What belief would you suggest is the most predominant belief today that beguiles humanity into Satan's camp? It is the lie about God's law being imposed, and thus God, in order to be just must inflict punishment. This lie taints all other beliefs, from the atonement, to how we understand the stories in the Bible, right on through to the final end of sin and sinner. Notice, the description this author gives of Satan's distortions that beguile humanity.

“Satan has ascribed to God all the evils to which flesh is heir...

What evils does the flesh have? We are petty, jealous and demand vengeance. Thus, Satan represents God as an angry revengeful deity, who won't forgive without payment, and must kill His own Son to vent His wrath.

“He has represented him as a God who delights in the sufferings of his creatures, who is revengeful and implacable. It was **Satan who originated the doctrine of eternal torment** as a punishment for sin, because in this way he could lead men into infidelity and rebellion, distract souls, and **dethrone the human reason...**

Why does the doctrine of eternal torment dethrone human reason? Because it is antithetical, it is contradictory, it is unreasonable – why? Because it contradicts the teaching that God is love – so on the one hand we teach God is love, and we know love can only exist in an atmosphere of freedom, but then this doctrine teaches, if you don't love God He will torture you for all eternity. Or, we teach God is all knowing, and knows the future, but somehow He still gave man immortality in Eden, and when human beings sinned they were destined to suffer for all eternity if they didn't repent. God hates it but, His hands are tied having already given them immortality – thus again we dethrone human reason by suggesting an all-wise, all-knowing God couldn't figure out the future, or He did know but still gave them immortality, thus contradicting the idea He is truly good and love! Is the doctrine of eternal torment the only doctrine that dethrones human reason? No! The doctrine of Penal Substitution does as well, because it requires one to believe contradictory things, like God is love, but God will kill you if you don't accept the payment of Jesus. This contradicts the law of liberty, and there are many more such contradictions.

“Heaven, looking down, and seeing the delusions into which men were led, knew that a divine Instructor must come to earth. Men in ignorance and moral darkness must have light, spiritual light; for the world knew not God, and he must be revealed to their understanding...

What is the primary issue that men didn't know that they needed to know? The truth about God!



“Truth looked down from heaven and saw not the reflection of her image; for dense clouds of moral darkness and gloom enveloped the world, and **the Lord Jesus alone was able to roll back the clouds; for he was the light of the world...**

What is moral darkness? The darkness that impairs our ability to tell what is good and evil.

“By his presence he could dissipate the gloomy shadow that Satan had cast between man and God. Darkness covered the earth, and gross darkness the people. **Through the accumulated misrepresentations of the enemy, many were so deceived that they worshiped a false god, clothed with the attributes of the satanic character...**

What does this look like? Is this still happening today? Yes, this is why Malachi prophesied before the coming of the Lord Elijah would have to come again to call people back from the worship of a false god to worship of the God of love!

“**The Teacher** from heaven, no less a personage than the **Son of God, came to earth to reveal the character of the Father to men**, that they might worship him in spirit and in truth...

What was the issue that Christ came to reveal? Why?

“Christ revealed to men the fact that the **strictest adherence to ceremony and form would not save them**; for the kingdom of God was spiritual in its nature...

Whoa! A legal religion will not work! No amount of right behavior will save us. No legal claim works, for it is spiritual not legal in its nature. It must be experienced in the heart/mind/character of the believer!

“Christ came to the world to sow it with truth...

Where is truth sown? In inanimate material, or into hearts and minds?

“He held the keys to all the treasures of wisdom, and was able to open doors to science, and to reveal undiscovered stores of knowledge, were it essential to salvation. **He presented to men that which was exactly contrary to the representations of the enemy in regard to the character of God,...**

And what did Christ reveal? Are we still teaching things about God that are exactly contrary to what Christ revealed about the character of God?

“and sought to impress upon men the **paternal love of the Father**, who "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life..." [John 3:16.] He taught them honesty, forbearance, mercy, and



compassion, enjoining upon them to love not only those who loved them, but those who hated them, who treated them spitefully. **In this he was revealing to them the character of the Father**, who is long-suffering, merciful, and gracious, slow to anger, and full of goodness and truth...

What was revealed about the Father? Does legal penalty theologies teach this about God? No, it teaches God cannot and will not forgive without a legal payment. That our security is not in a trust relationship with God, but in a legal payment made to God to protect us from God. God cannot pour out His Spirit upon us until we disabuse ourselves of this lie about Him!

