



## Stewardship Motives of the Heart Lesson 10 1Q 2018

### The Role of Stewardship presented by Tim Jennings (announcements at end)

#### SUNDAY

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This week my 5 y/o granddaughter, Lennox, contracted influenza A—and was terribly sick, crying, hurting all over, feverish... and, all you parents and grandparents know exactly what I mean when I say—I hate the flu—with a real passionate hatred and wish I could destroy that virus—but I have no hatred for Lennox, only love for her.

Viruses are good metaphors for sin—the HIV virus is so difficult to eradicate because it hides inside the immune cells and the body doesn't even see it to kill it.

There are other viruses than physical viruses, the viruses a computer can get, a virus in code, in processing that hijacks the system and alters the normal function and outcome.

Sin is like the second, a virus of thought—and just as there are multiple physical viruses: influenza, HIV, Zika, Hepatitis, Ebola, and there are many different viruses that can infect your computer, so too there are many different types of false ideas, distorted beliefs that can infect our minds.

But just like HIV virus, which hides inside the immune cells and thus avoids detection, the most destructive lies are those that hide inside our churches, our theology, and thus avoid detection.

Recently, I received an email from an online listener who genuinely appreciates our ministry, testified how much our ministry has been a blessing to her, but was concerned because sometimes I sound like I am attacking and being negative and this could offend some and she feels that some of our material cannot be shared for that reason.

She raises a very good point: how do we point out the infection of thought, deeply imbedded within Christianity itself without sounding like we are attacking the church?

She suggested just focusing on the positive—there is much benefit in focusing on the positive—but we are to focus on the truth, and in this world the truth isn't always positive. The Spirit of truth is to convict the world of sin—which means to diagnose accurately the condition of each heart.

We would do patients a disservice if we focused only on their positives—when Lennox went to the doctor her parents would have been quite upset if the doctor would have ignored the fever, crying, vomiting and said, “well let's see, she has beautiful blonde hair, lovely blue eyes, is on the proper height weight scales for her age, has had all her vaccines appropriately...”

When the doctor diagnosed influenza A he was not being negative, likewise when I point out the infection of thought deeply imbedded within Christianity, and therefore frequently appears in the



Study Guide, I am not being negative. I am simply trying to present the truth in the most gracious way I possibly can to bring healing to people and the church.

Read first paragraph, “Jesus is the central...” thoughts?

The lesson sites Mark 10:45, which reads: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

From what do we need to be ransomed?

- Do we need to be ransomed from Satan?
- Do we need to be ransomed from God?
- Do we need to be ransomed from what God will do to us if we are not ransomed?

To whom is the ransom paid? From the Tyndale Bible Dictionary:

To whom was the ransom paid?

This question has perplexed scholars for hundreds of years. Origen (c. 185–254), a theologian of Alexandria, maintained that the ransom was paid to the devil. Origen’s form of the theory was that Christ cheated the devil by escaping through his resurrection.

Although Jesus Christ defeated Satan and liberates believers from Satan’s bondage, Scripture does not indicate that the ransom was paid to him. God was wronged by human sin, yet he showed his great love in providing redemption (Jn 3:16). God declared humans guilty for their sin and imposed the death penalty for human transgression. **[Do you hear the infection? Imposed the death penalty]** Thus Scripture indicated that the ransom was really directed by Christ to the Father. The biblical references to Jesus’ life as a ransom are echoed in the satisfaction views of the atonement.

Anselm of Canterbury in 1098 developed the satisfaction view of the atonement, emphasizing that the honor of God required satisfaction for sin. Later views emphasized the justice of God in requiring payment (ransom) for the just demands of the law and for the removal of the curse of the law, which is death (see Eph 1:7, 14; Col 1:14). Paul emphasized the justice of God, which was met so that he would be just in justifying sinners who believe (Rom 3:23–26). Reformed theology emphasizes the ransom as being paid by Christ’s death to meet the satisfaction of God’s justice in Christ’s atonement. Without using the term “ransom,” the same implications are carried in such condensed expressions as “Christ died for our sins” (1 Cor 15:3).<sup>1</sup>

Thoughts? Do any of these views actually present the truth? In my view, they do not. They all come up

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<sup>1</sup> Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W. (2001). In *Tyndale Bible dictionary*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.



short and in fact, most add false ideas that confuse and obstruct the truth.

What is the function of a ransom? A price to free someone from bondage—question: What holds us in bondage?

