



Rebellion and Redemption 1Q 2016 Lesson 9 The Great Controversy and the Early Church

SABBATH

Read memory text: “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13 NIV

What do you think is meant by their courage? To whom were they speaking? Who was trying to silence them? What were the potential consequences of speaking out? (They faced the religious and political authorities who threatened to beat, imprison and kill them)

Do you think they had fear? If yes, what enabled them to overcome their fear? If no, why not? Isn't fear a normal human response in such circumstances?

So what enabled them to overcome their fear?

Taking the focus off themselves and focusing on something more than self—what enables us to do this?

- Love—for another person or for God—the love of a mother for her child will cause the mother to sacrifice self without thought if she perceives the life the child is in danger
 - soldiers in combat—the reason they go into harms way is love for their brother in arms
 - Love activates the anterior cingulate cortex and calms the fear circuitry—amygdala
- Understanding reality in larger terms and operating within that reality—Matthew 10:28 the Great Controversy perspective that a person reconciled to Christ is beyond killing, they can only shut down the body, they cannot destroy the individuality, the personhood. In other words the perceived danger isn't exactly as everyone else perceives it.
 - Our understanding can be false, be delusional even, but if it is of a certain nature it can still take away fear—consider the Branch Davidians, or those who drank the Kool-Aid in Jonestown...
- Trust—trusting someone to handle the outcomes and problems for you, trusting someone has your back
 - Our trust can be placed well or can be placed poorly, but trusting in something larger than self can alleviate fear
- Having a mission, a purpose which we believe is important enough that we are willing to give ourselves for it—and this can either be good or evil.



- consider suicide bombers

Notice—all these actions take the focus off of self, thus fear decreases.

So Peter and John had courage—why did they have courage? They had all four:

- They loved God and loved others
- They understood reality in it's larger Great Controversy setting
- They trusted Jesus with their lives
- They had a mission, a purpose, larger than themselves
- Thus, they were not focusing on self!

What about the second part of the memory verse, that these ordinary, unschooled men, were able to know truth and speak words of truth beyond the understanding of the religious leaders and seminary professors. How was it possible and what does it mean for us today?

- Truth is not the exclusive property of a elite group—sometimes called the clergy
- Truth is available to every human being, what is the only requirement? A humble willingness to learn, to think, to be taught, to allow God to reveal and teach you.

I found this quote in *The Desire of Ages* this week, what do you think?

Christ affirmed that **His word was in itself a key** which would **unlock the mystery** to those who were prepared to receive it. It had a self-commending power, and this was the secret of the spread of His kingdom of truth. He desired Pilate to understand that **only by receiving and appropriating truth could his ruined nature be reconstructed.** {DA 727.3}

What do you understand this to be saying?

Jesus said, “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” Jn 8:32 Free from what? Lies—what lies hold us in bondage?

How do we assimilate the truth? What Bible metaphors are used to teach the assimilation of truth?

- Eating the flesh of the sacrificial lamb, which Christ transferred to Himself when He said that we must eat His flesh—which is what? -The truth, the Word!
- Eating manna—Jesus is the bread of heaven
- Eating the unleavened bread during Passover, or during communion and drinking the wine

What do all of these metaphorical examples have in common and what lesson are they teaching?



- They are eating—what law does eating operating upon?
- Design law—which is the body must have digestible molecules to provide energy and building blocks to sustain itself, repair, grow, heal—what is the lesson applied to our spiritual need?
- What happens if we eat a meal once a week?
- When we eat, do we think about consuming food as a legal work we must do in order to be healthy? “I can’t believe all these legal requirements. I have to eat every day...”
- What about when we consider daily devotional time with God? Do we consider it work? A checklist, a duty, a penance?
 - What if some say, “I don’t study the Bible, that is salvation by works, I’m saved by grace.”
- Does eating food for your body and why we do it, give us some insight into why Daniel prayed three times a day?
- Can people eat food that tastes good but is not nutritious and instead of building the body up, actually tears it down?
- Can people do spiritual ingestion, partake of spiritual activities, internalize books, songs, other ideas that instead of building up the character actual damage the mind?
- How do we know what to put in our bodies? What is healthy and what is not? Understanding God’s design—the more we understand of God’s design for life, the easier and easier it is to determine what is healthy and what is not
- What about what to put into our minds? This is one of the reasons I stopped listening to certain preachers, because they almost always misrepresented God, presented God in some way that perpetuated one of Satan’s lies about God.
 - Remember the integrative evidence-based approach, use the three threads and always come back to Jesus. If something is being taught about God that is contradictory to what Jesus revealed, then something is wrong!