Those who accepted his teaching were under the guardian care of angels, who were commissioned to strengthen, to enlighten, that the truth might renew and sanctify the soul...

What does the truth do? It renews and sanctifies the soul. And where is the truth to be applied? To God or into the minds and hearts of sinners? And what is a metaphor for the truth? The blood of Jesus! Thus Jesus taught we are to drink His blood. But the legal view has the blood, i.e. the truth, being applied to God! This again cheats the sinner from partaking what Christ has provided.

“Christ declares the mission he had in coming to the earth...”

What do you think that mission was? The lie of the legal view is to do something to God legally to restrain God’s wrath from killing us. Notice what this author says.

“He says in his last public prayer, "O righteous Father, the world has not known you: but **I have known you**, and these have known that you have sent me. And **I have declared unto them your name**, and will declare it; that the love wherewith you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." [John 17:25, 26.] ...

What was His mission? To reveal the Father – for what purpose? So the lies may be dispelled and we can actually know God for ourselves *so that* His love may be restored in us!

“When Moses asked the Lord to show him his glory, the Lord said, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee." [Exodus 33:19.] "And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty. . . . And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped." [Exodus 34:6-8.] ...

Why does God not clear the guilty? Because those who refuse Him remain in their terminal condition and cannot be cleared. Reality is what reality is – we are either reconciled to God and healed to be like Him, love restored in us, or we remain selfish. God CANNOT heal a mind, transform a character, against the free will of that person. Thus He **cannot clear the conscience, clear the heart, clear the mind, clear the character** of the guilty, those who distrust Him. The



legal view would have you misunderstand this and think God cannot clear the legal record of the guilty who haven't accepted the legal payment. This lie diverts the mind away from what God is actually trying to do – heal His children, to clear their minds, hearts and characters of sin. Thus the legal view causes people to rest secure in a false system that leaves them in the bondage of sin, while they claim healing. It is diabolical and it has infected our church and holds millions captive!

“When we are able to comprehend the character of God as did Moses, we too shall make haste to bow in adoration and praise. Jesus contemplated nothing less than "that the love wherewith Thou hast love me" [John 17:26.] should be in the hearts of his children, that they might impart the knowledge of God to others.

O what an assurance is this, that the love of God may abide in the hearts of all who believe in him!...

What is necessary for this love to abide in our hearts? Rejecting the lies and returning to the truth such that we trust Him!

“O what salvation is provided; for he is able to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by him. In wonder we exclaim, How can these things be? But **Jesus will be satisfied with nothing less than this...**

Why will nothing less than this satisfy Jesus and God? Because this is the basis for life. Just as a parent whose child was dying from cancer would be satisfied with nothing less than complete healing of their child, so too God is only satisfied with the complete healing and restoration of His children.]

“Those who are partakers of his sufferings here, of his humiliation, enduring for his name's sake, are to have the love of God bestowed upon them as it was upon the Son. One who knows, has said, "The Father himself loveth you." [John 16:27.] **One who has had an experimental knowledge** of the length, and breadth, and height, and depth of that love, has declared unto us this amazing fact. **This love is ours through faith in the Son of God**, therefore a connection with Christ means everything to us. **We are to be one with him as he is one with the Father**, and then we are beloved by the infinite God as members of the body of Christ, as branches of the living Vine...

What does it mean, if we accept Christ by faith, THEN we are beloved of the infinite God? Doesn't God love us before? Yes He does, “For God so loved the world...” This is talking, not about God's love for us, but our ability to be-loved by the Father. We cannot be-loved, i.e. have the love of God flow into and through us UNTIL we are connected to Christ. The Father's love is obstructed from us until we are united in a trust relationship with Jesus, then we are branches on the Vine.

“We are to be attached to the parent stock, and to receive nourishment from the Vine. Christ is our glorified Head, and the divine love flowing from the heart of God, rests in Christ, and



is communicated to those who have been united to him. **This divine love entering the soul inspires** it with gratitude, **frees it** from its spiritual feebleness, from pride, vanity, and selfishness, and from all that would deform the Christian character..." {CE pp 73 - 75}

"To save the transgressor of God's law, Christ, the one equal with the Father, came to live heaven before men, that they might learn to know what it is to have heaven in the heart..."