- Lies—Satan is the father of lies and the lies about God he tells holds us in bondage
- Our sinful condition—carnal nature

What is the price necessary to free us from these?

- Truth that destroys lies and restores trust
  - Hebrews 2:14,15 “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”
  - If we are being freed from something that holds us would that be a ransom price to free us? We are held in the fear of death, by the power of Satan—what is Satan’s power, what is the cause of death?
  - “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” John 17:3
  - So if eternal life is knowing God, what is the result of not knowing God? Death, so what is Satan’s power of death? The lies he tells about God, that we believe that keep us from knowing God!
  - So, first ransom price was truth to destroy lies and restore trust
- A new nature—“ Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered <sup>9</sup> and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him...” Heb 5:8,9
  - Once made perfect? Wasn’t Jesus always perfect?
  - Jesus was always sinless, but Bible perfection is about perfect character—and this cannot be created, it must be developed by the freewill choices of the sentient being. Christ, AS A HUMAN, chose to develop a perfect character and destroy the infection of fear and selfishness, thus establishing a new humanity:
  - From *The Remedy* Ephesians 2:14-16: “For Christ himself is the Remedy that heals the species and brings peace. He has removed fear and selfishness that cause division, mistrust, prejudice, and hostility.<sup>15</sup> He did this by partaking of our human condition, and—via the exercise of his human brain—he loved perfectly, thereby destroying in his flesh (in the humanity he partook) the selfish survival-of-the-fittest drive along with the lies of Satan. In this way, he destroyed the need for the law (with all its regulations) to expose Satan’s lies and methods. His purpose was to be the template of a new humanity born out of the unification of the two—our selfish, infected condition merged with his sinless state—thereby purging selfishness from the human heart, and transforming, healing, renewing, regenerating and recreating humanity back to God’s original ideal;<sup>16</sup> and in this new being, to reconcile the human race—regardless of ethnic background—into loving unity with God and each other through the revelation of truth at



the cross, by which he destroyed the lies of Satan, reestablished trust, and removed fear, selfishness, and hostility.”

- From one of the founders of the SDA church: “The law requires righteousness,—a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Romans 3:26. {DA 762.2}

So the Ransom price to free us is the truth to destroy lies and win us to trust and a new perfect nature/character, developed singly by Christ. To whom, then is the Ransom paid? To every sinner who accepts it!

What happens when we replace this beautiful reality with the other views, like the penalty was paid to God or to God's law to satisfy divine justice?

In that view who is being changed by the death of Christ? And what do such concepts do to our ability to trust God? The false legal view leads to doctrines that function to hide us and protect us from God, which implicitly perpetuates the distrust of God. Thus people have a form of godliness with no power!

## MONDAY

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Read first paragraph, “One usually doesn't think....” If one restricts themselves to only inspired sources, no scholarly commentaries, or pastor's sermons, what is the Heavenly Sanctuary constructed out of? What is the building material of the Heavenly Sanctuary?

We cannot have a correct understanding of the sanctuary message if we don't even understand what the sanctuary is.

- “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's HOUSE [sanctuary/temple], built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building [sanctuary/temple] is joined together and rises to become a HOLY TEMPLE in the Lord. And in him YOU too [you all] are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22.
- “As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- YOU also, like LIVING STONES [building blocks of the Temple], are being built into a SPIRITUAL HOUSE [Temple] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet 2:4,5.



An historic view of the SDA teachings on this from EG White, whom they just quoted to emphasize we need a right understanding of this teaching. Here is what she said was a right understanding:

**We are God's great building.** Every stroke, every stone put into the building is only a part of the whole. Every worker is himself to become just what God designs he should be in building his own life with pure, noble, upright deeds, **that at the end he may be a symmetrical structure, a fair temple, honored by God** and man. God must be in this work. "Ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." Through you He has worked, and will work to do honor to His name by trusting to you these great responsibilities... The Lord would have you stand forth as Daniel, every phase of your character under His own ministration, that day by day you may **grow into a structure** that will stand forth, **not as a perfect whole in itself**, but connected with the work of other chosen workmen, **as a beautiful temple for the Lord**, a living witness to the value, stability, and nobility of the man who keeps his eye single to the glory of God.