We have reasoned out God’s Word, thinking through the metaphors to come to a reality based conclusion that the flesh and blood represent assimilating into our being the truth that comes from Christ. Now, here are some historical quotes:

Those who believe present truth are to practice the truth, live the truth. **They are to study the Word and eat the Word, which means eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of God.** They are to bring that Word, which is Spirit and life, into their daily, practical life. It is the bread from heaven, and it will give life to the world.—Letter 34, 1896. {Christ Triumphant 247.5}



In the study of the Bible the converted soul eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God, which He himself interprets as the receiving and doing of His words, that are spirit and life.”
Fundamentals of Christian Education 378

How little children are educated to **study the Bible as the word of God, and feed upon its truths, which are the flesh and blood of the Son of God!** "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. **Whoso eat[s] My flesh, and drink[s] My blood [that is, continues to receive the words of Christ, and practice them], ha[s] eternal life;** and I will raise him up at the last day. {FE 385.3}

Consider a computer operating system with corrupt code—what is needed? Our minds have many corrupt ideas, only by internalizing truth based ideas can our minds be healed!

Read first paragraph, “The greatest barrier...” How do preconceived opinions create a barrier?

Our preconceived opinions are like filters which determine how we hear and understand data as it comes into our minds.

For instance, if we have the preconceived opinion that a person is an ISIS agent, will that impact how we hear what they are saying?

What are we have preconceived ideas about:

- God’s law
- What sin is
- Why sin is wrong

Will these preconceived ideas alter how we understand the plan of salvation and the purpose of the Cross?

Many of you have told me that you know people who reject what we teach because some person told them that I teach heresy. But these same people have come to believe what we teach and get excited about these very same truths when they hear it from someone else...why? Because their preconceived ideas taint their ability to evaluate the evidence for themselves.



SUNDAY

Imagine you were alive 2000 years ago, Jesus has been crucified, but is now risen from the dead. You are among the people to whom He has appeared—what would you like to ask Him?

- What can we do to hasten the end of sin?
- What was the earth like before sin?
- Are we in a time dilation field?
- What can I do to help?
- Can you fix me?
- What causes people to radiate light as they come into closer unity with you?
- Or would you simply like to give Jesus a hug and tell him you are sorry that He has had to suffer all that He has?

The last paragraph points out that even after the disciples had seen Jesus for themselves they needed something else before they were ready to go and evangelize the world—what? The indwelling of the Holy Spirit—why?

Here is how our church has taught about the Holy Spirit:

The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. **Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead,** who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. **It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature.** Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church. {DA 671.2}

Consider the battle between Christ and Satan:

- It started in heaven with Satan misrepresenting God's character by attacking the legitimacy of Jesus and the position Jesus held in heaven
- It spread to earth by attacking the trustworthiness of God
- After Adam sinned, God has been working to save humanity and Satan has been working to obstruct that work



- In OT times we see the back and forth between these forces working on the hearts of men. Satan seeking to get humanity to close their hearts to God—and thus obstruct God’s healing plan; and God working to win humanity back to trust in Him.
- We see when Jesus was born that Satan tried to have Him killed, but failed.
- Satan tempted Jesus but failed.
- Satan had Jesus killed, but failed to destroy Him and Jesus conquered death and every other obstacle and fixed what sin did to the species human. Jesus Christ is the Remedy to our terminal sin-condition!
- But now that Jesus has achieved the Remedy, the Remedy still needs application into the hearts/minds of sinful humans, without that application it doesn’t do us any good, so what is Satan’s strategy at this time in history?
- To get people to either accept a false remedy, which has no power to actually transform—they have a form of godliness but deny the power...
- OR—to deny the Agency through which the true Remedy is applied to the believer—to teach the Holy Spirit is not real, there is no Trinity.
 - This idea that there is no Holy Spirit undermine God’s character of love, as love cannot exist in a singularity (in fact a singularity is sometimes called a black hole, which sucks everything in and gives nothing back).
 - The idea that there is no Holy Spirit implants lies into the minds of human beings that prevent them from experiencing the indwelling Spirit, which would heal and transform them. After all, if you don’t believe there is a Holy Spirit would you ask God for the indwelling of the Spirit?
 - There is also another false remedy and that is accepting a counterfeit spirit which gives wonderful emotional experience, but doesn’t transform the character to be like Jesus’!

MONDAY

Pentecost—what happened at that first Pentecost after Christ’s resurrection?

The Holy Spirit came upon them and they saw something—what?

