



Proverbs 1Q 2015 Lesson 8 - Words of Wisdom

I received this email this week:

I listen to something of yours almost every day and am greatly blessed by your ministry. I give out 'Watcher' cards at every opportunity, and also DVD sets, books and cards. I wish everyone could have the chance to see our Loving God and learn of His beautiful law of love and design for all life, His plan for healing our sin-sick hearts and minds, for securing the universe against this sin mess ever rising up again for all eternity, the way you and others now present it! It makes so much sense, is so hopeful, motivating, exciting!

Now for my story and prayer request:

Late last night I had a great fright, finding a young man inside my enclosed porch trying to open the back door of my house. I came face to face with him through a window in the door before I realized what was happening. I live alone, and was very frightened! I was not very kind, shouted at him, demanded he leave my house, and when he didn't, I called 911, retreated to the next room, with a locking door. I could still see him through a window in that door. He stood there, face pressed to my glass door, turning the doorknob and trying to get in until the police came, arrested him and took him away. I was asked to write a statement and then call to have an officer come back to pick it up.

I was quite shaken but very thankful things hadn't turned out much worse! He was a 19-year-old kid from out of town, highly intoxicated, thought he was at a buddy's house and was determined to get inside. I felt compassion for him and prayed that I could think of something to do with this opportunity, and not waste it.

After I wrote my statement, I prayed for wisdom, for some way to help this young man, who is about the age of my own nephew. Then I knew what I needed to do. I wrote the following letter, and slipped it inside the plastic cover of my last set of Healing the Mind DVD set.

"To the young man who came to my door tonight -

You gave me a bad fright trying to open my back door late this evening. I realize now you were not here to steal or harm me, but were just very drunk, lost and disoriented. My heart truly goes out to you.

I started thinking maybe it was not chance that brought you here. Maybe the God who created you and loves you guided you to this house because you are losing your way and need someone to care before it's too late.

I'm trying to think of what I would want a kind stranger to do for my son if he were in your place. Then the idea came to give you my favorite DVD set, a series of talks by a very smart and compassionate man who makes it his life work to help people learn to make better choices and live life the way we were designed to live - happy and satisfied, meeting our full potential.

I hope you will take the time to watch them. They may be completely strange, like nothing you would usually watch. But something here might give you answers to life's hard questions, may help you navigate through this difficult time. Please watch them.

I hate to see any young person wasting the precious gift of life, hurting their chance for a good future. You might have wandered into the house of a person with a deadly weapon tonight, and might not be here now. Please realize you are making some choices that could have very dire consequences. Don't throw your future away. You can do anything you choose to do. With God's help, you can make it great!

I don't know your name but I am praying for you.

The officer, when he came back to pick up my written statement last night would not take the letter and DVDs to give to the young man in jail, but he told me how I could accomplish it.



I had some legwork today, signing a request for the police case report at the police station so I could get the young man's address, explaining to them what I wanted to do. The secretary nearly wept, and within 2 hours she had everything typed up and ready for me to pick up. I had his name and address, packaged up the DVDs, and just got home from the post office after mailing them with my letter (no return address!).

The seeds are planted. I'm so thankful I had your material here to share, and now am praying that this young man will be convicted of truth, won to trust in his healing and loving Creator, that his life will be saved for God's kingdom.

Please pray for this young man, Odin is his name.

And could you please send me 5 more sets of Healing The Mind DVDs?

SABBATH

Read first paragraph, “To some degree...” Any thoughts or questions on the relationship between genetics and environment?

Genetics provide the potential and set limits, environment determines the shape, development, and ultimate expression of the biological potential.

Genetics provides the library of information, the instruction manual to make all aspects of our bodies, but environment effects how that library of information is expressed, which books are opened and which are closed.

Read second paragraph, “Unfortunately,” God has provided us the Holy Spirit – What does the Holy Spirit do for us and when?

- Works in our hearts before we even know about God or choose God instilling a desire for good, causing enmity between us and Satan
- Enlightens with truth, convicts of right and wrong
- Leaves us free to choose for ourselves
- Provides insight, wisdom, enlightenment
- Provides power to do the right when we choose the right
- Provides new motives and desires
- Transforms the heart/mind as we choose to participate with God in His methods and plans

SUNDAY

“We Are All Equal” Thoughts about the title? How is this title true? How has this title been misunderstood in our society today to cause significant problems?

It is true that we are all of equal moral worth! We are equally loved by God, equally valuable in God’s sight and all equally in need of the same solution from God because we all suffer from the same condition.

But, is it true we are all equal in talent, ability, capacity?

How has the idea of moral equality bled over into equality of ability or talent or capacity within our society and what problems does this cause?

