

The Book of Luke 2Q 2015 Lesson 3 Christ as the Lord of the Sabbath

I received this email recently:

First and foremost, thank you for The Remedy Bible, understanding made easy.

I have been following your classes since 2009 and been most blessed person. I have tremendously grown from glory to glory as I have learnt not to reflect attitudes of other men, and have learnt the art of being fully persuaded in my own mind before I can adapt or pass on anything to the next person.

I have been appointed to lead a Sabbath School Teachers' lesson whereby I would facilitate among Sabbath school teachers! I normally contribute from the terraces so to speak, so this appointment most probably was a result of the quality of discussions I contribute -they are REASONABLE and integrated - scripture, science and experience. My first reaction was to decline as I knew I would be at tangent between the long held fables and tradition as standard belief with my view premised on a God who designed the universe according to His design template of natural law. However, I overcame fear and it is during the Sabbath School lessons that I have the opportunity to share the good news about God. I ask for prayers to be able to witness for God without fear of rejection.

If you will note too, that the Lesson 12 of the quarter on Proverbs used your book as resource material, I feel so so encouraged that we are indeed unmasking the devil.

May God continue to bless you, and I know one day God will allow an opportunity to open a Theology University, may I be amongst the first to enroll at your bible school. I actually encourage you to, as this will be a sure way to undo what has been held for 500 years about God. I am 50 years and with the way you share the truth about God, feel I have a brand new mind that can easily process anything in that regard.

Thank you once more Dr. Jennings.

SABBATH

Read memory text – Mark 2:27,28, from *The Remedy*:

After a moment to let them think he said, "The Sabbath was created as a gift for humanity, to be a blessing for human beings. Human beings were not created as a gift for the Sabbath.²⁸ Understand this clearly, the Son of Man doesn't serve the Sabbath, it serves him."

What does it mean the Sabbath was made for man? How is the Sabbath for man?

Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy – which day of the week has more “worldly” activity, partying, etc.? Could it be Friday night and Sabbath? Does all the wickedness done by humans make the Sabbath

less holy?

Can anything you do make the Sabbath less holy? Then what does it mean to keep the Sabbath holy? Are we keeping the Sabbath holy, or are we keeping ourselves holy?

And, can you keep yourself holy only one day a week? Or, to be holy one must be holy every day of the week?

Read second paragraph Friday's lesson:

No other institution which was committed to the Jews tended so fully to distinguish them from surrounding nations as did the Sabbath. God designed that its observance should designate them as His worshipers. It was to be a token of their separation from idolatry, and their connection with the true God. **But in order to keep the Sabbath holy, men must themselves be holy.** Through faith they must become partakers of the righteousness of Christ. DA 283

So, then what is the purpose of the Sabbath and what does it mean to “keep it holy”?

What does it mean to be holy?

“It is not enough for us to know and respect the words of the Scriptures. We must enter into the **understanding of them**, studying them earnestly. . . . Christians will reveal the degree to which they do this by the healthiness of their **spiritual character**. We must know the **practical application of the Word to our own individual character-building**. **We are to be holy temples, in which God can live and walk and work.**” {LHU 105.5}

“**Holiness is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God**; it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; **it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in trial**, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; **it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love.**” {AA 51.2}

“**True holiness is wholeness in the service of God.** This is the condition of true Christian living. Christ asks for an unreserved consecration, for undivided service. **He demands the heart, the mind, the soul, the strength...**

Why does Christ demand this? Because it is His right? Because He has paid the price? Because He is Creator? Because He is Sovereign? No, He demands this because He is the source of life, health, happiness, and only in a surrendered relationship with Him can we have life and health and happiness. It is for our good, not His need. Anything else and we cut ourselves off from life.

“... Self is not to be cherished. **He who lives to himself is not a Christian.**

“Love must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God's government in heaven and earth, and it must be the foundation of the Christian's character. This alone can make and keep him steadfast. This alone can enable him to withstand trial and temptation...”