Streams of fire—what kind of fire? Did anyone get burned? Did the building catch fire? Was this the fire a fire of combustion?

How many streams? Two, why two? Any significance?



What are the two main attributes used to describe the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of....Truth and Love. The two streams were the streams of truth and love!

And what do truth and love do?

What does truth burn out? Lies!

What does love burn out? Selfishness!

From where does truth burn out lies and love burn out selfishness?

Do you see why we need the Holy Spirit?

Read bottom green section, “Some who had...” What is the power of God to change hearts?

What power is a power that never corrupts and never wears out and never corrodes?

Let’s examine this idea of power—what kinds of power are there?

- Coercive power of various kinds—physical power with threats, intimidation, punishment—is this type of power reliable? Will the use of this type of power to gain converts result in reliable, stable, trustworthy, unshakable followers? In other words if you get converts this way do they stay loyal, will they stand against all opposition? What will cause them to collapse?
 - A bigger threat!
 - Or a better inducement!
 - Love
- Inducing power—the power of bribes, payoffs, promotions, money and power, advancement, praise, adoration—does this power result in reliable, stable, trustworthy, unshakable outcomes? Will people stay loyal who follow for what they can get against any and all opposition? What will cause them to collapse?
 - A serious threat!
 - Or a better payoff!
 - Love
- The power of lies—deceit and deception, will getting people to join your cause based on lies result in predictable, reliable, trustworthy outcomes? Will people stay loyal against all opposition? What will cause them to collapse?
 - The truth—as the truth exposes the lies they will turn on you!
 - Will threats work? Not if they still value and believe the lie—consider those in cults and extremist groups



- Will bribes work? Not if they value and believe the lie
- Love—perhaps...love may cause one to act right but still believe the lie
- The power of love! To be loved and to love others genuinely more than self, does this result in reliable, stable, trustworthy, unshakable outcomes? Will those who follow be loyal against all opposition? What will cause them to collapse?
 - Lies—lies **believed** break the circle of love and trust!
- The power of Truth & Love—does truth combined with love result in something impenetrable? Yes—Lies cannot defeat understood and experienced truth, fear cannot overcome love founded upon truth! Only those who are partakers of God’s nature of truth and love, which is received through the indwelling Spirit of truth and love, are transformed into beings who are unshakable. They are sealed of God, which is being so settled into the truth, but intellectually and spiritually, that they cannot be moved.

Do you see again why we need the Holy Spirit?

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, “The priests...” What is happening? How do those who have gone on record, writing, preaching, speaking about a certain viewpoint react when their views are exposed as false?

If they are Christlike in character, they humble themselves, step back, correct their previous teachings and move forward in the truth. But, if they instead are driven by pride, by a need to justify themselves, to prove self right, they react with hostility and anger and seek to destroy the message and messenger who exposes their ideas as false.

Have any of you experienced this?

We have friends from all over the world who write us and tell us as they share these views about God’s true character of love in their churches certain people become angry, upset and begin attacking them and using authority or other intimidating tactics to try and stop the truth.

Our position has always been that the truth loses nothing by close investigation. We have no need to try and silence others, let them share their ideas, we are happy to discuss with them and share our ideas and let the people decide which is more reasonable, which is more evidenced based.

However, those who hold to positions for which the evidence doesn’t support get threatened at such an approach and instead will seek to silence those who teach truths that expose their errors.



WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, “The disciples...” Is this surprising? Is it surprising that those who oppose the truth would make up lies and spread them about Stephen? Why is this not surprising?

In fact, is this predictable?

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Mt 5:11,12

“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. Mt 24:9

How could Jesus predict this? Was it only because God lives outside time and can see the future? Or is there another reason He could predict this?

Can you predict what will happen if:

- I let go of this pen?
- A person smokes two packs of cigarettes per day?
- If a man cheats on his spouse?
- If someone violates liberty in a relationship?

God’s laws are constants upon which reality is built—understanding those laws and how they work, one can predict what will happen when someone violates those laws.

- It is predictable that selfish people will exploit others.
- It is predictable that when fear increases people who do not have love in their hearts become more selfish.
 - What happens in society when people are feeling scared for their lives? What happened in New Orleans after Katrina?
- It is predictable, that the more effectively we present God and His kingdom of love, the more those who hold to the other view will work to stop us.

Read bottom green section? “Sometimes we see...” Have you ever experienced evil? How do you understand it when it appears evil seems to win?



Understanding the nature and character of sin will prevent you from ever thinking evil can win—evil can never win, it is impossible, it would be like saying death results in better life, or disease brings better health, or sewage brings fresh water.