First, the idea gets in the minds of people that if someone can do something then so can I – rather than each person having an opportunity for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, there is the idea that everyone should experience the same results or successes. This leads to competition, jealousy, and insecurity self doubt if one doesn't do as well as another.

Second, in our educational system, because we all have equal worth as humans, and deserve equal opportunity, some have made the mistake of thinking all are of equal ability and therefore proscribing a rigid educational pathway, pigeon-holing, everyone down the same track regardless of ability, capacity or talent.

This has resulted in serious damage to individuals and society.

Are all people equally gifted with musical ability? Or athletic ability? What would happen if our society required every person to be competent enough to have a career as a musician? Consider the results of years of musical education on those without musical ability, or athletic training for the non athletes?

In our current educational system, everyone is force-fed the same education regardless of talent, capacity or ability – because everyone is “equal.”

Individuals who are not academically gifted, but perhaps mechanical geniuses, are forced down the same academic pathways, in which they struggle, their egos are damaged, and results in loss of esteem, confidence and in adolescence, where there is a need to find someplace where they are affirmed many drop out, join gangs, and/or rebel against the establishment.

How much better, to identify the talents and skills of individuals and foster their development, tracking people into vocations, putting young people into apprenticeships rather than academics if they are better suited for it? What would happen in our society if young people were given basic reading, writing and math skills, but then educated down pathways that allowed their talents and abilities to be refined and developed?

Read first paragraph, “Unlike the theory...” What does it mean and what does it not mean that “all humans were created by God”?

The lesson refers us to Acts 17:26:

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

Does this give any insight? What was the method, as the Bible states, that God used to make all nations?

God made one man – and gave that one man, along with his wife, the ability to procreate beings in their image. And it was through this design, this ability, that all other people came.

What are the implications of this truth? Does this mean God is directly involved with the creation of every individual human being?

When a man rapes a woman and she gets pregnant, is God creating? Or is that man abusing an ability God designed into the human species?

Any implications on this? If God creates us as we are – then is it God’s will for some people to be born with congenital defects? And if doctors fix those defects are they going against the divine will? Of course not!

What do you say to the person who asks: “Why did God create my child with schizophrenia? Why did God want us to have a Down’s Syndrome baby? Why did God create me with bipolar disorder?”

Does God create defects, disease, imperfection? Does God create beings sinful? And since we are all born in sin, we can be certain that God is not directly creating any of us, but we are all created by God in Adam, as the Scripture says!

Who are the three humans God had a direct hand in creating? Adam, Eve and the incarnation of Christ – and they all started out sinless, Jesus stayed that way, Adam and Eve did not.

Read third paragraph, “Sin is another...” Is it only the “promise” of eternal life that we can have? In other words, when a person exercises faith in Jesus, accepts Him as their Savior – are they only getting future eternal life insurance? The promise of eternal life – or are they getting a very real new life here and now?

- Do they get a new heart and right spirit, here and now?
- Do they get relief of guilt and shame here and now?
- Do they get purity of character here and now?
- Do they get transformed here and now to be like Christ?
- Do they get new desires and lose desire for sin and selfishness, here and now?

I believe, presenting legal salvation, undermines the full life Christ wants us to experience. I believe focusing on future eternal life, undermines the freedom, joy, victory, peace and transformation that is to be ours here and now! Do we get eternal life – absolutely – but that life starts NOW!

“This is life eternal...” John 17:3

Jesus said, “whoever lives by believing in me will never die.” John 11:26

Is eternal life something that we have promised to us if we have faith in Jesus, or something we actually

have, possess, here and now?

Read last paragraph, "If man cannot..." How do you balance that with these statements:

- While God was working in Daniel and his companions "to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13), they were working out their own salvation. Herein is revealed the outworking of the **divine principle of cooperation, without which no true success can be attained. Human effort avails nothing without divine power; and without human endeavor, divine effort is with many of no avail. To make God's grace our own, we must act our part.** His grace is given to work in us to will and to do, but never as a substitute for our effort. {LHU 193.4}
- **There are two grand forces at work in the salvation of the human soul. It requires the cooperation of man with the divine agencies--** divine influences, and a strong, living, working faith. **It is in this way only** that the human agent can become a laborer together with God. **The Lord does not sanction in any one of us a blind, stupid credulity. He does not dishonor the human understanding,** but, far from this, He calls for the human will to be brought into connection with the divine will. **He calls for the ingenuity of the human mind, the tact, the skill, to be strenuously exercised in searching out the truth as it is in Jesus. . . .** Ye are labourers together with God. {OHC 310.5}

How is salvation wholly of Christ and no work of ours, yet it requires our work of cooperation?