“This is the religion of Christ. Anything short of it is a deception. **No mere theory of truth or profession of discipleship will save any soul** [Jennings - no mere legal accounting]. We do not belong to Christ unless we are His wholly. It is by halfheartedness in the Christian life that men become feeble in purpose and changeable in desire. The effort to serve both self and Christ makes one a stony-ground hearer, and he will not endure when the test comes upon him.” {COL 48-50}

Read second paragraph, “Indeed, ‘Christ, during... What are the “binding claims of the Sabbath”?”

What does this mean? How do you hear it? Does it mean some legal restriction? Some legal command, and if you break the legal command to cease and desist you will be punished?

Which law lens do you understand the “binding claims of the Sabbath” through? Do you view it through human law, impose rules requiring external enforcement, or Design Law, protocols upon which reality functions?

If we think Design Law what does “binding claims” mean?

What does the word claim mean? An assertion of fact – what fact does the Sabbath assert?

- God is Creator
- God’s law is Design Law
- God’s methods are Truth presented in Love leaving us Free
- The Sabbath claims God does not impose rules and threaten us with imposed punishments. That God presents evidence in love, and leaves us free and this wins us to loyalty to Him.

What does binding mean?

- Anyone ski or snowboard? What are the fasteners that fasten the boots to the ski or board called? Bindings – and what is their function? To hold or bind the ski and boot together
- What are the “binding” claims of the Sabbath?
- The truths about God, evidenced by the Sabbath, His character of truth, love and freedom, embodied in its creation, that when understood and recognized, “bind” us to Him.
- Thus, the Sabbath is a sign that God sanctifies, or heals and restores us to righteousness. How?
- Lies believed break the circle of love and trust –
- Truth believed destroys lies and wins to trust, and in trust we open the heart to receive the HS who heals and restores us in righteousness
- The Sabbath, when rightly understood, claims God is a God of love, truth and freedom, these claims when realized and internalized into the heart as reality bind in love and trust to God and result in our opening the heart and being sanctified or renewed by His Spirit.

Thus, in the quote, the author noted, that the Jews perverted the Sabbath so that the character of God was obstructed by their rules and restrictions.

Presenting the Sabbath as a legal requirement, filled with legal restrictions, an arbitrary test of obedience, one distorts the claims of the Sabbath and presents the Sabbath to claim God is a dictator and thus the Sabbath becomes a tool to harden hearts and turn people away from God.

The true claims of the Sabbath is that God is love who presents truth in love leaving us free; those who accept these claims find their hearts bound to God in loyalty, trust and love.

But, those who reject these claims, and instead teach God's law is not Design Law upon which creation operates, but are imposed rules like created beings make, distort God's character to be like fallen human beings, regardless of which day they go to church, and thus are not Sabbath keepers. They would be like the Jews who crucified Christ and wanted Him off the cross in time to observe the right day of the week.

Here is an historic quote from one of the founders of the SDA church:

"In presenting the binding claims of the law, many have failed to portray the infinite love of Christ. Those who have so great truths, so weighty reforms to present to the people, have not had a realization of the value of the **atonement Sacrifice as an expression of God's great love to man. Love for Jesus, and Jesus' love for sinners,** have been dropped out of the religious experience of those who have been commissioned to preach the gospel, and self has been exalted instead of the Redeemer of mankind. The **law** is to be presented to its transgressors, **not as something apart from God, but rather as an exponent of His mind and character. As the sunlight cannot be separated from the sun, so God's law cannot be rightly presented to man apart from the divine Author...**

Which is closer to the sun/sunlight analogy, Imposed law – God making up rules, or Design law, God creating reality to operate in harmony with Him and He is the constant source of life energy that sustains it all? So when we present imposed law constructs we separate the law from God's character of love.

"The messenger should be able to say, **"In the law is God's will;** come, see for yourselves that the law is what Paul declared it to be--'holy, and just, and good.' "It reproves sin, it condemns the sinner, but it shows him his need of Christ, with whom is plenteous mercy and goodness and truth. **Though the law cannot remit the penalty for sin,** but charges the sinner with all his debt, Christ has promised abundant pardon to all who repent, and believe in His mercy...

