

Proverbs 1Q 2015 Lesson 3

A Matter of Life and Death

SABBATH

Read memory verse: “For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; reproofs of instruction are the way of life.” (Prov 6:23 NKJV)

What does it mean? Why is the commandment a lamp and the law a light?

I checked the SDA Bible commentary on this passage and this is what it said:

Those who regard the law as an arbitrary forbidding of desirable pleasures have an entirely perverted idea. The law is a lamp to enlighten the mind and show the way of happiness, peace, and eternal life¹

Do you agree that those who present God’s law as arbitrary have a perverted idea of the law?

So, how is the law a light? Only when understood as Design Law, as the protocols upon which life operates, then it enlightens our mind to God’s character, how the universe operates, how life and health and relationships actually work.

When we infect the idea of God’s law with human law, imposed law, then we darken the mind. This battle between God’s design law of love and imposed rules that require external enforcement is at the root of the controversy between Christ and Satan and the oscillation between enlightenment and darkness.

- Prior to sin in heaven no concept of law and all beings lived in an enlightened state
 - Satan alleged God’s law is imposed rules and God an arbitrary dictator and 1/3 of the angels became darkened
- God created earth, built upon Design law, the law of love built right into the fabric of reality. Adam and Eve lived in a free and enlightened state. God warned them that to deviate from the design would take them out of harmony from how life is constructed and they would die.
 - Satan alleged God simply made up rules arbitrarily is trying to keep them from full happiness and development by restricting their choices. That they really wouldn’t die if they ate the fruit, implying it would require God to kill. Something many theologians today teach.

¹ Nichol, F. D. (Ed.). (1977). *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Vol. 3, p. 967). Review and Herald Publishing Association.



- God worked through His friends in human history to teach the truth about His kingdom. Israel was given a beautiful theater and script to act out the problem of sin, how deviation from the design destroys, yet how God would send a savior to restore us to unity.
 - Satan infected their mind with distortions about God's law and had them view it as imposed rules to keep on pain of inflicted death. Thus, they fell into darkness of mind and hardness of heart.
- Jesus came and was the light of the world to reveal the truth about God's character and methods of love.
 - Satan twisted everything Christ did and opposed Christ through the religious institution that had accepted the lie about God's law. They preferred the darkness of a dictator God and imposed punishments to the light of Christ and therefore killed Christ.
- God sent His Holy Spirit poured out upon the church empowering them to lighten the world with His character of love. And the early church loved each other, lived communally, shared to help each other, refused to try and take over the state or fight with the state.
 - Satan countered by infecting the church with imposed law constructs when Constantine converted, teaching that God's law is like human law, imposed requiring God to be paid a legal penalty by the death of His Son. And the world fell into an age of Darkness – the Dark Ages. Why? Because they rejected the truth about God and His design law, accepting Satan's lie about God and God's law.
- Then the Reformation began, when people began looking to Scripture and began throwing off some of the imposed law ideas. The most distorted and extreme of these ideas. And what happened? The renaissance the world moved out of darkness into an age of enlightenment. And this was fueled by science, which began working on design law.
 - Satan responded by contrasting design law found in science and nature with the arbitrariness of law taught in religion and infected humanity with the idea of atheism. And the world began fracturing into divergent forms of darkness.
- God continued to bless the Reformation, bringing more and more light, leading us back to an integrative evidence based approach, where we harmonize all three threads, Scripture, Science, and Experience – through the lens of design law.
 - Satan has countered by working to reject the integrative approach for sola scriptura, rejecting design law for imposed law, and continued promotion of arbitrary God constructs – thus paralyzing the church and preventing the final message to prepare the world for Christ's return.

I received this email this week:

Dear Dr. Jennings and the team at Come and Reason Ministries,

Thank you for your message of God's Natural Law of Love and the message of true healing which Jesus accomplished and offers to me. My husband and I have experienced significant healing in our happiness and how we see others in just a short year after learning that the



imposed law system is not from God. We are eager to learn to treat others with the same love, other centered, as God has shown to us through your messages, and to keep giving Him glory (telling others of His character of love and life and giving and freedom).