Think design law and it all becomes clear. We are born in a terminal condition, out of harmony from God's design. Christ, and Christ alone, took this condition upon Himself, and by the exercise of His will, cured the condition procuring remedy for humanity. He lived a life in perfect harmony with God and thus developed a perfect human character. This is our Remedy. We cannot do this; we can only choose to partake of what He has developed in our behalf. But the partaking is not the developing.

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}

Note how the justification happens, according to this passage? It is by becoming partaker of the divine nature, by partaking of Jesus in trust, and receiving through the Holy Spirit a new heart and right spirit, thus we are set right in heart and mind, justified.

This stands in stark contrast to the legal fiction often taught that justification is when God declares us righteous, even though we are not.

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, “Their works...” What does it mean their works follow them? What kind of work? What is our work?

After surrendering in trust to Jesus, after experiencing His indwelling presence, our work is to stay connected with Christ and then be a conduit to share His love and truth to others.

Jesus said, as the Father sent Him so He sends us, to do what? To share the truth that sets minds free and restores people to a trust relationship with God.

And if this is our work, what follows behind such work? People, lives of people being touched, impacted, changed, transformed, renewed as they come to partake of Jesus! We have no power to heal a life, we only have the ability to share the Remedy – Jesus who heals and transforms!

TUESDAY

Read Proverbs 20:17 “Food gained by fraud tastes sweet, but one ends up with a mouth full of gravel.”

What does it mean? Does it apply to food only? Why does it turn to gravel? What would gravel do in the mouth? Damage and destroy; what does fraud, deceit, thievery do to the mind and character?

“Do not say, “I’ll pay you back for this wrong!” Wait for the Lord, and he will avenge you.” Proverbs 20:22

What does this mean? If one is an immature Christian – level 1-4, looking at life through the lens of imposed law, how does one understand this text?

As you know I am going to Australia in a few months, a lot of preparation has been going on there. But, also some opposition. One individual has posted a lengthy attack against what we teach online. In that attack the following is said by the person who opposes what we teach:

“Now to me it seems perfectly rational that a loving God would nevertheless be willing to be fair even if being so was painful to himself. To inflict pain on the man that ordered torture for a humble servant of Jesus seems only just. In fact, it is when the persecutors are already dead that the blood of the martyrs calls out for God to avenge “our blood” in Revelation 6. So painful punishment seems rational to me and irrational to Jennings.

And in another place says this critic says regarding the 10 last plagues:

These plagues are **punitive** rather than corrective. (That is, they occur after the close of human probation.) And the suffering is fair, it is just. God is “holy” who judges the wicked. That is obvious, “manifest”, according to the righteous ones in Rev 15.

This is what happens when one sees God’s law as imposed, rather than design protocols. It seems only right to inflict torture and punishment for breaking the rules. The problem of course, is that those who hold this position, don’t understand reality; they don’t understand the nature of how life is built and what sin does. Sin severs from God’s design and damages and destroys those who participate in it. Those who hold the view God must inflict torture, are operating upon Satan’s view of God’s law.

Listen to an historic SDA view of the 10 last plagues:

I was shown that the **judgments of God would not** come directly out from the Lord upon them, but in this way; **They place themselves** beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reprovcs, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will **follow their own course**, independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, **if they choose** their own way, **then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them.**

It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress, and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey, and storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short and, he is not restrained; we shall see more terrible manifestations of his great power than we have ever dreamed of. (Manuscript Release vol. 14, p. 3)

Or here is another historic quote:

God keeps a reckoning with the nations. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without His notice. Those who work evil toward their fellow men, saying, How doth God know? will one day be called upon to **meet long-deferred vengeance**. In this age a more than common contempt is shown to God. Men have reached a point in insolence and disobedience which shows that their **cup of iniquity is almost full**. Many have well-nigh **passed the boundary of mercy**. Soon **God will show that He is indeed the living God**. He will say to the angels, **"No longer combat Satan in his efforts to destroy"**. Let him work out his malignity upon the children of disobedience; for the cup of their iniquity is full. They have advanced from one degree of wickedness to another, adding daily to their lawlessness. **"I will no longer interfere to prevent the destroyer from doing his work."** {RH, September 17, 1901 par. 8}

Or from the Bible:

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, **holding back** the four winds of the earth **to prevent** any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. ² Then I saw

another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels **who had been given power to harm** the land and the sea: ³“Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”
Revelation 7:1-3

What are these angels of God doing? Holding back, but what power are they described as having? Power to harm – how? By letting go, letting go of what? So where does the actual destruction originate?

Satan is the destroyer, God is the restorer, Satan is the source of death, God is the source of life. To present it otherwise is to cast God in the robes of Satan!