Why can the law not remit the penalty of sin? Why can the law of health not remit the penalty of drinking poison? What can remit the penalty of drinking poison? What does charge the sinner with all his debt mean? It means diagnosis him accurately with all his defectiveness and deviations from God's design. And the abundant pardon, what does it mean? It is to those who repent, they receive transformation and renewal to be restored to God's design, thus the cancer of sin remits, the character remits back to God's original intent.

“...The love of God is extended in abundance to the repenting, believing soul. **The brand of sin upon the soul can be effaced only through the blood of the atoning Sacrifice...**

What does this mean? The love of God is poured out upon those who turn to God in trust. Sin marred or branded the character of humanity to look like Satan, selfish and fearful. The blood is metaphor for the life, and only Christ destroyed the infection of fear and selfishness and perfectly restored God’s character into the human species, thus only through Christ’s life, of which we are privileged to partake by trust, do we experience rebirth, with new heart motives of love and trust.

“... No less an offering was required than the sacrifice of Him who was equal with the Father. The work of Christ--His life, humiliation, death, and intercession for lost man--magnifies the law, and makes it honorable.” {1SM 371.1}

What binds us to God? Love and the law rightly understood is an expression of God’s love, and is the protocol upon which all life is built

SUNDAY

The lesson points out that it was Jesus’ custom to go to the synagogue on Sabbath – why?

Was Jesus going to the synagogue on Sabbath because the law required going to the synagogue on Sabbath?

Why did He go? Where would He find those whom He came to save on Sabbath? At the synagogues, thus He went to reach them with the truth. If they were having an outdoor revival meeting on Sabbath, and the synagogue was closed, would Jesus have gone to the synagogue and sat by Himself on Sabbath?

Sabbath “observance” is not about being at a particular physical location, but having a particular heart and mindset with God. And in that heart and mindset carrying out and fulfilling God’s purpose for your life, every day of the week, including on the Sabbath day.

The lesson asks, “Why should we make it our custom to go to church on the Sabbath, as Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath?”

Does it matter to which church one is going?

- Are there places in the world where there are no churches to attend?
- Are there churches in the world that are so unhealthy it would be damaging to attend? Didn’t Christ tell His apostles that in some circumstances shake the dust off your feet and leave?
- I say this because church attendance should not be from level four and below, rules that we must keep and if we don’t go to church on Sabbath we are sinning.
- But, assuming there is a church to attend, and that church is not a destructive place to be, why



attend church on Sabbath?

- To fellowship together
- To encourage others and be encouraged by others
- To learn from each other
- To minister to others
- To share together the love of God
- To celebrate God with people who love Him and appreciate Him as you do
- To coordinate and work together for ministry and mission
- To pool resources to sharing the gospel message
- other reasons?

What would be a immature, childish reason to attend church on Sabbath? Because God commanded us to be here... this is like your adult child telling their friends they brush their teeth because mommy commands it.

Read bottom pink section, “Those who accuse...” I have many patients who are burned out and exhausted. They work full time and have families and home responsibilities. They go to church on Sunday morning, but as soon as church is over they are busy with the problems of life again, laundry, housecleaning, yard work etc. And the thought of taking one day in seven off, results in guilt, feeling as if they are not fulfilling their duties. Understanding the truth about the Sabbath, that it is a gift for mankind, that it provides an oasis in time to come away from responsibilities, work without guilt for leaving other duties undone, and immerse oneself in the larger reality of God, His kingdom of love and community.

MONDAY

The first paragraph points out one of the main reasons it was important for people to attend synagogue was that it was a place to hear God’s Word. And this doesn’t mean hear a sermon; it means to actually hear the Scripture read. People didn’t have Bibles in their own possession, so going to synagogue was essential to be able to hear the Word of God read each week.

