



Stewardship Motives of the Heart Lesson 7 1Q 2018

Honesty With God presented by Tim Jennings (Announcements at end)

SABBATH

Read memory text: “But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.” Luke 8:15

What does it mean?

In this text, with what are we honest to be about? The word, which is both the truth and Jesus, who is the Word made flesh.

What does it mean to be honest with the word?

Does it mean:

- We must have the correct definitions for Bible imagery, metaphor, and prophecy?
- We must have the correct doctrines?

Doesn't it simply mean that we genuinely seek to comprehend the true meaning and embrace it, choose it and apply it to our lives as soon as we are capable of doing so?

In other words, it isn't about what we actually know, but what attitude we have when approaching the word.

Why is this important?

Is there a connection between truth and cleansing from sin?

Jesus said “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” (Jn 8:32)

What does this mean? From what does the truth free us?

Do the things we believe have any bearing on our salvation?

How and why?

What is salvation? It is healing or restoration into Godlikeness—can we do this in our own strength? No! We receive healing, i.e. restoration, renewal, writing of the law on the heart and mind, via the work of God through the achievements of Christ and the actions of the Holy Spirit.



But, what is the method or gateway God utilizes to bring about this healing in each of us individually? What is the avenue into your heart and my heart?

It is your good judgment, which is the combined faculties of reason and conscience. This avenue is how truth gains entry into our thoughts and we then think through and choose to form our beliefs or not. And our beliefs shape our values, our perspectives, attitudes, brain circuits, and ultimately how we process and understand new facts and truths.

This is why the Bible says “Come let us reason together...” Isa 1:18

Jesus is the Word made flesh, as we partake of the truth Jesus revealed it becomes our thoughts, which form our beliefs, which become filters we use to understand and make sense of our lives, what is happening, from where we find meaning, purpose—all of this shapes who we are and are becoming.

The brain responds and changes based on the thoughts we think, the beliefs we hold, the God we worship. The brain does not form our thoughts, or beliefs. The brain will rewire its circuitry to form patterns of thinking, or constructs of information processing based on our choices through life. These pathways become like filters or lenses that are automated and we will initially see information through the historic methods of processing.

These pathways can and do change as we change our understanding, beliefs, perspectives.

What makes you uniquely you is a combination of your physical self and your habituated methods and patterns of thinking, the beliefs you choose to hold and form, and your memories. The most important elements are the habituated methods of thinking, your beliefs and memories, the physical self is the least important and this is why we can get a new physical self at the second coming, but we don't get a new character at the second coming. The character must be formed here and now.

This is part of the salvation process, taking individuals who are habituated in selfishness, in fear, in exploitation of others, who have beliefs that increase fear and undermine love, who have memories of either being mistreated that cause resentment, anger, desire for retaliation, or memories that cause shame, guilt, loss of value of self, feelings of worthlessness, and through the application of truth and love changing the firing patterns, replacing false beliefs with truths, and reprocessing memories to form healthier and more truthful conclusions and meanings about self and the world around.

In this way we become renewed, healed, transformed to have character like Christ. This is not a work we can do on our own, because

- the truth only originates in God
- the ability to understand that truth is from the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit
- the restless desire for something more is the work of the Holy Spirit
- the pure motives, peace, love, kindness, forgiveness, etc. are gifts of pure character wrought out by Jesus and given to us via the Spirit as the truth wins us to trust in Him and we invite



Him into our lives. The Spirit takes perfection of Christ and we bond with Him, we unite with Him in our inmost being and we become One just as Jesus prayed:

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Jn 17:20-23

With this in mind, lets examine a little more what honesty is.

Read first paragraph, “What is an honest...” Do you think circumstances matter, or are we supposed to be 100% honest at all times?

Have you ever misled someone, not just withheld information, but misled them in order to give them a surprise party? Is this sin?

I remember as a child reading *The Hiding Place*, the famous story of Corrie Ten Boom and hiding the Jews. When the Nazi’s came in and asked if they were hiding any Jews—do you remember how it was presenting as not lying because they said the Jews were under the table, when the Jews were hiding in a cellar beneath the floor, under a rug, under the table?