What did Christ come to do to save us? Reveal the Father so that God's law of love can be restored into the HEARTS of those who trust Him. It is not a legal payment made in heavenly courts!]

"He illustrated what man must be to be worthy of the precious boon of the life that measures with the life of God. {CE 76.2}

The life of Christ was a life charged with a divine message of the love of God, and he longed intensely to impart this love to others in rich measure. Compassion beamed from his countenance, and his conduct was characterized by grace, humility, truth, and love. **Every member of his church militant must manifest the same qualities, if he would join the church triumphant...**

Why? What is the church militant – it is the church at war – what kind of war? A war over the knowledge of God, thus in order to triumph, we must come back to the truth about God as revealed in Jesus, trust Him such that we open our hearts to Him and experience His love reproduced in us!

"The love of Christ is so broad, so full of glory, that in comparison to it, everything that men esteem as great, dwindles into insignificance. When we obtain a view of it, we exclaim, O the depth of the riches of the love that God bestowed upon men in the gift of his only begotten Son!

When we seek for appropriate language in which to **describe the love** of God, we find words too tame, too weak, too far beneath the theme, and we lay down our pen and say, "No, it cannot be described." We can only do as did the beloved disciple, and say, "Behold, what **manner of love** the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." [1 John 3:1.] In attempting any description of **this love**, we feel that we are as infants lisping their first words. Silently we may adore; for silence in this matter is the only eloquence. This **love** is past all language to describe. **It is the mystery of God in the flesh**, God in Christ, and divinity in humanity. Christ bowed down in unparalleled humility, that in his exaltation to the throne of God, he might also exalt those who believe in him, to a seat with him upon his throne. **All who look upon Jesus in faith that the wounds and bruises that sin has made will be healed in him, shall be made whole.**

The themes of redemption are momentous themes, and **only those who are spiritually minded can discern their depth and significance...**



What does it mean to be spiritually minded? To think through the lens of Jesus Christ enlightened by the Holy Spirit. To reject the views of the world, including worldly imposed law constructs]

“It is our **safety, our life, our joy**, to dwell upon the truths of the plan of salvation.” {CER pp 76-77}

What does it mean our safety, life and joy to dwell these truths? Because by beholding we are changed, we are set free and transformed.

“Faith and prayer are necessary in order that we may behold the deep things of God. **Our minds are so bound about with narrow ideas, that we catch but limited views of the experience it is our privilege to have.** How little do we comprehend what is meant by the prayer of the apostle, when he says, "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, **being rooted and grounded in love**, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to **know the love of Christ**, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. [Ephesians 3:16-21.]” -- Review and Herald, Nov. 17, 1891.

Do you see how the truth about God’s character of love is obscured by teaching God’s law is imposed and God is the source of inflicted pain and suffering? It undermines love. The doctrine of penal substitution is part of the reason why our church has stumbled in finishing the work of taking the final message to the world. It misrepresents God because it mixes truth and error.

We must reject it and come back to worship Him who made the heavens, earth, sea and all that in them is! We must worship the Designer!

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “The act of...” Does the Bible put the seat of wisdom in the ears instead of the brain? NO! The ears are metaphor to teach what? To teach that wisdom is not in hearing the words, but in understanding the words, which is in the brain/mind.

Thus Jesus said over and over again, “Whoever has ears let him hear.” Which means, whoever has a mind open to comprehend and understand the truth, let him understand.

The lesson states the first act of wisdom is to listen – but what does this mean?



It means, not to hear what is being said, but to comprehend, to understand, which is not with the ears, but with the mind – haven't you heard people say:

- Do you hear what I am saying?
- Are you listening?
- Do you hear me?

Are these words about the actual hearing or about understanding? Likewise, when it comes to wisdom from God it starts with a mind open to think, to reason, to contemplate, to comprehend, to understand, to investigate, to search for the truth.

From the book *Christ's Object Lessons*:

Merely to hear or to read the word is not enough. He who desires to be profited by the Scriptures must meditate upon the truth that has been presented to him. By earnest attention and prayerful thought **he must learn the meaning** of the words of truth, and drink deep of the spirit of the holy oracles. {COL 59.5}

Infants don't do this – infants take the reading of the word at face value – The Bible said it, I believe it that settles it. Those who defend the legal position take this infant approach to reading the Scripture, think concretely, insist on using symbolic language without searching for the meaning of the metaphor. In recent online discussions with those who hold the legal view, they consistently went back to the metaphor of blood, and the blood being offered to the Father. They refused to interpret the meaning of the blood, or to think through Jesus' words about how we must drink His blood.