Read Luke 4:18-21

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.²¹He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

What does it mean? What did Christ come to do? Christ’s mission was to:



- Reveal the truth about God to those poor in spiritual wisdom and understanding –
 - Why was this needed? And what is this revelation supposed to accomplish?
- Bring freedom to those in bondage
 - From what bondage was Jesus coming to free them?
 - Fear of death Heb 2:14
 - Lies about God (Jn 8:32)
 - Their own carnal nature (1Jn 4:8)
- Provide insight, wisdom and discernment to those in the darkness of superstition and legal views of God
 - Was this needed?
 - What is the problem with viewing God through legal lenses?
- Free those oppressed by sin
 - How does sin oppress today and how does Jesus free?
 - Disease – freed through ultimate restoration at the second coming, and sometimes physical healing here, but comfort while suffering here.
 - Abuse – healing of heart and mind, the gift of forgiveness – how is being able to forgive those who do us wrong a gift to us?
 - Freedom from guilt and shame – how? By partaking of Christ and experiencing a new heart and right spirit, repentance and rebirth
 - Others?

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph, “On this single...” What gave Jesus’ teaching authority?

- Was it the weight of his office?
- Was it the charisma of His voice and personality?
- Was it the grandeur of His appearance?
- Was it His personal testimony?

What gave His teaching authority?

It was the authority of truth itself, that He presented the truth of Scripture evidenced in nature and tied to real life experiences, so that all could see how reality actually works. His words made sense and actually worked in the real world.

He didn’t teach fable and superstition and religious dogma based only on tradition or human interpretations.

Here is an historic quote:

“The King of glory stooped low to take humanity. Rude and forbidding were His earthly surroundings. **His glory was veiled**, that the majesty of His outward form might not become an object of attraction. **He shunned all outward display**. Riches, worldly honor, and human

greatness can never save a soul from death; **Jesus purposed that no attraction of an earthly nature should call men to His side. Only the beauty of heavenly truth must draw those who would follow Him.** The character of the Messiah had long been foretold in prophecy, and He desired men to accept Him upon the testimony of the word of God.” {DA 43.1}

Do we present truth in ways that makes sense and actually works in the real world?

WEDNESDAY

Read second paragraph, “While walking through a field...” At what level were the Pharisees operating? Level four and below, law and order, legal religion, imposed law constructs.

At was level was Christ operating? Design law, God’s design for His creation, thus it was better to provide what was necessary for human health and welfare, than to keep a rule which injured God’s Spirit Temple.

The Pharisees, would rather keep a rule in order to honor the little theater, the object lesson, the shadow, the stage play, the physical building built out of inanimate material, but Jesus pointed out that these are just shadows of a larger reality and David did not sin by taking the bread used in the play only by priests, and using it to provide sustenance to the true temple of God.

Are there any examples today where people get confused between metaphor, stage play, simile, analogy, parable, and reality and are injured by staying stuck in the metaphor?

- Viewing God’s Sovereignty through human authority models
 - Sees God imposing, rather than God ruling through His character of love.
 - Romans 9 – Paul makes the point God has mercy on who He has mercy... The point, the Jews were jealous that Gentiles were being included in salvation and Paul argues, who are you to argue with God’s Sovereignty, God’s way is the way of love, inclusion, healing.
 - But, some view these passages through human authority models and view God as imposing and predetermining some for salvation and some for damnation – in other words interpret it as God being restrictive.
- Viewing Jesus’ victory at the cross through legal metaphor
- Thinking there is some power to cleanse from sin in religious ritual, whether baptism, communion, or foot washing.
- Thinking the “name” of Jesus means the syllables used when speaking rather than the character of God – thus think if they put a tagline at the end of a prayer, “in Jesus name” they have prayed in Jesus name.
- Others?

Read last paragraph, “Although all the...” Why is it “lawful” to do good on the Sabbath? Because good is love and the Sabbath is the evidence of God’s character of love, so living in harmony with the law of love is how life is constructed to operate and to which the Sabbath is evidence.