- Were they lying?
- Was the answer given intended to be truthful, to give accurate information in answer to the Nazi soldiers, to actually give them the knowledge they were seeking or was it intended to obfuscate and mislead?

This was a classic level four method of lying by telling a partial truth and as a child I learned that it was okay to deceive as long as one does it with some truthful statement.

Rahab—you know the story, if you were one of those spies hiding in her place and the city guard comes and questions her are praying, “Dear Lord, please be with Rahab right now. We know she doesn’t know you as we do, but please lead her to speak truthfully at this moment?”

Hmmm....

What if a person, in a situation like Corrie Ten Boom or Rahab, believes that their lying is wrong, but would rather sacrifice their own life and be eternally lost than assist in killing another person...are they out of harmony with God or in harmony?

Well, if you value the Bible and read Hebrews, one would have to conclude that they are in harmony—that God isn’t concerned primarily with the behavior, but with the heart motive for the



behavior.

Now, nowhere do we find God commending Rahab for lying; she is commended for acting in trust, faith, and for putting self in harms way to protect others.

Regarding whether misleading with truthful statements is lying, here is one person's perspective—do you agree?

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." {PP 309.2}

False speaking in any matter, every attempt or purpose to deceive our neighbor, is here included. An *intention* to deceive is what constitutes falsehood. By a glance of the eye, a motion of the hand, an expression of the countenance, a falsehood may be told as effectually as by words. All intentional overstatement, every hint or insinuation calculated to convey an erroneous or exaggerated impression, **even the statement of facts in such a manner as to mislead, is falsehood.** *This precept forbids every effort to injure our neighbor's reputation by misrepresentation or evil surmising, by slander or tale bearing.* Even the intentional suppression of truth, by which injury may result to others, is a violation of the ninth commandment. {PP 309.3}

What does the commandment actually say, "Thou shall not bear false witness *against* thy neighbor."

And the author above uses the same caveat, the precept forbids every effort to *injure* our neighbor. Thus, again is it primarily about the factual accuracy of the statement or the intention of the statement? Can one make truthful and factual statements that are intended to mislead and injure others? Would such truthful statements be right or wrong?

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "One thing most..." When you hear "dishonesty" what do you think? What does this mean to you?

What is your concern about people when you think of dishonesty? Is it merely they were not honest, or do you hear within the concept of dishonesty, exploitation, someone seeking to harm, to take advantage?

So if you had a surprise party thrown for you, and you thought you were going to one event but instead you find yourself at a party for you; do you, once the party is sprung, believe you have been sinned against? Do you experience yourself as wronged, exploited or injured? Why or why not? If not, do you realize that you were deceived, but no sin happened—why? Because no harm was intended nor perpetrated against you.



Did God’s prophets ever use methods of deception, i.e. told falsehoods, made up stories, lied?

By the word of the Lord one of the sons of the prophets said to his companion, “Strike me with your weapon”... Then the prophet went and stood by the road waiting for the king. He disguised himself with his headband down over his eyes. [Note, how was the prophet wounded? By self directing another person to wound him.]³⁹ As the king passed by, the prophet called out to him, “Your servant went into the thick of the battle, and someone came to me with a captive and said, ‘Guard this man. If he is missing, it will be your life for his life, or you must pay a talent of silver.’⁴⁰ While your servant was busy here and there, the man disappeared.” “That is your sentence,” the king of Israel said. “You have pronounced it yourself.”

⁴¹ Then the prophet quickly removed the headband from his eyes, and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets. ⁴² He said to the king, “This is what the Lord says: ‘You have set free a man I had determined should die. Therefore it is your life for his life, your people for his people.’ ” ⁴³ Sullen and angry, the king of Israel went to his palace in Samaria. 1Kings 20:35-43

Was the prophet honest with the king about what had happened to him? Was this a violation of the Commandment?

The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³ but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

⁴ “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

⁵ David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die! ⁶ He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

⁷ Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! 2Sam 12:1-7

Who sent Nathan to David? Was Nathan truthful about the situation he was bringing before David and why he was bringing it? Was this a violation of the Commandment?