It is beyond me how any church leader, pastor or theologian could not want to believe the natural law construct. It offers the most realistic explanation of forgiveness and righteousness by faith I have ever heard, and I doubt that anybody could make this stuff up...it is just so NOT like the way we usually think. The punishment by a Roman dictator explanation is the perfect one for us to make up...my sinful nature naturally wants to be controlling or to be controlled to make me feel better about my survival and my guilt. How sick is that? Anyway, I am really praying that this message spreads. Now that God has given me the chance to see the truth about Him, I have started to read E. G. White's book, The Desire of Ages, and it makes sense! Finally. She was an amazing friend of God.

I am a substitute teacher for an adult Sabbath School class at our church. One Sabbath after class, our young adult Sabbath school leader came up to me and said, "I am hearing a lot of Tim Jennings from you today." His wife held up the printed notes from your class as I held up mine. We were both excited and surprised. I am very happy that at least two families in our church are not only benefiting from your ministry and message of truth, but that we are teachers and can keep urging our fellow believers to think and to gain from these truths, too. We are happy to be making a contribution to your ministry today on the internet, in hopes that God will multiply it for His use, especially as you prepare for the GC session this July in San Antonio, Texas.

Please send us four copies of each of your DVD seminars. We are eager to share them with family, church members and people in the community. We have a huge Baptist Church here in Tyler, Texas. It is my secret hope that God will see fit to have them bring you to speak to them. I would like to give copies of your seminars to their pastoral staff.

Thoughts?

Read first two paragraphs, "Two brothers..." What is this story a good example of and what is it a poor example of?

This is a good example of childish thinking – how children reason. They are concerned with whether mommy will be mad. They are not concerned about living in harmony with how life is designed, only with mommy's response to their behavior. This is childish thinking and because they understand their mommy loves them they rightly concluded mommy wouldn't kill them if they ate some of the cake, so they eat the cake.

However, this is a bad example to teach what the problem is with eating the cake without permission. This makes it appear legal, imposed, threat of punishment. But the real problem is the breakdown of love and trust in the hearts and characters of the boys. Their actions would incite in



them fear and insecurity, guilt and shame, and result in activating stress circuits, survival modes of trying to protect self, likely blaming each other when mother came home, trying to make excuses to justify. In other words, they changed themselves. It was an unavoidable, natural result of deviating from the law of love.

I suspect there are people who when reading this example will think like children in its application to God and Eden, but will conclude God doesn't love as much as that mother, and He will use power to kill, except for Jesus who steps in and offers Himself so the Father won't kill us.

Such concepts are, like the SDA Bible commentary said, "perversion" of the truth about God and His law. First, Jesus was the member of the Godhead who created Adam and Eve. Jesus was the member of the Godhead who told them of the danger in eating the fruit. And the Father, Son and Holy Spirit all three love us so much they would NOT kill Adam and Eve for eating of the fruit.

No, but what they did do is warn Adam and Eve of what would happen to them if they deviated from how life is designed to operate, how they would be changed and that change would separate them from the source of life and cause them to die.

The last paragraph states, "In the end, our ultimate destiny, our eternal destiny (and what could be more important than that?), rests upon the choices that we make here, now."

I believe it is true that our destiny, our eternal destiny rests upon the choices we make here and now – but, what of the parenthetical question – what could be more important than that?

Does that idea tend to direct us toward a selfish, childish, salvation? Is there nothing more important than I get saved?

Did Moses think this when God sounded angry with the people? No, Moses thought God's reputation and even the people were more important than self – why? Because Moses loved God and others, parents, how many of you would sacrifice your life for your child – is there anything more important than your destiny?

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "As we saw..." Generally, in the Bible the heart refers to the mind, whereas the bowels refer to the emotions.

Then spake the woman whose the living child *was* unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, *but divide it*. 1Kings 3:26 KJV



The real mother, her heart full of love for her son, said to the king, “Please, Your Majesty, don’t kill the child! Give it to her!”

