



The Role of the Church in the Community Lesson 12 3Q 2016 Urban Ministry in the End Time

Lisa Wright, an online listener, emailed me this week with a Bible quote regarding the discussion we had on the fear of the Lord in class last week:

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." Proverbs 4:7. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Psalm 111:10. "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." Proverbs 8:13. {PK 34.2}

This is an excellent method of discernment, in addition to all the evidence we gave in class last week that to fear the Lord does not mean to be afraid, here is a Bible reference with an excellent definition. To fear the Lord is to be in awe of Him such that you hate everything that is opposed to Him and His character of love!

SABBATH

Read first paragraph, "The three angels'..." Can someone tell me what the three angels messages are? What they mean?

Here is a description from EGW, one of the founders of the SDA church:

The proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages has been located by the Word of Inspiration... {CTr 338.2}

The first and second messages [Revelation 14:6-8] were given in 1843 and 1844, and we are now under the proclamation of the third; but all three of the messages are still to be proclaimed. It is just as essential now as ever before that they shall be repeated to those who are seeking for the truth. By pen and voice we are to sound the proclamation, showing their order and the application of the prophecies that bring us to the third angel's message. There cannot be a third without the first and second. . . . {CTr 338.3}

"Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.⁷ He said in a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.'" This message, if heeded, **will call the attention of every nation and kindred and tongue and people to a close examination of the Word, and to the true light in regard to the power that has changed the seventh-day Sabbath to a spurious sabbath.** . . . The Sabbath memorial, declaring who



the living God is, the **Creator** of the heavens and the earth, has been torn down, and a spurious sabbath has been given to the world in its place. **Thus a breach has been made in the law** of God... {CTr 338.5}

In the first angel's message people are called upon **to worship God, our Creator**, who made the world and all things that are therein. . . The message proclaimed by the angel flying in the midst of heaven **is the everlasting gospel**, the same gospel that was declared in Eden when God said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed." Manuscript 32, 1896 (Manuscript Releases, vol. 17, pp. 6, 7). {CTr 338.6}

What did you hear?

First question are we now in the time of the three angels? Or are we in the time of the fourth angel? What is the fourth angel?

Revelation 18:1-3:

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ² And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying,

Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen,
And is become the habitation of devils,
And the hold of every foul spirit,
And a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

³ For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication,
And the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her,
And the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

And from EGW:

The three angels' messages are to be combined, giving their threefold light to the world. In the Revelation, John says, "I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory."... **This represents the giving of the last and threefold message of warning to the world.** {Mar 173.5}

Revelation 18 points to the time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6-12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be **called upon to separate from her communion. This message is the last that will ever be given to the world**; and it will accomplish its work. When those that "believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:12), **shall be left to receive strong delusion** and to believe a lie, then the **light of truth will shine upon all whose hearts are open to receive it**,



and all the children of the Lord that remain in Babylon will heed the call: "Come out of her, my people" (Revelation 18:4). {Mar 173.6}

The light that we have upon the third angel's message is the true light. The mark of the beast is exactly what it has been proclaimed to be. **All in regard to this matter is not yet understood, and will not be understood until the unrolling of the scroll,** but a most solemn work is to be accomplished in our world. {CTr 350}

So, while we are to give the message of the 3 angels, that message was originally given over a century ago, and Revelation describes its original presentation in Revelation 14. But, in Revelation 18, that message is to be given again—a combined message in which all the pieces fit together in a way not previously given, and which result in a coming out of the systems that misrepresent God.

So, what is the message for today? What are the matters regarding the three angels that were not yet understood in EGW's day?

What is the message to call people out, what message are people to recognize and see?