Why is neither of these examples of misleading a violation of the Commandment? Because the commandment is about dishonesty that injures another—in these cases the deception was designed to remove the self-deception and bring truth to bear in the hearts of the two kings!



Level four and below people operate upon rules and cannot process on this level. They will argue that what I am saying is subtle deception, for them life is easier with black and white rules. They prefer to be able to simply speak truths regardless of the injury to others resting safe in “What I said was true.”

Now, what about honesty or dishonesty to children?

How about this situation:

A 12-year-old child is asked to either do special music or read a Scripture for church. They do a very poor job, either many wrong notes, or misreads words, slowly sounds them out, getting words wrong. But when they finish the church applauds and the adults on stage say “Good job. Well done.”

- Are they being honest with the child?
- Is there any danger labeling poor performance as good performance?
- Do children of a certain age know whether they played or read well or not?
- What happens in the child’s mind when in their judgment, because the notes were off, because they stumbled and didn’t know some of the words, they conclude that they didn’t do well, but the adults they look up to say “Good job! Well done”?
- Are we being honest?

What about in school when everyone gets a participation award?

Are we being honest in society when we tell people that if you get upset about something it is because someone else was not sensitive enough to your needs and they didn’t create a safe space for you to flourish?

What did Jesus say we should expect from others?

“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

Are we honest with young people if we tell them they have a right that people conform their behavior to not upset them?

Where is the line between our responsibility to be kind, honest, caring people never seeking to injure, offend, harm another, and being held hostage to the way someone else may interpret our actions?

Do we help people to mature, or do we create a falsehood, a false understanding of reality when we lead people to believe that their hurt feelings are not their own responsibility, but the fault of an insensitive society?

What did Jesus teach?



But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Mt 5:44,45

If we want to follow Jesus we want to deal honestly with the word, to lead people to the truth of how reality actually works. And notice what example Jesus gives about being like the Father, God causes the sun to rise and the rain to fall on the evil and the good—this is design law, the laws of God are constants and never change.

- We are to understand reality, God’s kingdom and realize that when people mistreat us, they are showing sickness in their own heart and mind (from abundance of heart mouth speaks)
- if we love them we don’t take it personally, we pray as Jesus did “Father forgive them...”
- We choose, in governance of self to stay in harmony with God, with life, with the only method that heals and restores.
- But, when we go down the “my rights” approach and demand others conform to meet our needs, we move out of harmony with God, and promote the principles of selfishness which always results in division.

Are we being honest in our society today?

The lesson really wants us to focus on the Tithe, so let’s turn to that subject, read last paragraph, “No appeal is made...” What is the purpose of tithe?

Isn’t the tithe purposed for the gospel ministry?

To whom is tithe to be paid?

Is the tithe only to be paid to institutional churches, or is it to be used wherever God impresses you to place it for the spreading of the gospel?

Well here is one person’s view, see if you agree with her view of the tithe and how it is to be used and where it is to go?

“There are ministers' wives... who have been devoted, earnest, whole-souled workers, giving Bible readings and praying with families, helping along by personal efforts just as successfully as their husbands. These women give their whole time, and are told that they receive nothing for their labors because their husbands receive wages. I tell them to go forward and all such decisions will be revised. The Word says, "The labourer is worthy of his hire." Luke 10:7. When any such decision as this is made, I will, in the name of the Lord, protest. **I will feel it my duty to create a fund from my tithe money to pay these women who are accomplishing just as essential work as the ministers are doing, and this tithe I will reserve for work in the same line as that of the ministers, hunting for souls, fishing for**



souls.{DG 106.1}

It has been presented to me for years [by whom?] that my tithe was to be appropriated by myself to aid the white and colored ministers who were neglected and did not receive sufficient [income to] properly to support their families... {2MR 99.3}

I have myself appropriated my tithe to the most needy cases brought to my notice. I have been instructed to do this, and as the money is not withheld from the Lord's treasury, [wait, it wasn't being given to the organized church, yet was not withheld from the Lord's treasury, why?] it is not a matter that should be commented upon, for it will necessitate my making known these matters, which I do not desire to do, because it is not best. {2MR 99.5}

Some cases have been kept before me for years, and I have supplied their needs from the tithe, as God has instructed me to do. And if any person shall say to me, Sister White, will you appropriate my tithe where you know it is most needed, I shall say, Yes, I will; and I have done so... {2MR 100.1}

What is the purpose of the tithe? To whom is it to be paid?