But the other woman said, “Don’t give it to either of us; go ahead and cut it in two.” 1Kings 3:26 GNT

So, what does it mean to have the law written in the heart?

It is the same as the seal of God – it is being so settled into the truth both intellectually and spiritually that one cannot be moved – and what does that mean?

The truth is the truth about God, His character and Design for love i.e. His law of love.

Intellectually would mean our ability to understand and appreciate love, how it functions, God as the source of love and life and what actions are inconsistent with this, so that we cannot be deceived by presentations of God that are contrary to His character of love.

Spiritually means we love it, not only do we understand it, but as the primary motivator in our lives this is what we love, long for, desire to be like and nothing could displace this from our heart’s affection and longing.

MONDAY

Read the bottom paragraph, “Since the Fall...” How is it true that our hope for eternal life cannot be found in the law?

- When we view the law as a system of rules to be observed or obeyed, then our healing cannot come from the law
- When we view God’s law as imposed and salvation a legal right, and we get it by claiming the blood of Jesus to protect us from God, and that justification is a legal notation in record books in heaven, where God declares us righteous even though we are not – I question whether this can result in salvation

How is it not true? In other words, how can our hope be found in the law?

- When we view the law as Design law, the law of love, an expression of the divine character, then the more we understand and experience it the more we are won to trust in the God who is love, (in other words our distrusting hearts are reset to a state of trust in God, this is setting us right or justification) in that trust we open our hearts and the Spirit comes in and writes the law on our hearts and minds (this is sanctification). Thus we become like Christ in character by the power of God restoring the law of love in us!

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph, “When a religious person...” Examples of using religion to justify iniquity?



- All acts of selfishness done in God's name
 - Corban
 - Racism, castism
 - Inequality of the sexes, using religion to suggest that just because of genetics one person has a higher station in God's cause than another
 - The perversion of marriage with women being held in some form of subjugation in their own homes by authoritarian dictator husbands
 - Refusing to help another because it is Sabbath
- Retribution and vengeance done in God's name
 - Burning people at the stake
 - Taliban killing people who convert to Christianity
 - Seeking to expel people from Christian fellowship for holding different views on matters
- **Nothing more dangerous in the world than someone on a mission for God, who doesn't actually know God!**
- others?

Read the last paragraph, "The law is..." What do you think of, "Only the imperative of the law and the duty of obedience will help us resist her alluring words..."

Does the law help us resist? Or does the law point out danger, error, sin, but the power to resist comes from Christ?

And if we view the law through the Roman lens does it provide power, or undermine power to resist? It undermines it. Imposed law constructs create self-centered hard-hearted Christians that look like Pharisees. Those with will power over sensual sin, diet, drugs, alcohol, sex, and thus don't stumble with these issues in life, will often end up arrogant, proud, judgmental, critical, and without grace or compassion. They, under the guise of religion, abuse people struggling with temptation, because they focus on the law and the legal solution to it.

We must come back to the truth of God's law, that it is design law, the law of love and understanding when we are deviant we go to our Creator and ask Him to heal and restore and give power to live victoriously!

When we realize the design law is God's law, then when someone tempts us we see it like them tempting us to join do drugs – while the experience might be "pleasurable" we understand it is actually damaging to us and them. We are not mad at them, we have compassion and concern, for them and have no desire to join them in their self destruction. All sin is like this!

Does the lesson sound like it is focusing on performance, behavior, rather than heart motive?



What is really at issue – the behavior or the motive? What is the problem if one make sin about the behavior merely?

People will falsely judge others, but worse, people will commit sin by keeping the rules. Why didn't the Levite and Priest help the man beaten beside the road in Jesus' parable? Because they were keeping to their rules to not become unclean – keeping the law caused them so sin, because they viewed the law as rules, rather than design law of love.

Would it be sin for a person who understood that sexual behavior outside of marriage is wrong, to knowingly, willfully, choose to over and over again go to a person knowing that going to them would result in a sexual act between the two?