The first tabernacle, built according to God's directions, was indeed blessed of Him. The people thus were preparing themselves to worship in the temple not made with hands--a temple in the heavens. The stones of the Temple built by Solomon were all prepared at the quarry and then brought to the Temple site. They came together without the sound of ax or hammer. The timbers were also fitted in the forest. The furniture was likewise brought to this house all prepared for use. {3MR 231.3}

Even so, the mighty cleaver of truth has **taken out a people from the quarry of the world and is fitting this people, who profess to be the children of God, for a place in His heavenly temple.** We want the cleaver of truth to do its work for us. **We are taken from the quarry of the world. The material must not be a dead substance but living souls, and these souls must be brought out of the quarry of the world, where the hand of God can fit them for the temple in heaven.** We are here as probationers, and we must pass under the hand of God. All rough edges and rough surfaces must be removed and **we must be stones fitted for the building.** We are brought into church capacity with defects of character, but we must not retain them. **We must be fitted and squared for the building. We must be "laborers together with God," for we are "God's husbandry," we are "God's building."** In view of this we must see that our temple is not defiled with sin. We should be lively stones, not dead ones, but live ones that will reflect the image of Christ. We must be worshipers in spirit and in truth. {3MR 231.4}

**This world is God's workshop, and every stone that can be used in the heavenly temple must be hewed and polished until it is a tried and precious stone, fitted for its place in the Lord's building. But if we refuse to be trained and disciplined, we shall be as stones that will not be hewed and polished, and that are cast aside at last as useless.** – {ML 268.3}

It may be that much work needs to be done ... , **that you are a rough stone, which must be squared and polished before it can fill a place in God's temple.** You need not be surprised if



with hammer and chisel God cuts away the sharp corners of your character until you are prepared to fill the place He has for you. No human being can accomplish this work. Only by God can it be done. And be assured that He will not strike one useless blow. His every blow is struck in love, for your eternal happiness. He knows your infirmities and works to restore, not to destroy. – {ML 268.4}

A character polished after the similitude of a palace ... may shine in the courts of the Lord forever. – {ML 268.5}

Thus, we read in Scripture:

- Him who overcomes I will make a **pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it.** I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and **I will also write on him my new name.** [because he has a new character] Revelation 3:12
- Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and **I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.** Ps 23:6

Will we be imprisoned in a building in heaven for all eternity? No! We never leave it because we are the building blocks of the temple and no matter where we are we are a part of it!

So, with this in mind then, what do we make of Daniel 8:14

And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.”

Historic View:

The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, **brought to view in Daniel 8:14**; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, **foretold by Malachi, are descriptions of the same event**; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25. {FLB 207.4}

Malachi 3:1-3:

“Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me.  
And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple,  
Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight.  
Behold, He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts.

“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He *is* like a refiner’s fire And like launderers’ soap.

He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; **He will purify the sons of Levi,**



### **And purge them as gold and silver...**

So, if Daniel 8:14 and Malachi 3:1-3 describe the same event, what is being cleansed?

God gives Daniel a vision of the future, 2300 years, first 490 are for the Jewish people to finish their mission—prepare for the Messiah's first advent, and then the theatrical enactment in the building on earth would be swept away and replaced by reality.

But, during the remaining years a little horn power would arise and make war against God's people. Until the Ancient of days came, and **judgment was given to the saints** of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. Daniel 7:22 KJV

Why do the saints of God need judgment (another word for discernment) imparted to them? The Daniel text tells us the horn warred against the saints and was defeating them. What kind of warfare was going on?

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Cor 10:3-5

What kind of war? Where is it being fought? This is a war between truth and lies, centering on God's character, and being fought in our minds! Amazingly, Paul makes the connection to the cleansing of the Temple even closer and shows how the Temple is connected to this war going on in our minds:

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that **he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.** 2Thes 2:1-4

Paul is describing the exact same events as Daniel 7 in which evil powers war against the saints and oppose God. In the aftermath of Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven, did this man of lawlessness ride into heaven overthrow God, set himself up in God's temple in heaven, and proclaim himself to be God? No, where did this happen? In the Spirit Temple! In our minds! Therefore, the cleansing of the temple, as described in the Bible, is the cleansing of our minds from the lies about God, which wins us back to trust and results in our cleansing from sin.

Daniel is told in vision that an evil power would arise that would lie, distort, misrepresent God, and defile the Spirit Temple by getting humans to accept, worship, and teach a false picture of God.



According to our understanding of interpreting prophetic time, it would take 2,300 years before enough truth would be recovered for Christ to empower His people on earth with judgment (discernment) to break free from the lies and be cleansed in their minds and characters.