MONDAY

The lesson asks us to read Proverbs 5, which is about being wise and not listening to the alluring temptations of the adulteress.

Read second paragraph, "The first danger..." I like where the lesson is leading that the first danger lies with ourselves, but I would go more basic than merely looking at our words and suggest the first danger lies with our hearts, our minds, our motives, our beliefs, our fears, our insecurities, our pride etc. It is from the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks... so our words will reflect the heart – our first danger is the quality of our heart.

We must have new hearts and right motives. This is another problem with legal/penal theologies, they place the focus on legal pardon and forgiveness, claiming the legal work of Christ in heaven to get your legal salvation, but cheat people to a great degree from the victorious life in Christ. They claim they teach about sanctification, but in the legal model, sanctification is very much bent toward a will power works system of rules to restrict bad behavior.



There is no power in that theology, it traps people in a false security of believing they are saved, while they continue to destroy their souls with sinful living, even if that living is religious in nature, like the Pharisees in Christ's day.

The message of Jesus is, "I love you and worked out a perfect human life, that you could not work out for yourselves. If you get to know me, and stop being afraid of me, and open your heart in trust, I will send the Spirit who will GIVE you a new heart and right spirit. You won't have to work to change yourself, because you can't change yourself. You will instead have my character, my law of love, written into your heart, mind, character. You will be renewed in mind to be like me. Your thoughts will be brought into unity with mine and you will find peace and joy for your soul."

This is the Gospel – that God is not like Satan says, that Jesus came to reveal the Father to us, to win us to trust, and develop a perfect humanity to provide us as a free gift if we will surrender to Him and allow His Spirit to live in our hearts.

But self doesn't want to surrender, so self deceives and teaches a legal religion in which self survives under the cloak of accepting a legal payment applied in the ledgers of a heavenly court.

Now, back to the power of words – because while it is true that words reveal what is in the heart, they also have power to react upon the mind to reinforce thoughts. This is out of the book *The Desire of Ages*:

Closely connected with Christ's warning in regard to the sin against the Holy Spirit is a warning against idle and evil words. The words are an indication of that which is in the heart. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." **But the words are more than an indication of character; they have power to react on the character.** Men are influenced by their own words. **Often under a momentary impulse, prompted by Satan, they give utterance to jealousy or evil surmising, expressing that which they do not really believe; but the expression reacts on the thoughts. They are deceived by their words, and come to believe that true which was spoken at Satan's instigation.** Having once expressed an opinion or decision, **they are often too proud to retract it, and try to prove themselves in the right, until they come to believe that they are.** It is dangerous to utter a word of doubt, dangerous to question and criticize divine light. **The habit of careless and irreverent criticism reacts upon the character,** in fostering irreverence and unbelief. Many a man indulging this habit has gone on unconscious of danger, until he was ready to criticize and reject the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." {DA 323.1}

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, "Someone once said..." Why? Why do we need protection from our friends?



Because the closer we are to someone, the more we trust them, the greater their influence, the easier their ideas can influence us, the more quickly we are to accept what they say without investigation, without examination, without thinking it through for ourselves. Because we find them trustworthy we are more easily swayed, so if a friend is deceived they have more power to deceive us. Examples:

- Lucifer in heaven – one of the reasons he was so successful in deceiving 1/3 of the angels is because they trusted him
- Adam and Eve –
- Samson and Delilah –

Thus, we must always think for ourselves and evaluate for ourselves the evidence, not accusing someone of lying, but realizing a person could sincerely believe a lie and not realize they themselves have been tricked or deceived.

Read second paragraph, “While the torah...” What is justice? Doing what is right or just – and in God’s universe what determines what is right or just? God’s law – which is what? The law of love – so how do we apply it this context?

We consider what action is designed to be most beneficial to the other person – in their eternal best interest.

Thus 2Thes 3:10 “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”

How is this an act of love?

So balancing the two – when do we loan and when do we not?

Read last paragraph, “No matter...” Why is this so important? What are the potential problems if we fail to do this?