- That God is Creator, Designer, Builder of reality and His laws are the laws upon which reality is built. We are to give glory to Him, by being healed in our characters to be like Him and live out His law of love, because the time in human history has come for human beings to make a right judgment about God! (first angel)
- The other churches and religions of the world are fallen into a system of imposed law, arbitrary rules and legal theology with a punishing God, just like Babylon; it is a system that doesn't make sense and is confusing. And it is this *POWER* (the power of imposed law) that changed the Sabbath. This is the issue—what God do we serve, the God who creates and whose law is design protocol, or the god who is a dictator and whose laws are no different than human laws, imposed rules coercively enforced. This is the issue of which the Sabbath is only a sign, not the specific problem. We are to come out of her. (second angel)
- And those who reject the God who is love and His law of love, and prefer the beastly methods of human imposed law constructs, and mark themselves in their minds by believing and promoting the methods of coercion, or mark themselves by their works of practicing the methods of coercion, will ultimately die of their terminal and unhealed selfish condition—regardless of which day they worship upon. (third angel)

Read first paragraph, "Cities bring together..." Does it depend on the city? Do you think there is greater tolerance for new ideas in Mecca or Tehran?

What is the message the SDA church is to take to the world?



Does the corporate SDA church today take a message to the world that is different than the message found in any other evangelical church? If so how?

Was the SDA church founded to take a picture of God to the world and His law to the world that is different than what is found in other religions, including other Christian religions? How?

But has the SDA church become infected with the same false law construct, and therefore has ended up presenting the same distorted view of God as the rest of the world? To the degree we present penal substitution, with God's law as imposed and God as the source of imposed punishment, requiring legal payment not to kill us, we present the same infection as every other false religion.

But is there a remnant group of people who have remained loyal to the testimony of Jesus, the testimony Jesus gave about His Father, "if you have seen me you have seen the Father" and who have come back to worship Him who made the heaven, earth and sea? They worship the Creator, Designer and Builder by not only recognizing His memorial to Creation, but actually living in harmony with His design for life and thus they give Him glory by revealing His character of love in their lives? They present the truth in love and leave others free—they never use coercion. They never seek to get governments to enforce their religious views on others!

In the second paragraph, talking about Paul, the lesson states, "He taught in the synagogue until he was kicked out, and then he started a house church in the home of a believer."

Why was he kicked out? What was Paul doing that caused them to kick him out? Was he denying the existence of God? Was he denying Moses or anything Moses taught? What was the reason they kicked him out? Was he upsetting their traditions and traditional interpretations of Scripture?

Is this unusual today? Or is it common that when people bring truth to church that is contrary to long held tradition, that most of the time people reject the truth and kick out those bringing it?

MONDAY

Second paragraph states, "In the city, there is more of everything—more people more buildings, more traffic, and more problems."

Perhaps I show my conditioning as a psychiatrist and am being too picky. But I am very sensitive to absolutists thinking and all or nothing statements, and I know the lessons author's meant nothing untoward by it, but when I read the statement about more of everything in the city, I thought, *more fields? more farmers? more cattle and sheep? more trees? more wildlife? more nature walks? more fresh air? more quiet places?*

The lesson rightly points out that our world is a hurting place, groaning under the weight of sin.



Do we get numb to the pain, suffering, hurt? How must God feel every day? When I watch something on TV that portrays some of the evil that has been perpetrated throughout history I often think how hard it must be for God to see it, whether it is:

- The Old Testament slavery, captivity, brutality
- The Crucifixion of Christ
- The martyrs throughout history
- The Crusades
- The Witch Trials
- The Holocaust
- Or wars, gang violence, sexual predators and trafficking of people

I just get sick and think, how God's heart must ache. How God must long to bring an end. But God waits; waiting for a people to get ready, waiting for a group who actually knows Him so they can effectively take the Remedy to sin to the world.

Revelation 7 describes the angel from the East telling the four angels to hold until an event happens—until God's spokespersons are sealed in their foreheads. This represents a group of people coming to the truth about God, His methods and His design law for life, and becoming so settled into this truth both cognitively—in their understanding—but also in their character, in what they love and practice, that nothing can shake them from it. And when this happens, then the four winds are loosed, which cause the most horrible upheaval in nature and governments, which shake the sleeping world out of its slumber and God's spokespersons present the truth to them and from their witness a great multitude beyond counting responds and is saved.