All of this is confirmed for us by the other text describing the same event as Daniel 8:14, Malachi 3:1-3.

So, what happened in 1844? A movement began which opened the way for Christ to enter the Most Holy Place and cleanse His people. And what is the Most Holy Place?

Jesus is our Saviour today. He is pleading for us in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, and He will forgive our sins. It makes all the difference in the world with us spiritually whether we rely upon God without doubt, as upon a sure foundation, or whether we are seeking to find some righteousness in ourselves before we come to Him. . . {3SM 149.5}

He fulfilled one phase of His priesthood by dying on the cross for the fallen race. He is now fulfilling another phase by pleading before the Father the case of the repenting, believing sinner, presenting to God the offerings of His people. -- Manuscript 42, 1901. {7ABC 482.3}

Can we agree that whatever any Christian author writes if the position presented is to be valued, it will not contradict the Bible? Another way to say this is, whatever the author means by the statement cited it must be understood in light of the Bible, interpreted through the Bible and, in order to be valuable, will be in harmony with the Bible. Would you agree?

So let's look at some Biblical texts:

John 16:25,26 Jesus is speaking: "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. In that day you will ask in my name. **I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you...**"

Notice that Jesus says He will *not* pray to the Father for us because the Father Himself loves us. Therefore, there is no need for Christ to do this.

Romans 8:31-34 "What, then, shall we say in response to this? **If God is for us**, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all -- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is **God who justifies**. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died -- more than that, who was raised to life -- is at the right hand of God and is **also interceding for us**."

2 Cor 5:19 "**God was in the Son** reconciling the world unto himself."





Notice again it was God doing the work through His Son. The idea that one member of the Godhead needs to plead to another member of the Godhead is not stated in the Bible.

Then what about pleading before the Father?

This is Jesus speaking to His disciples. Read carefully what He is telling them:

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. **He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears**, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will bring glory to me **by taking from what is mine and making it known to you**. Jn 16:12-14

Notice that Christ had much He wanted to tell His followers, but they couldn't understand, so He was going to heaven and sending the Holy Spirit to them. Notice also, the Holy Spirit would not speak on His own, but only what He hears *and* He takes what is Christ's and makes it known to us.

Biblical evidence?

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. 2 The Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?”

3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. 4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.”

**Then he said to Joshua**, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you.”

5 Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by. Zech 3:1-5

What does this mean? Notice, Satan accuses—to whom is Satan accusing?

Does God listen to what Satan says? Does God get confused by Satan's arguments and need Jesus there to present the truth in order to get it right? Does God say to Jesus, “Wow thank you Son, I almost believed what Satan was saying, if you hadn't been here to present the truth I wouldn't have been able to know it?”

Who does get confused by Satan's arguments, allegations, lies? Who listens to the devil and gets discouraged, guilt ridden, overcome with shame such that they think they are beyond salvation, beyond healing, too sinful, too awful for God to love and for God to save? Human beings! We are the ones to whom Satan makes allegations—then to whom is Christ pleading the power of His blood, the power of His grace, the power of His goodness, the power of the gospel? To you and to me!

So, one of the founders of the SDA church:

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Through the plan of salvation, **Jesus is breaking Satan's hold upon the human family**



**and rescuing souls from his power.** All the hatred and malignity of the archrebel is stirred as he beholds the evidence of Christ's supremacy, and with fiendish power and cunning he works to wrest from Him the remnant of the children of men who have accepted His salvation. {LHU 234.2}