Never set a boundary you are not willing to enforce – why?

Don’t commit to things you cannot fulfill – why?

Because it undermines your integrity – it teaches people that you don’t keep your word, that you cannot be relied upon, you cannot be trusted and within your own mind it undermines confidence, produces guilt, shame, fear, insecurity, doubt.

Why then would people make promises they cant keep?

- Fear of rejection
- Wanting to be liked



- Good intentions, but not actually considering the costs
- Wanting to, but not having the ability to, so agreeing because they want to show their support, but failing because they don't have the ability

WEDNESDAY

What lessons can we learn from the ant?

1. To communicate
 - a. Some ants leave chemical signals to lead their coworkers to the food sources
 - b. other ants have teacher ants that when they find food go back and lead by instructing and showing the way to the food
2. To nurture and protect the next generation
3. To ignore little distractions and stay on mission
4. To work together as a team for the larger purpose
5. That we are not alone
6. To share what we have with others
 - a. whether knowledge or resources or energy or ability
 - b. this is the law of love in action giving for the benefit of others
7. That success requires the ability to adapt and change to our surroundings
8. That success only comes through application and work
9. If obstacles occur, don't give up
10. If an obstacle is too big for you, then get help
11. Prepare for the future by making wise decisions today

THURSDAY

Read second paragraph, "If you indulge..." Discuss BDNF and ProBDNF and neuroplasticity

Read bottom paragraph, "Meanwhile..." Sin does harm both the one sinned against and the sinner, what is the difference in the type of harm each experience?

The one sinned against can be harmed:

- physically
- emotionally
- relationally
- financially
- occupationally
- and tempted to do evil in response, but, they are not harmed spiritually unless they choose to harbor resentment, bitterness, anger, unforgiveness and malice in the heart

The one who sins damages:



- character
- reason
- conscience
- integrity
- reputation
- relationships
- health

FRIDAY

read and discuss questions 2,3



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Opportunity to Share:

The General Conference of SDA will have its meeting (which occurs every five years) in San Antonio Texas, July 1-12, 2015. 50,000-70,000 Adventist from all over the world are expected to attend. This presents an opportunity to share this healing message about God in a most impactful way.

We plan on giving away our DVDs, Dr. Jennings' Book *Could It Be This Simple?* and other materials. This will be an enormous project. If you would like to share in this opportunity, you can do so by making donations to *Come and Reason Ministries* either via Paypal, or check mailed to our address below.

New Mailing Address: PLEASE UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOK:

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Distribution: Our materials now are available in South Africa. To request materials in South Africa email comeandreason.sa@gmail.com Thanks to Samuel Jacobs who manages distribution for us.

And in Australia or New Zealand email australia@comeandreason.com and Thanks to Simon Harrison who manages our ministry down under. Dr. Jennings will be going back to Australia/New Zealand spring 2015. If you are interested in Dr. Jennings speaking at your group please contact Simon at this email address.

Jan 10, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at The Haven, formerly Elmshaven, SDA church.

Jan 24, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Monterey Peninsula SDA Church

February 21, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be presenting the God and Your Brain Seminar at Shilo Inn. 3223 Bret Clodfelter Way, The Dalles, Oregon. For more info and to register for this free conference contact Joyce Browne at 541-300-0111.

March 13-14, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in NYC at the Advent Hope Outreach Health Event.

March 27-28, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the University of Tennessee Health Science, Psychiatry and Family Medicine Conference in Memphis, TN.

April 10-11, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Yuba City, SDA Church, Yuba City, CA.



April 13, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the meeting of Adventist Health Systems West, Sacramento, CA.

April 13, 2015 (7 p.m.): Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Carmichael SDA church in Sacramento, CA.

May 1-2 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Springwood SDA Church Brisbane, Australia.

May 3, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at St Andrews Anglican Church Lutwyche, Australia.

May 5-9, 2015: Dr. Jennings will speak in Australia specific venues pending for these dates

May 11-12, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Peer Psychology Group Seminar, Melbourne, Australia, For info contact Tamara Auora-McCulloch at ladytamara.amcc@gmail.com

May 15, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Avondale College, Cooranbong, NSW, Australia.

May 16, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be doing an all day seminar at Maitland SDA Church, Australia

May17-20, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking to the Adventist Education Department, Auckland, New Zealand.

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