Another historic view:

The Saviour in His miracles revealed the power that is continually at work in man's behalf, to **sustain and to heal** him. **Through the agencies of nature, God is working**, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, **to keep us alive, to build up and restore us**. When any part of the body sustains injury, a healing process is at once begun; nature's agencies are set at work to restore soundness. But the power working through these agencies is the power of God. All life-giving power is from Him. When one recovers from disease, it is God who restores him. **Sickness, suffering, and death are work of an antagonistic power. Satan is the destroyer; God is the restorer.** Faith I Live By165

How must Satan rejoice to have so many Christians teach God is the destroyer and source of death?

What is God's Vengeance, according to the Bible?

Therefore the Lord, the Lord Almighty, the Mighty One of Israel, declares: “Ah! I will vent my wrath on my foes and avenge myself on my enemies. I will turn my hand against you; I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities. Isa 1:24,25

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, “A person's character...” Several questions that come to mind from this paragraph:

- Which is more important – character or religious affiliation?
- Can someone have Christlike character and not be a member of an organized church?
- Can someone have eternal life and not be a member an institutional church?
- What does helping the poor mean? It is giving handout or hand up? What is the difference?
- Do we help more by supplying answers, or giving opportunities to solve problems?
- Do we help more by lifting burdens, or by assisting people in lifting their own burdens?
- Can success be given to a person?
- In Christian worldview, what does a successful life look like?
- Does it look like developing a Christlike character?

- Can Christlike character be given to a person?
- How can we create opportunity for personal development, hope, and atmosphere's for success?

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, "The Hebrew..." Is it true that parents and educators are responsible for their children's future?

What are parents and educators responsible for? For their conduct in parenting and educating! Are parents and educators responsible for outcomes?

The lesson refers us to Proverbs 22:6, "raise a child..." It can be interpreted either two ways, "raise a child in the way he should go" or "raise a child according to his way" and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Which is the more accurate in regard to actual outcome promises? The second! When God raised Lucifer and Adam, there were no mistakes – He did everything perfectly – then if the first were true, God would be responsible for failing to parent Lucifer and Adam correctly, but this is not the case.

It is a proverb, telling us that if we fail to do any job, let the child be in charge of it's rearing, it will grow up self centered, self indulged, narcissistic and will not depart from it.

However, the traditional interpretation can be used to teach a general principle, that good outcomes are enhanced by good investments, but such good investments do not guarantee good outcomes.

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions 1-3



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The God-Shaped Church: Preparing People to Meet Jesus Seminar by Dr. Jennings

Please help us fill the church as we will be recording a new DVD set

When: March 21, 2015 2-5:30 p.m.

Where: Hamilton Community Church at 7997 Shallowford Road Chattanooga

Schedule:

2:00-3:00 Growing Up in Christ: The 7 Levels of Moral Decision Making

How do you determine what is right and wrong (moral decision-making)? Do you look to a higher authority – parent, teacher, political leader, pastor, priest, or deity to tell you? Do you look for consensus amongst peers, or perhaps a code of rules or system of established laws? Or do you have another standard? In this lecture we will examine seven levels of moral decision-making identifying a progression from more childlike perspectives to maturity.

3:00-3:15 Break

3:15-4:15 Becoming a Spokesperson for God: Telling the Story of the Cosmic Conflict from Beginning to End

Are you able to present a cohesive story of the conflict between Christ and Satan from the opening of the conflict in heaven? How Satan duped innocent angels, God's response, the spread of sin to planet earth, God's actions in human history and the back and forth battle between Christ and Satan throughout human history, culminating in our present circumstance? In this lecture Dr. Jennings presents a compelling case demonstrating that every action of God's has been redemptive and therapeutic designed to counter some attack of Satan's in order to save and heal humanity.

4:15-4:30 Break

4:30-5:30 Answering Tough Bible Questions

Have you ever struggled with tough Bible questions? Dr. Jennings will provide compelling and convincing answers that make sense and reveal a beautiful and gracious Creator God to the following questions:

- Why curse the ground?
- Why man to rule over woman?
- Why God killed people in the Old Testament
- Why raise the wicked only to torture and kill them again?
- What is the truth about hell?
- What is the seal of God and the Mark of the Beast?
- Homosexuality in a Christian world

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 in the APP

For APPLE in the iBooks store and in the APP Store – your choice slightly different controls and features.

We are also having it rendered as a “movie” for itunes, for all those people who don’t have smart devices or Apple computers. Will let you know when it is available in itunes.

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- Tell friends at church
- 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.

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 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 21, 2015: NEW EVENT: The God-Shaped Church: Preparing People to Meet Jesus Seminar at Hamilton Community Church, Chattanooga, TN.

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.

April 23, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Faith and Mental Health Board in Goshen Indiana.

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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NOTE: WARNING: There is another ministry with a similar name called “Come Reason Ministries” and they are located in California. Please be sure and select **Come AND Reason Ministries Located in Collegedale TN.**