**He leads men into skepticism, causing them to lose confidence in God and to separate from His love;** he tempts them to break His law, and then he claims them as his captives and contests the right of Christ to take them from him. He knows that those who seek God earnestly for pardon and grace will obtain it; **therefore he presents their sins before them to discourage them.** He is constantly seeking occasion against those who are trying to obey God. Even their best and most acceptable services he seeks to make appear corrupt. **By countless devices, the most subtle and the most cruel, he endeavors to secure their condemnation.** [by whom? Whom does Satan seek to get us condemned? Is it not in our own minds, that we conclude we are beyond salvation, too sinful to be loved?] Man cannot meet these charges himself. In his sin-stained garments, confessing his guilt, he stands before God. **But Jesus our Advocate presents an effectual plea in behalf of all who by repentance and faith have committed the keeping of their souls to Him. He pleads their cause and vanquishes their accuser by the mighty arguments of Calvary.** [To whom is Jesus pleading? Who needs to have the allegations of Satan refuted? Who needs to believe that God loves them and Jesus' righteousness is sufficient for them? Does God need to be persuaded that Jesus' righteousness is sufficient to save a sinner? Who doubts? It is you and me that need to hear Jesus' plea!] His perfect obedience to God's law, even unto the death of the cross, has given Him all power in heaven and in earth, and He claims of His Father mercy and reconciliation for guilty man. [notice now to whom Jesus speaks] **To the accuser of His people He declares: "'The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan.' These are the purchase of My blood, brands plucked from the burning."** Those who rely upon Him in faith receive the comforting assurance: "Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." [to whom is Jesus pleading? He rebukes the accuser and pleads for us not to listen to his lies and to trust in Him!] All that have put on the robe of Christ's righteousness will stand before Him as chosen and faithful and true. Satan has no power to pluck them out of the hand of Christ. . . . **We cannot answer the charges of Satan against us. Christ alone can make an effectual plea in our behalf. He is able to silence the accuser with arguments founded not upon our merits, but on His own** (Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 470-472). [To whom does Christ's plea need to effect? you and me!]

**While Jesus, our Intercessor, pleads for us in heaven, the Holy Spirit works in us, to will and to do of His good pleasure...** {2MR 37.1}

Jesus pleads before the Father, carrying out the Father's will to plead to you. He does this in the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary built of living beings.

From *The Remedy*



Therefore, brothers and sisters, since Jesus died to bring us the truth about God and to eradicate selfishness from humanity, we no longer need to be afraid but can confidently enter the Most Holy Place—God's very presence—<sup>20</sup> because Christ's death revealed the truth about God and ripped open the veil of lies told by Satan that blinded our minds, and destroyed the infection of selfishness that separated us from him.<sup>21</sup> And since we have this great ministering priest who ministers the truth to all,<sup>22</sup> let the truth permeate us, cleansing, transforming and changing us as we draw near to God in heart, mind, purpose, method, principle and character,<sup>23</sup> so that we may have ultimate confidence and trust in him who has revealed himself to be completely trustworthy. Heb 10:19-23

## TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, “The sanctuary...” what does this mean?

Read third paragraph, “Our doctrinal... What do you think about this? Our identity as SDAs rooted in our doctrines more than anything else?”

Hmmm...Did the Pharisees who crucified Christ do so because they disagreed on the list of doctrines?

Can a person hold to all these doctrines and still be an enemy of God?

Then, is our identity really determined by which doctrines we adhere to?

Or am I mixing issues here—are the authors speaking of the institution, and I am speaking of the people who constitute the institution?

Are institutions saved? What happens if leaders focus on institutional integrity rather than saving of souls?

Could certain things be covered up and members be eliminated from membership in order to protect the reputation of the institution? Consider the cases of child molestation in various denominations and how it was handled.

Consider this quote from one of the founders of the SDA church:

**From the light that has been given me, [light from whom?] we should fear that these men and rulers will take their position against the work and then they will act like the devil; but every advantage should be taken to get acquainted with these men; not in a way to produce anything like prejudice. We must appear to them as trying to help others, working on the line of the Christian help work. As they see the good work we do on these lines, their prejudice will be removed in a large measure, and their hearts will be open for more. Then we should *not* present the Sabbath, but let us present Christ. What if they should begin to oppose you and say, Oh, that's a Seventh-day Adventist?--Lift Christ up higher**



**and still higher.** It means a great deal to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. {5MR 67.5}

Hmmm... did she suggest we go forward to present unique doctrines and identify SDAs by unique doctrines, or by being like Christ?

What did Jesus say?

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Jn 13:34,35

Consider this quote from the same founder:

**There was kept before them that His people must be a combined, united power in love and efficiency, to become a light amid the moral darkness. By these combined forces [He] specified that they all may be one. Hear it, every one who is a Seventh-day Adventist; hear it: "As Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. . . . I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one;** and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me" [John 17:21, 23]. {16MR 204.3}

The Lord Jesus described the difficulties they should meet. Having called their minds to rise to an eminence, He bids them behold the vast confederacy of evil arrayed against God, against Christ, against all who unite with these holy powers. **Christ tells them they were to fight in fellowship with all the children of light; [are all the children of light found only in the SDA institution?]** that satanic agencies would combine their forces to extinguish the light of the life of Christ out of their ranks. **But they were not left to fight the battles in their own human strength.** The angelic host coming as ministers of God would be in that battle. Also there would be the eternal heavenly dignitaries--God, and Christ, and the Holy Spirit--arming them with more than mortal energy, and would advance with them to the work, and convince the world of sin. {16MR 204.4}

The great missionary spirit of the church is to be aroused. But the Lord Jesus comes forth yet once again to speak to John, and present the missionary work to be done in our world. **He sees that the message, the last message of warning, is not thoroughly understood. [what is the last message of warning? The truth about God's character of love]** The angel with the everlasting gospel did not awaken the people to move them to action. He came personally to John and announced to him the missionary work to be done. [Revelation 22:10-17, quoted.]--Ms 130, 1901.