When you understand God’s design law, you understand that the person perpetrating evil is in a self-destructive spiral down, there is no good outcome for evil.

THURSDAY

Read Acts 10:9-16 (from the NIV):

⁹ About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. ¹³ Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.”

¹⁴ “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”

¹⁵ The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

¹⁶ This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

What is the lesson? Is this vision about food? What is it about?

Here it is from *The Remedy*:

⁹ The next day around noon, as they were approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to talk with God. ¹⁰ He was hungry, and smelling the aroma of the meal being cooked, was longing to eat. Just then, he had a vision ¹¹ in which he saw the skies open, and an object—that appeared to be a large sheet—being lowered to the earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained every known animal, reptile and bird. ¹³ A voice instructed him, “Peter, sacrifice any of these and eat.”

¹⁴ But Peter protested, “Lord, there must be some mistake! I have never sacrificed nor eaten anything impure or not on the approved script.”

¹⁵ The voice spoke to him again. “Don’t reject as ‘unapproved’ or ‘impure’ what God has healed and made clean.”



¹⁶This vision was repeated three times, and then the sheet disappeared into the sky.

What is the lesson being taught?

The bottom green asks, “First, how can we recognize the prejudices that we hold, and, second, in the power of God, how can we be purged of those prejudices?”

What power can purge us from prejudices? The power of truth and love!

What truth? That all human beings are descendants of Adam, and all of us are suffering with the same condition and all are in need of the same Remedy and that Remedy is found only in Jesus Christ!

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Jennings has been named a *Champion of Health* by True Health Broadcasting Network in association with Health Institute for Preventive Care, Access, Research and Education (HIPCARE) and True Health TV and will be presented with the “*Legacy Champion of Health*” award at a Gala on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC), Atlanta, Georgia.

This award is being presented to Dr. Jennings, as it states in the award letter, “because of your unselfish commitment to community health exemplified by your leadership in the community and as author of “*The God-shaped Brain*” and “*Could it be this Simple? A Biblical Model for Healing the Mind*”.

The God-Shaped Brain is now available in Korean and is available at this website: http://book.naver.com/bookdb/book_detail.nhn?bid=9519886

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings’ New Testament Paraphrase—FREE for ios and android systems.

The Journal of the Watcher is now available as a **HARD COVER book at Amazon** as well as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android, you can now get it in itunes. It is also available as an APP for Apple and Android devices.

February 20, 2016: Class will meet at Hamilton Community Church due to the Courthouse being unavailable.

March 11-12, 2016: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Village Church, Colleege Place, WA.

April 1-2, 2016: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Spring Branch Hispanic SDA church, Houston, TX.

The Remedy App Features (Be sure to close and reopen for updates)

1. Touch a verse and a blue button pops up at the bottom right corner of the screen. Touch the button to see a list of the following options you can do with a verse:
 1. Share the text via SMS text, email, social networks, etc.
 2. Add a note to the verse. If a note is added to a verse a yellow note pad icon will appear next to the verse. You can see a list of your verses with notes under the Notes menu at the bottom (2nd button from the right). You can also delete your notes by opening up the specific note and touching the Delete button at the top or you can edit your note too and touch the Save button to save the changes. You can search your notes’ text too by using the top search field on the notes screen.
 3. Bookmark the verse as a favorite. A red bookmark ribbon will appear next to the verse. You can access your bookmarked verses under the bookmark menu at the bottom of the



screen (2nd button from the left). On iOS you can delete your bookmarks here why swiping left on a line in the list of bookmarked verses.

4. Copy the verse' text to your clipboard.
5. Highlight the verse in different colors or delete the highlight by selecting the red X.
2. You can select multiple verses too by touching different ones and then touching the blue options button to see a list of options you can do with the list of verses you selected.
3. You can unselect a verse by touching it again and it will then become unselected.
4. Use the left and right arrows buttons at the bottom menu to go from chapter to chapter.
5. To search the Bible you can use the top right icon that brings up the search screen.
6. To see a list of settings for the app you can touch the gear icon on the top left. It will take you to the search screen which will let you change font size, turn on and off red letters for Christ's words, turn on and off nighttime reading mode (dark background), turn on and off paragraphs by showing 1 verse per line and turn on and off justified text. You can also share the app with friends via email, SMS text, social networks, etc. The Android version has a few more settings options too.
7. To go to a specific Bible reference touch the middle top menu of the app where the Bible book and chapter name text is located. It will then bring up a screen of a list of Bible books where you can select a book and drill down to a chapter and verse.
8. When you exit the app the app will save the last chapter you were reading.