Years ago I had a patient, who told me her father used to molest her and her little sister. Father had a particular pattern of coming home from work, before mother got home, and molesting the girls. Typically, he would violate only one on any given day. As the time for him to come home approached my patient's little sister would begin hyperventilating, panicking, crying, become terrified and hide under the bed. My patient hated to see her sister like this, so my patient began purposely presenting herself to her father, knowing exactly what would transpire, in order to protect her little sister. Was it sinful for my patient to do this? Or, was it an incredible act of self-sacrifice to protect another?

Sin is violation of love – it is selfishness – one way selfishness can express itself is through sexual indulgence to *gratify self* – persons who cheat to gratify self. Many Christians, who do not think, who take a legal approach to Christianity, view the Commandment as a rule of behavior and thus determine adultery is about the act, about behavior.

However, a mature Christian realizes it isn't the act, it is the motive of the heart. Thus, in the case of my patient, even though she knowingly chose to take an action which repeatedly resulted in a sexual act, it was NOT an act of selfishness or self-gratification on her part, it was an act of self-sacrifice, and therefore was an act of love, totally in harmony with God's character and nature.

Was sexual relations between David and Bathsheba sin? When did sexual relations between David and Bathsheba no longer constitute sin? Why?

WEDNESDAY

Read first two paragraph, "Right after his warning..." Can we agree that desperation does not justify sin? Absolutely, the question is what is sin?

The lesson wants us to focus merely on behavior and not think – so lets try that approach.



The Commandment says not to work on Sabbath, so on Sabbath you see a person beside the road who has been beaten. You are a nurse or doctor or EMT, but off duty, because it is the Sabbath and you don't work on Sabbath. If you are a thoughtless rule keeper you don't help the person because you must obey the law – but if you understand the law is the law of love, then you are compelled to love others, especially on Sabbath and you gladly work to save them.

The issue is NOT the behavior, but the motive – are you acting for self or selflessly loving others – the person who keeps the Sabbath and doesn't help the person is acting selfishly, more concerned about their legal condition with God than loving another person.

Any other examples?

What about you are in Afghanistan today as an aide worker helping people. The Taliban kidnaps an American journalist and is threatening to behead him. An opportunity presents for you to rescue him, but the only way to do so is to steal one of the Taliban trucks and sabotage the others by cutting their tires so they cant follow. What do you do? Is it sin to steal?

Even if a person believes that stealing the truck to save the journalist is sin, and would condemn themselves to hell if they did, but they choose to do it anyway, is that sin or a supreme act of self sacrifice and love? “Greater love has no man than to give his life for a friend.”

This week someone emailed me a link to the *Record* an SDA publication in the Pacific Union. It had the following article. I have included the link in the notes:

Date line changed in Samoa

Apia, Samoa

On Thursday, December 29, at midnight, Samoa skipped forward a day to Saturday, December 31, in order to align its calendar with Australia, New Zealand and Asia. In so doing, the government eliminated an entire Friday from the weekly cycle. The change resulted in Saturday being renamed Sunday, and Sunday being renamed Monday.

In line with biblical precepts on the subject, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Samoa continues to observe the biblical Sabbath on the seventh day of the weekly cycle, irrespective of the change of name to Sunday... Similar changes to the IDL have already taken place with Samoa's near neighbours, Kiribati and Tonga. Consistency has been the hallmark of the Churches position in dealing with government inspired changes in the recording of time.

http://record.adventistconnect.org/site_data/88/assets/0034/6941/RECORD_2_lowrez.pdf

So, in three countries SDA churches have had splits some now meet on Sunday each week other on Saturday – thoughts?

What would you do? What is the right response?



Do you see this is only a problem for those with an imposed law construct. Understanding design law, and that the Sabbath was designed by God as a day of rest in Eden, then one doesn't have a problem at all, why?

Are those people in Australia and New Zealand and Asia, who observe the Sabbath, actually breaking the Sabbath and worshipping on Friday?