MONDAY

The Life of Faith—what is that? What is faith?

Trust, and upon what is trust based?

What in your life increases your trust, confidence and faith in another person?

Would it be experience with them? What kind of experiences increase your trust in them?

I propose there are four elements necessary for one to experience healthy trust or faith:

1. The other person genuinely loves you more than self, and would sacrifice self for you.
2. The other person has demonstrated mature self-governance, the ability to be reliable and consistent in carrying out what they have said they will do.
3. The other person possesses genuine wisdom or understanding of how reality actually works and operates in harmony with design law

(First three together constitute someone who is genuinely trustworthy—so trustworthiness is the requirement)

4. You come to actually know that other person for yourself and thus experience 1,2 and 3 for yourself. You have been in situations in which you have experienced the other person coming



through for you.

Are there elements that I might have missed?

Consider the problems when only a part of these elements are involved:

- A person who loves you more than self and would sacrifice self for you, but they are 5 or 10 years old? While their motives are trustworthy, they haven't yet matured to self-mastery and cannot be trusted
- A person who loves you more than self, and who does have self-governance, but believes in an imperial god, with imposed rules and rigidly applies those rules. Can you trust them to do what is right in every situation, even though they have right motives?

Do these three elements bear upon our trust or faith in God?

So what do we make of Heb 12:2:

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

What does this mean?

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph, "After all, anyone..." Tithe paying can absolutely be an expression of faith, but does that mean tithe pay is always an expression of faith?

Saying it another way, can people pay tithe without faith?

Are there spiritual blessings from paying tithe? What?

- Actively reminds us of the source of all blessings
- Puts us in active partnership with God
- Keeps us humble
- Practices honesty and integrity by returning an honest 10%
- Exercises faith in God by trusting Him when finances are tight
- others?

WEDNESDAY

Read second paragraph, "We do not make tithe holy..." What is the purpose of the tithe? For what task?

The promotion of the gospel?



Revelation 14 says that at the end of time the eternal gospel is to go to the world—what is that gospel message?

What do you think of this description?

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; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel." Here was the first promise of a Saviour that would stand on the field of battle to contest the power of Satan and prevail against him. **Christ came to our world to represent the character of God as it is represented in His holy law; for His law is a transcript of His character. Christ was both the law and the gospel. The angel that proclaims the everlasting gospel proclaims the law of God; for the gospel of salvation brings man to obedience of the law, whereby their characters are formed after the divine similitude...** {1MR 44.2} [What law? Design or imposed? Do we form different characters if we adhere to different laws? Why?]

Satan has been persevering and untiring in his efforts to prosecute the work he began in heaven, to change the law of God. [Can God's law be changed? Why not? It is design law, so what does Satan do? He is the Father of lies and changes how we conceive or understand God's law from design law to imposed law] He has succeeded in making the world believe the theory he presented in heaven before his fall, **that the law of God was faulty, and needed revising.** [What kind of law can be revised?] **A large part of the professed Christian church, by their attitude, if not by their words, show that they have accepted the same error.** [Meaning? That they have accepted the lie that God's law functions like human law] But if in one jot or tittle the law of God has been changed, Satan has gained on earth that which he could not gain in heaven. He has prepared his delusive snare, hoping to take captive the church and the world. But not all will be taken in the snare. **A line of distinction is being drawn between the children of obedience and the children of disobedience, the loyal and true and the disloyal and untrue.** Two great parties are developed, the worshipers of the beast and his image, and the worshipers of the true and living God. {1MR 45.3}

What if we are giving our tithe to organizations that are not taking the gospel to the world?

With that question in mind turn to...