So, what is God waiting for? For YOU! and for ME! For US, to become ready, settled, so that we can be His witnesses, to effectively tell the truth about Him to the world. Then the end will come!

This is also the message of the cleansing of the sanctuary.

- What is the sanctuary? You and me
- What contaminated it? Lies about God (remember Paul's description in Thessalonians that a man of sin would arise and set himself up in God's temple proclaiming himself to be God.)
- And how is it cleansed, by what? By the truth about God, revealed in Christ, which restores to trust, and in trust we open the heart and the Spirit comes in and takes all Christ achieved and reproduces in us a character like His—one that loves others more than self!

WEDNESDAY

The lesson points out that we are relational beings and that to be effective we must make it personal, we must relate and connect to others.



We have spoken a lot over the years of the law of love, the principle of giving, of other-centeredness which transcends relationships and is found in all aspects of creation, from the air we breathe, water we drink and food we eat.

But I have been thinking more about this and have come to realize that there is more yet to the power of love, the giving of ourselves, the purposeful choice to care for another, the focused, willful good intention toward another. This love of the will, the love coming from the self, the actual real conscious concern for another is not only part of God's healing plan, but vital to it. It is the avenue, the conduit through which God's healing love flows from God to us and out from us to others.

Remember what Jesus said to the woman at the well?

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." Jn 4:13,14

The water of life is a metaphor for love—when we experience God's love, being loved it changes us and overflows and fills us and we love others.

The power of love was in all Christ's healing, and only by partaking of that love, through faith, can we be instruments for His work. If we neglect to link ourselves in divine connection with Christ, the current of life-giving energy cannot flow in rich streams from us to the people. There were places where the Saviour Himself could not do many mighty works because of their unbelief. So now unbelief separates the church from her divine Helper. Her hold upon eternal realities is weak. By her lack of faith, God is disappointed and robbed of His glory. {Counsels on Health 31.3}

What do you hear? What is the power of love? Is the power of love and the current of life-giving energy the same?

Consider this quotation:

Love is power. Intellectual and moral strength are involved in this principle, and cannot be separated from it. The power of wealth has a tendency to corrupt and destroy; the power of force is strong to do hurt; **but the excellence and value of pure love consist in its efficiency to do good, and to do nothing else than good.** {Letters to Young Lovers 31.3}

Whatsoever is done out of pure love, be it ever so little or contemptible in the sight of men, **is wholly fruitful;** for God regards more with how much love one works than the amount he does. {LYL 32.1}



Love is of God. The unconverted heart cannot originate nor produce this plant of heavenly growth, which lives and flourishes only where Christ reigns.... {LYL 32.2}

Love works not for profit nor reward; yet God has ordained that great gain shall be the certain result of every labor of love. It is diffusive in its nature and quiet in its operation, yet strong and mighty in its purpose to overcome great evils. It is melting and transforming in its influence, and will take hold of the lives of the sinful and affect their hearts when every other means has proved unsuccessful. {LYL 32.3}

Wherever the power of intellect, of authority, or of force is employed, and love is not manifestly present, the affections and will of those whom we seek to reach assume a defensive, repelling position, and their strength of resistance is increased. {LYL 33.1}

Pure love is simple in its operations, and is distinct from any other principle of action. The love of influence and the desire for the esteem of others may produce a well-ordered life and frequently a blameless conversation. Self-respect may lead us to avoid the appearance of evil. A selfish heart may perform generous actions, acknowledge the present truth, and express humility and affection in an outward manner, yet the motives may be deceptive and impure; the actions that flow from such a heart may be destitute of the savor of life and the fruits of true holiness, being destitute of the principles of pure love. {LYL 33.2}

Love should be cherished and cultivated, for its influence is divine. {LYL 33.3}

What do you hear? What is being described? Is love more than sentiment?