Then, if those persons in Samoa and Tonga etc. worship at the same time as the people of Australia and New Zealand, how is it some other day?

The Sabbath that Jesus kept 2000 years ago in Jerusalem, is the same weekly day that the Jews in Jerusalem keep today. The earth rotates on its axis and thus, no matter where we are in the world, we can observe the same day as they do in Jerusalem. The only question is, do we start and end that day before or after they do in Jerusalem?

The governments of the world determine the international date line, this is not established in God's word. Since the governments chose to realign their day, they didn't switch to a different day, they only moved the Sabbath to begin and end at a different time in relationship to Jerusalem, either before or after, but the same day. Moving the worship to Sunday in those countries means they are actually worshipping on a different day than Jerusalem.

Is God looking on the behavior of those SDAs now worshipping on Sunday, or those worshipping on Saturday, or the heart motive of each?

What about the rest of Christianity whose hearts are right with God, but worship on Sunday?

What about killing another person, is it always sin to do so?

- Killing others – could a person make a decision based on love to end the life of another?
 - The flight in PA in 2001 when the passengers realized they had been hijacked and the hijackers were intent on using the plane they were in to kill others. The passengers chose to assault the hijackers, kill if necessary to stop them. Right or wrong? Could their actions have been an expression of love?
 - More than 20 years ago here in Chattanooga, a man walked into the ICU at one of the hospitals and shot his wife in the head. They had been married more than 40 years and had had a massive stroke and was on a ventilator. She had told him she never wanted to be kept alive like this. The doctors wouldn't remove her from the ventilator. This was in the days before advanced directives, so he shot her. Was it an act of love or selfishness?
 - I remember watching a western when I was a kid. The movie depicted two close friends who were cowboys. One of them was captured by Apache and was staked out



and being tortured. The friend was on a ridge above watching the thousands of Indians torture his friend. He shot his friend through the heart giving him a quick death. Was it an act of selfishness or love?

- What about man who walks in and a crazed person on crack is threatening his family? What if it was his son?
 - If you knew your wife was in saving relationship with Jesus – what would be her eternal destiny if she died?
 - If believed your son hadn't yet accepted Christ and was crazed on drugs threatening to kill your wife, what would be his eternal destiny if you shot and killed him to save your wife?
 - If you love them both, and want to spend eternity with both, what action do you take and why? Who needs time to come to repentance? Does this give any insight as to why God sometimes doesn't act to stop crimes?
 - Does it give insight as to why we are not to judge another?

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “Most people don’t think...” What does it mean the wages of sin is death? Why?

What did God mean when He told Adam in the day you eat you will die?

If we teach that God must kill, which is not what the Bible teaches, what are the consequences for believing this? Here are the lies:

- Good and evil exist eternally in God’s character as He is the source of both life and death
- Nothing wrong with sin, something wrong with God, if He would leave us alone and not kill us we could live forever in sin
- Sin is a legal problem requiring a legal solution, which results in false security and people continuing in their terminal condition but believing they are saved
- Makes God out to be a dictator and undermines trust

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions.



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:

Come and Reason Ministries
PO Box 28266
Chattanooga, TN 37424

The Journal of the Watcher:

The Journal of the Watcher is an illustrated eBook available

For ANDROID devices in the Google Play Store
For APPLE iOS and MacOS in the iBooks store
For APPLE iOS devices in the iTunes App Store

Each has slightly different controls and features.

We are also having it rendered as a secure iTunes VIDEO for all those who don't have mobile devices or Apple computers. We will let you know when it is available in iTunes (however, it will lack any interactive capabilities and simply be a linear, sequential "slide show" that follows the narrated sound track).

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- Hand out the *The Journal of the Watcher* postcards (email us a mailing address and we will ship them to you at to cost, they come in packs of 100)

Come and Reason Ministries FREE APP is now available for ios and android. The app allows access to our materials on your smart phones and tablets. Please download the app! **Be sure and type in Come and Reason Ministries** and search in your app store as another unofficial app with our logo is out there.

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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