The problem with legal Sabbath keeping is that it moves the focus away from love for God and others, to self. “Am I breaking the Sabbath? Am I sinning? Am I doing what I am supposed to do? Am I... Am I... Am I?”

True Sabbath keeping doesn't focus on self, it focuses on God and others, seeking to celebrate God and be a blessing to our fellow human beings.

Read bottom pink question, “Think how...” What can we do to ensure we don't fall into the same trap?

- Move away from imposed law construct to design law, thinking how things are designed by God to actually work and living in harmony with God and His design.

THURSDAY

Why did Jesus heal on the Sabbath over and over again? Were His healings on Sabbath emergency cases? Could they have waited until after the Sabbath? Why would He cure chronic medical conditions on Sabbath?

From the book *The Desire of Ages*:

“Jesus had come to “magnify the law, and make it honorable...” He had come to **free the Sabbath from those burdensome requirements that had made it a curse instead of a blessing.**

“**For this reason He had chosen the Sabbath upon which to perform the act of healing at Bethesda.** He could have healed the sick man as well on any other day of the week; or He might simply have cured him, without bidding him bear away his bed. **But this would not have given Him the opportunity He desired.** A wise purpose underlay every act of Christ's life on earth. Everything He did was important in itself and in its teaching. Among the afflicted ones at the pool He selected the worst case upon whom to exercise His healing power, and bade the man carry his bed through the city in order to publish the great work that had been wrought upon him. This would raise the question of what it was lawful to do on the Sabbath, and would open the way for Him **to denounce the restrictions of the Jews** in regard to the Lord's day, and to declare their traditions void.

“**Jesus stated to them that the work of relieving the afflicted was in harmony with the Sabbath law.** It was in harmony with the work of God's angels, who are ever descending and ascending between heaven and earth to minister to suffering humanity...”

“Should God forbid the sun to perform its office upon the Sabbath, cut off its genial rays from warming the earth and nourishing vegetation? Must the system of worlds stand still through that holy day? Should He command the brooks to stay from watering the fields and forests, and bid the waves of the sea still their ceaseless ebbing and flowing? Must the wheat and corn stop growing,



and the ripening cluster defer its purple bloom? Must the trees and flowers put forth no bud nor blossom on the Sabbath?

“In such a case, men would miss the fruits of the earth, and the blessings that make life desirable. Nature must continue her unvarying course. God could not for a moment stay His hand, or man would faint and die. **And man also has a work to perform on this day. The necessities of life must be attended to, the sick must be cared for, the wants of the needy must be supplied. He will not be held guiltless who neglects to relieve suffering on the Sabbath.** God's holy rest day was made for man, and acts of mercy are in perfect harmony with its intent. **God does not desire His creatures to suffer an hour's pain that may be relieved upon the Sabbath or any other day.** {DA 206 - 207}

FRIDAY

Read and discuss question 1 – who are deceived about God's law? How about those who wanted Christ off the cross so they could keep the Sabbath? Are there people today who might know which day of the week is the Sabbath of the Bible, avoid work and go to church on that day, but are still deceived about the Sabbath? How so? By believing it is an arbitrary test, in an imposed law construct by a dictator God who must inflict punishment for disobedience!

Read and discuss question 2 – it is evidence that Satan lied, and reveals the truth about God's character of truth, love and freedom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings’ New Testament Paraphrase is now available on our website, and the app for android devices is in the Google play store. The IOS version will be available shortly; It was submitted SUNDAY for review by APPLE, so any day!

- This is a **FREE** app
- Please read the preface to understand the approach to this paraphrase
- We have cards available to share with others and will ship them at no cost
- Also, if you find typos please email those to us so we can fix any missed typos

CARDS – If you have any of our ministry business cards please check to see if they have our current address: PO Box 28266 Chattanooga, TN 37424. If they are the old ones please discard them. We will be happy to send new ones, just email us. Thanks!

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.

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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