When we focus on unique doctrines, and make them a requirement to unite together and work together does this result in unity, or does it result in fragmentation? And who benefits from fragmenting us into



different camps?

So what is the point of doctrines? All doctrines are only valuable as they enlighten us to God, His character, methods, designs, protocols, and help us move into a reality-based living arrangement with God.

If doctrines are stood up on their own, with their own proof texts to prove the academic accuracy of the teaching, disconnected from what it says about God, and disconnected from real experience and design laws, then we end up with 34,000 different Christian groups all arguing their doctrines back and forth.

This is a false approach. We need to require all our doctrines to be tied to the truth about God and His design laws and then objections will fade away.

## WEDNESDAY

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Read first paragraph, “Only twice...” What is justification by faith? Two views, a legal declaration of something that is not actually true—this is the penal view; or an actual setting right of the heart of the believer with God.

How is the third angels’ message the message of justification by faith?

Thus the three angels messages:

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.<sup>7</sup> 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.”

<sup>8</sup> A second angel followed and said, “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”

<sup>9</sup> A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,<sup>10</sup> he, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.<sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.”<sup>12</sup> This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God’s commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. (1984). (Re 14:6–12). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.



What do these three messages mean? What law lens to you read them through?

Imposed law:

- Be afraid and sing praises because the time has come for God's heavenly tribunal to sit and only those who worship in the right way, on the right day, will be saved.
- The Christians churches that worship in the wrong way, on the wrong day, are all confused and we need to leave their company.
- Those who worship on the wrong day will be marked as being God's enemy and God will use His power to torment them either for eternity or for as long as they deserve before He kills them.

Do you like this view? What kind of god does this view promote? This presentation of the 3 Angels' messages is Satan's view of things. It is NOT the truth!

Design law:

- Be in awe of God and reveal His true character of love in your life for the time in earth's history has come for everyone to make a right judgment about God and His character and methods – call them back to worship and adore Him who made the heavens, earth, sea – call them back to His Design Law of Love
- Because Babylon, that confused system of imposed law, with all its various rituals, rules, and lists of do's and don'ts is a system of confusion in which God's law is misrepresented as imposed, and has resulted in a contradictory system in which Christianity has fractured into 34,000 different groups all with different interpretations and regulations, because they have accepted the lie that God's law is like Rome's, imposed rules and God must punish like a dictator must punish.
- And everyone who accepts this lie about God marks themselves in their forehead by truly believing God is like a dictator and His law is imposed and God is the source of imposed punishment and death, and those who go along with such a perverse system of coercion, based on human law mark themselves in their hands and both groups will be tormented in mind, heart and character when they come into the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb, for having rejected the truth about God, there is no healing for their terminal condition.

## **THURSDAY**

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Read last paragraph, "The sanctification of soul..."

## **FRIDAY**

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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.

**The Remedy APP:** Thanks to all of you, our supporters, The Remedy App is now available for free for Android and Apple devices but *The Remedy* is not available on a multi-Bible app. My Bible App by developer Denys Dolganenko at mybible.zone



MyBible

**SPECIAL** Thanks to Karin Covi, who researched and found probably the best Bible App available on the market and contacted them and they have put The Remedy on their platform. This app has hundreds of resources available, can compare different Bible versions on the same screen and it is FREE! The Icon for the My Bible App is below:

**NEW TV PROGRAM: Starting in March Come and Reason is launching a new TV Program—The Dr. Tim Jennings Show on WBTV.TV** Watch our website and Facebook page for announcements regarding the upcoming programs.

**New Blogs**—If you don't follow us on Facebook, then be sure to visit our website we are posting new blogs again, the go up every Tuesday, recently we posted:

**March 8, 2018:** Hixson United Methodist Church, Neurobiology of Depression and Drug Free Treatments

**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

### **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