We discussed quantum entanglement, and that all things in the universe are connected by invisible strings, and thus we can affect others at any distance, through the quantum connections. But, it seems this influence requires love and other-centered intention to be actionable.

Now is there science to support this? Remember the DNA experiments we discussed a few weeks back?

An interesting study was done by Dr. Rollin McCraty and colleagues. They had individuals trained to focus their intention with love and goodwill. They took human DNA from placentas and had the trained individuals focus with love and good will on vials containing the human DNA with the intention to either have the DNA wind itself tighter or to unwind looser. This can be measured by how much UV light the vials absorb. The more tightly wound the more light is absorbed. They were able to measure a 25% change in DNA conformation from these mental intention.

Now it gets more interesting—when the individuals would generate the same feelings of love and good will, but not focus attention on changing the DNA configuration, no change in the DNA occurred. And even more profound—when they focused intention but without love and goodwill, no DNA change occurred. It required both a focused intention AND the mobilization of love and



goodwill emotions. How could they tell if the participants were generating love and goodwill emotions? By measuring heart rate variability, love emotions produce coherence, whereas hate, anger, negative emotions produce large fluctuations.

In a follow on study, to determine if this was perhaps a general electromagnetic field effect, or something that was more focused. Researchers had three vials with the DNA placed side by side and had the participants focus on changing the DNA conformation in two of the vials, but not the third—and—only the two the participants focused on showed the DNA change. Finally, researches had five different experiments in which the DNA vials were a half mile from the participants, and the same DNA changes occurred when the participants focused with intent and love. All of these studies reached statistical significant levels of change. (McCraty, 2003 *Modulation of DNA conformation by heart-focused intention* p. 6, Boulder Creek, CA: Institute of HeartMath)

Do you find this a little too bizarre to think it could be real? Consider this quote from EGW:

The striking feature of **divine operations** is the accomplishment of the greatest work that can be done in our world by very simple means. It is God's plan that **every part of His government shall depend on every other part, the whole as a wheel within a wheel**, working with entire harmony. He moves upon human forces, causing His Spirit to touch **invisible chords, and the vibration rings to the extremity of the universe.**--Manuscript 22, 1897. {Ev 93.1}

When we think about how love works, does it require the active, willful participation of intelligent beings? And what is the result on the person who is the agent of love?

Notice this quote:

And he who seeks to give light to others will himself be blessed. "There shall be showers of blessing." "He that watereth shall be watered also himself." Proverbs 11:25. **God could have reached His object in saving sinners without our aid; but in order for us to develop a character like Christ's, we must share in His work.** In order to enter into His joy,—the joy of seeing souls redeemed by His sacrifice,—we must participate in His labors for their redemption. {DA 142}

This is how we are changed—by beholding Christ we are won to trust, in trust we open the heart and partake of His love, His presence, and then this love flows out from us to others. And then we become agents for good in the world.

However, we only are effective as we are connected to Christ and the love flows outward. If we disconnect from Christ, and instead of approaching relationships with love to give, we approach relationships with fear, insecurity, in need, then we often end up taking instead of giving...



Multiple studies show that people who give of themselves—volunteer—to help others, live longer, have less disability, less depression, less dementia and stay out of nursing homes longer than those who do not volunteer. Love is the life blood, the energy upon which life is built in God’s universe. Harmony with it is healing, breaking love is destructive.

TUESDAY

Sewing and Reaping—the lesson talks about methods to effectively reach people and uses the metaphor of farming. It points out that not all “soil” is the same. Some soil needs to have trees removed, other rocks, other soil is depleted of various nutrients and needs fertilizing etc.

How do we apply this metaphor to evangelism?

In my residency I was taught the same principle with a different metaphor, the metaphor of golf. In golf there is a rule: you play the ball where it lies. What this means for the non-golfers, is that you can’t move the ball out of the rough, or the sand or from behind a tree to a better position to give yourself an easier shot. Likewise, we start with people where they are. And it is important to use the proper approach.

In golf, if the ball is in the rough or sand it is not a good idea to use a driver or putter, it is better to use the club appropriate for the situation. Likewise, when dealing with people, we must use the intervention that is best for where they are, not the intervention we are the most practiced at using.

And in golf our goal is to move the ball in a positive direction, so too with people we do have a goal to move people to bring about a change so they don’t remain in the same position as where we found them. But the most effective way to do that is to accurately assess them, their situation, their mindset, their biases, their way of thinking, the obstacles in their mind that obstructs the truth from reaching them and then approaching them with the most effective intervention available to you.

Any examples of different types of soil?

- What about a person who has never heard of God, versus a professor of theology teaching a false view of God?
- What about a person who has rejected God because of some trauma or bad experience in their life?
- What about a person who was raised in a legal religion, practices all the rules, but only found fear, insecurity and problems in life that the rules didn’t answer?
- What about those with sickness that has not gotten better despite praying for relief?
- What about those so busy with life they don’t have time for religion?
- What about those who believe in science and have concluded God doesn’t exist?



THURSDAY

Read third paragraph, “According to the Word, Christ’s death was universal: it encompassed all humanity, from Adam and Eve down and all who followed.”

What does this mean?

While they use the term universal, they seem to confine it to humanity. But, Col 1:19,20 states:

God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

So the entire universe was involved in Christ’s victory at the cross. But what does it mean that Christ’s death encompassed all humanity?

Will all be saved?

Here is Romans 5:12-19 from *The Remedy*:

¹²Therefore, the infection of distrust of God—which deformed humanity's heart and mind with selfishness and fear, and which results only in death—infected the human race when Adam accepted Satan's lies about God and broke trust with him. This infection of fear and selfishness is inherited by all human beings, so all are born infected. ¹³This is revealed by the fact that before the written law was given, the infection of distrust, fear and selfishness was already present in the world. But this infection of distrust, fear and selfishness is not diagnosable without the law. ¹⁴Nevertheless, even without being diagnosed as infected with this terminal condition, humans still died, all the way from the time of Adam to Moses—even those who did not break a specific command, like Adam did—revealing that the problem is the infected state of our minds and not a legal issue with God. Adam, the first man, being the conduit through which the infection entered humanity, also represents the one man who is the conduit of the antidote that cures all those who accept it.

¹⁵But the gift of the antidote is not like the infection. For if everyone is born infected with a terminal condition because of the choice of Adam, how incredibly effective must the antidote supplied by Christ be, since it cures all who take it! ¹⁶Again, the gift of the antidote is not like the result of the breach of trust. Adam's breach of trust infected all humanity, therefore all humanity is diagnosed as sick and dying. This occurred without each individual choosing to be infected; but the antidote, which came after humanity had been severely damaged and deformed by selfishness and sin, brought cleansing, purification, health, and complete restoration. ¹⁷If—by the choice of one man's distrust—selfishness and death permeated all



humanity, how much more will those who accept the Remedy that Christ has achieved experience restored trust and complete healing to live forever with God!

¹⁸Therefore, just as Adam's distrust infected humanity with the fatal condition of fear and selfishness, so too Christ's choice to sacrifice self achieved the life-giving Remedy for all humanity.¹⁹Just as Adam's choice infected the human race with a terminal condition, so too Christ's perfect life has brought the Remedy to heal all who accept it.

FRIDAY

read and discuss questions



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 in itunes. It is also available as an APP for Apple and Android devices.

September 15-17: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC National Conference in Dallas, TX. For more info, see AACC.net

October 14-16: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Drakensville, South Africa Campmeeting.

October 19, 20: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Ladismith South Africa (venue to be determined)

October 21, 22: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Somerset West, South Africa

November 4: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC Fall Summit at the Calvary Chapel in Naperville, IL.