THURSDAY

Read second paragraph, "Revival and reformation...." What do we want to accomplish in light of the 3 Angels, revival or to reshape, rebuild, reform the church?



Do you believe the church needs reformation?

What need to happen to complete the reformation started in the 15th Century?

The next paragraph states, “Revival and reformation demand a commitment, and tithing is part of that commitment. If we hold back from God what He asks of us, we cannot expect Him to respond to what we ask of Him.”

What might this inadvertently suggest? Could it suggest the idea that tithing is a deal with God? If we pay our tithe then God will respond to what we ask of Him?

Is tithe paying a prerequisite to praying to God?

Is God unwilling to listen to those who don't pay tithe?

Is God unwilling to respond to those who don't pay tithe?

If we don't pay tithe could it undermine the response we would otherwise receive from God? How?

If we take any action that causes us to live in fear, guilt, insecurity, shame; if we sear our consciences, then are we as receptive to God? Are we as capable of hearing or seeing God's answers? Are we as likely to appreciate and accept God's answers?

FRIDAY

read and discuss questions



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SABBATH MARCH 3, 2018 CLASS will meet at the **Hamilton Community Church at 10:20 a.m.** We will be back at the Courthouse the following week.

March 24, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at the California Baptist University in San Bernardino CA, in conjunction with the AACC

May 4-5, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at Grace Fellowship, York PA, in conjunction with the AACC

July 27-28, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentation at New Life Church, Colorado Springs CO, in conjunction with the AACC

September 27-29, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Mega National Conference of the American Association of Christian Counselors in Dallas, TX

In partnership with Come and Reason Ministries and Hixson United Methodist Church

Mental Health Matters

Community Gatherings for Help, Hope and Healing

The Developing Brain Thursday, February 8, 2018

Environment, experience, and choice alter human DNA and impact brain structure and function. Learn how traumatic experience, diet, addictive substances, television, healthy nurturing and even belief in God alter our, genes, brain structure and brain function. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

Neurobiology of Depression and Drug Free Treatments Thursday, March 8, 2018

Depression is a complex disorder with alterations in both brain and body, loss of brain volume with altered brain circuits and even change in genetic expression? Discover how you can minimize your risk of depression and make changes in your daily routines that can protect your brain. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

Addictions and the Adolescent Brain Thursday, April 12, 2018

Adolescence is a time of marked vulnerability to addictions. Explore the brain's reward pathway, healthy activities which activate this pathway and how addictions hijack normal reward circuitry and damage the brain. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

The Mind- God's Design & What Went Wrong Thursday, May 10, 2018

The human mind was designed with separate and distinct faculties to operate in a beautiful harmony. Something has damaged that balance and caused pain, suffering and illness. Discover God's design for the mind, what went wrong and how to restore balance to your mind. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

The Aging Brain Thursday, August 13, 2018

What happens to the brain as we age? This presentation will examine the evidence-based lifestyle and non-pharmacological interventions which will protect your brain and diminish your risk of dementia. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings. Copies of Dr. Jennings brand new book, *The Aging Brain*, will be available.

Fix for Failing Families Thursday, September 13, 2018

Families are under attack, more than 50% of marriages end in divorce, in the U.S. almost 900,000 children are victims of abuse each year, and 77% of childhood deaths are caused by one or both parents. Discover principles and practice to bring healing to your family. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

The Science of Belief Thursday, October 12, 2018

In this seminar we will examine the science of belief and demonstrate how modern quantum understanding provides a scientific basis for the impact belief, including prayer, has on our physical health and can even impact the physical world around us. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

Guilt Resolution Thursday, November 8, 2018

Do you struggle with guilt? Discover the difference between legitimate and illegitimate guilt and how to resolve each and how to prevent people from manipulating you with guilt. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

The God-Shaped Brain Thursday, December 13, 2018

Our brains are in a constant state of flux. Moment by moment new connections are forming, idle tracks are being pruned back and brain circuits are changing. Discover how our beliefs change our brain wiring, our physical health, and even which genes are turned on or turned off. Do your beliefs matter – more than you ever knew! Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings