

The Book of Acts Lesson 3 3Q 2018

Life in the Early Church

I received this email this week:

Hi Everyone, my wife and I joined the SDA church about 8 years ago from our own personal studies. Even though we felt where we we're was correct we couldn't quite put our finger on something that's wasn't quite right. Simple questions that couldn't be answered or answers that made no sense. Since discovering come and reason it's now starting to fall more in place and make sense for us. As before our idea of a God of love was at times in conflict with what was being taught and preached. We are more settled now and encouraged. Kindest regards and God's blessing—Australia

SABBATH

Have you ever heard people talk about getting back to basics, to practicing Christianity like the early church did?

Do you think we, as Christians today, in any denomination, practice church like the Early Church did?

Which do you think has had a bigger impact on how we do church today, the Bible and the Apostles of the first century or paganism?

Frank Viola and George Barna in their book *Pagan Christianity* write:

As Christians, we are taught by our leaders to believe certain ideas and behave in certain ways. We are also encouraged to read our Bibles. But we are conditioned to read the Bible with the lens handed to us by the Christian tradition to which we belong. We are taught to obey our denomination (or movement) and never to challenge what it teaches...

Strikingly, contemporary church thought and practice have been influenced far more by postbiblical historical events than by the New Testament imperatives and examples. Yet most Christians are not conscious of the influence. Nor are they aware that it has created a slew of cherished, calcified, humanly devised traditions—all of which are routinely passed off to us as “Christian.” p. 4,5

Do you agree?

Now, SDAs will jump immediately on one of these human traditions that is passed off as Christian and which is post-biblical and for which most Christians never question—and that is? Sunday as a



day of worship.

And since that issue has been explored, written about, debated, researched, documented extensively we are not going to focus on that change. All scholars and theologians from every denomination agree that the Sabbath of the Bible is Saturday and that Sunday as a day of Christian worship began after the first century.

Let's focus on the other elements of contemporary church that also find their roots, not in the Bible, but in human and pagan traditions.

Can you think of any others?

In the lesson it points out that the early Christians sold their possessions in order to provide for each other and help spread the gospel message. If this is so, what does that suggest they did not have or do?

Did the early church build church buildings, temples, cathedrals or places of worship?

Philp Schaff, 19th Century American Church Historian writes:

That the Christians of the apostolic age erected special houses of worship is out of the question.... As the Saviour of the world was born in a stable, and ascended to heaven from a mountain, so his apostles and their successors down to the third century, preached in the streets, the markets, on mountains, in ships, sepulchers, eaves, and deserts, and in the homes of their converts. But how many thousands of costly churches and chapels have since been built and are constantly being built in all parts of the world to the honor of the crucified Redeemer, who in the days of his humiliation had no place to rest his own head! Quoted from *Pagan Christianity* p. 9

Do you think the work of spreading the gospel has been helped or hindered by the billions of dollars spent on erecting and maintain cathedrals, churches and chapels?

SDAs, because of our understanding of the heavenly sanctuary message, should be at the forefront of this truth. Viola and Barnes continue:

Ancient Judaism was centered on three elements: the Temple, the priesthood, and the sacrifices. When Jesus came, He ended all three, fulfilling them in Himself. He is the temple who embodies the new and living house made of living stones—"without hands." He is the priest who has established a new priesthood. And He is the perfect finished sacrifice. Consequently, the Temple, the professional priesthood, and the sacrifices of Judaism all passed away with the coming of Jesus Christ. Christ is the fulfillment and reality of it all. p. 10



Do you agree? Consider the next paragraph:

In Greco-Roman paganism, these three elements were also present: Pagans had their temples, their priests, and their sacrifices. It was only the Christians who did away with all of these elements. It can be rightly said that Christianity was the first non-temple-based religion ever to emerge. In the minds of the early Christians, the people—not the architecture—constituted a sacred space. The early Christians understood that they themselves—corporately—were the temple of God and the house of God. p. 11

Do you agree or disagree? Does this shed any light on the 2300-day prophecy that it will be 2300 years until the sanctuary will be cleansed?

Can you see how Satan would want people to forget that in Christianity the temple is made out of people and want them to think it is a building? Then even when the prophecy about cleansing the sanctuary is discovered, the people would misapply its meaning to inanimate material, bricks, mortar, gold, silver, and never really consider the cleansing of the sanctuary is the cleansing of their own hearts and minds!

I have read many times in the past a quote from one of the founders of the SDA church, EG White, about the temple in heaven must be made, not out of dead substance, but living souls, so I will not read that quote again. But here is a different quote, I don't remember reading in class before. Consider it in light of what we are talking about this morning:

Your faculties are separate and distinct, yet each is dependent for its success upon the other. **So each day God works with His building, stroke upon stroke, to perfect the structure, which thus grows into a holy temple for the Lord.** One stone mislaid affects the whole building. **This figure represents human character, which is to be wrought upon, point by point. There is not to be a flaw in it, for it is the Lord's building.** Every stone must be perfectly laid, that it may endure the pressure placed upon it. God warns you and every worker to take heed how you build, **so that your building may bear the test of storm and tempest because it is riveted to the eternal Rock.** Take heed how you build. Every hour may be spent in placing the stone on the sure foundation, ready for the day **of test and revelation, when we shall be seen just as we are.** [What do you think that is, the day of test and revelation? Isn't it when we find ourselves in a situation that our true character is revealed?] This warning God presents to me as essential in your case. He loves you with a love that is immeasurable. He loves your brethren in the faith, and He works with them to the same end that He works with you. **His church upon the earth is to assume divine proportions before the world, as a temple composed of living stones, every stone emitting light. This building is to be the light of the world, a city set on a hill, which cannot be hid. It is composed of stones laid close together, stone fitting to stone, making a solid building. All the stones are not of the same form or shape. Some are large, some are small, but each has its own crevice to fill. And the value of each stone is determined by the light it reflects to the world.** This is God's plan, and He would have all who profess



to believe His word fill their respective places in the great, grand work for this time...

The Lord's church is composed of His living, working agencies who derive their power to act from the Author and Finisher of their faith. The great work resting upon God's individual workers is to be carried forward in symmetrical harmony.

Manuscript Releases, Volume 2 [Nos. 97-161, 1958-1964]. 1993; 2002 (339). Ellen G. White Estate.

- Do we understand that the temple of the Lord, the heavenly sanctuary, is composed of living beings, not dead substance?
- Do we understand that the cleansing of the sanctuary is not happening in books in heaven, but in the hearts and minds of people on earth?
- Do we realize that sin is not erased out of record books but out of the hearts, minds, characters of people?
- Do we realize that those people who present messages of God's temple being a building in heaven made out of non-living matter and the investigative judgment is removing sins from books and not from people are promoting paganism, they are not promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Are we practicing Christianity as the early church did?

We just took a brief look at modern church buildings, versus the true temple made of living souls—and how the mission of the true church is undermined by diverting resources into extravagant structures. This is not to say that organizations shouldn't have buildings—we need buildings for meetings, health-care, publishing, community services, education centers. The point is, do we build primarily for function—or for pride and ego, for extravagance?

Are there other elements we accept as orthodoxy that are not Biblical and have their origins in paganism?

The Pastor and Clergy as having some hierarchical authority and holding appointed position over the rest of the church membership.

The role of the pastor in the New Testament was merely a member with no more authority than anyone else, who arose organically to minister and help foster spiritual growth within the community of believers.

The role of pastor today is instead that of the pagan priest—an office set apart and instilled with arbitrary authority to, all too often, rule over the members of the church.

It was early in the second century, when the Apostles and the first missionary/evangelists were dying off that the pagan ideas of the pastor's authoritative role began to infect Christianity.



Ignatius of Antioch (35-107) was instrumental in this shift. He was the first figure in church history to take a step down the slippery slope toward a single leader in the church. We can trace the origin of the contemporary pastor and church hierarchy to him. Ignatius elevated one of the elders in each church above all the others. the elevated elder was now called the bishop. All the responsibilities that belonged to the college of elders were exercised by the bishop

In AD 107, Ignatius wrote a series of letters on his way to be martyred in Rome. Six out of seven of these letters strikes the same chord. They exalt the authority and importance of the bishop's office.

According to Ignatius, the bishop had ultimate power and should be obeyed absolutely. Consider the following excerpts from his letters: "Plainly therefore we ought to regard the bishop as the Lord Himself.... All of you follow the bishop as Jesus Christ follows the Father....Wherever the bishop shall appear, there will the people be; even as where Jesus may be.... It is not lawful apart from the bishop either to baptize or to hold a love feast; but whatever he shall approve, this is well-pleasing also to God..." *Pagan Christianity* 110,111

Do you think we have these ideas infecting Christianity today—including the SDA church? A few years ago, when I had the opportunity to discuss some of what we teach with a group of local pastors. One of the pastors said to me, in regard to questioning what the senior pastor was teaching. "You can't question what he is teaching. He is the Lord's anointed. He's the head pastor and you are not supposed to question him."

Do we have these pagan ideas within Christianity?

Do we believe only ordained pastors can baptize, conduct weddings, lead the celebration of the Lord's Supper, be in leadership within a church group?

What about ordination? Is it Biblical?

In the Bible the method was that leadership arose organically, from the obvious gifting of the Holy Spirit as people with the gifts took upon themselves the servant leadership roles. Those with the gift of healing became healers, those with the gift of hospitality invited people to their homes, those with the gift of teaching, taught and people gathered to listen. Thus, there was no board, counsel, conference, committee that gathered to nominate and select people for these offices.

The only exception was the replacing of Judas but, that selection didn't create a procedure, a hierarchy even for Apostolic selection, as the Apostle Paul was organically selected and elevated to be an Apostle by the Holy Spirit, not by a committee.

In the Early Church, there was no such thing as ordination, as in placing someone in office by a

person or committee.

Elders were acknowledged as leaders by the Apostles in Galatia (Acts 14:23), Ephesus (1Tim 3:1), and Crete (Titus 1:5). The word translated as *ordain* in the KJV in these passages does not mean placing in office, or giving authority, but simply one of acknowledging, affirming or agreeing with what has already been happening. It meant adding a blessing to those already in the office, but not placing a person into the office.

It was only later that ordination shifted and became an installation and granting of authority and giving special status of elevating a person above others in the church.

From where did Christians get their pattern of ordination? They patterned their ordination ceremony after the Roman custom of appointing men to civil office. The entire process, down to the very words, came straight from the Roman civic world.

By the fourth century, the terms used for appointment to Roman office and for Christian ordination became synonymous. When Constantine made Christianity the religion of choice, church leadership structures were buttressed by political sanction. The forms of the Old Testament priesthood were combined with Greek hierarchy. Sadly, the church was secure in this new form—just as it is today...

Christian ordination, then, came to be understood as that which constitutes the essential difference between clergy and laity. *Pagan Christianity* p. 125

Is this Biblical?

Did the Reformation change this? No, Luther held that those who preach needed to be specially trained and be ordained by the system. Sadly, Protestant Christianity continues with this pagan idea.

That brings us to the sermon—is the sermon Biblical?

Contrast today's sermon with what we find in the Bible from God's spokespersons who did give messages, like Peter on Pentecost:

Today's Sermons:

- Regularly scheduled event
- Delivered by the same person
- Delivered to a passive audience—monologue
- Cultivated form of professional speech—predetermined structure

Bible Preaching:

- Sporadic as occasion arose and opportunity presented

- Addressed special needs or situations
- Was impromptu, without a predetermined structure
- Most often included interruptions and interaction with the audience

The modern form of weekly sermonizing didn't arise in Christianity until late in the second century. So where did the modern sermon arise?

From the sophists, who were professional speakers who required payment to speak to passive audiences.

The sophists were expert debaters. They were masters at using emotional appeals, physical appearance, and clever language to “sell” their arguments. In time, the style, form, and oratorical skills of the sophists became more prized than their accuracy. This spawned a class of men who became masters of fine phrases... The truths they preached were abstract rather than truths that were practiced in their own lives...

The sophists identified themselves by the special clothing they wore. Some had fixed residence where they gave regular sermons to the same audience.

How did the Greek sermon find its way into the Christian church? Around the third century a vacuum was created when the mutual ministry faded from the body of Christ... To fill their absence, the clergy began to emerge. Open meetings began to die out, and church gatherings became more and more liturgical...

As a hierarchical structure began to take root, the idea of a “religious specialist” emerged. In the face of these changes, the functioning Christians had trouble fitting into this evolving ecclesiastical structure. There was no place for them to exercise their gifts. By the fourth century, the church had become fully institutionalized.” *ibid.* p. 89,91

There is a lot more—but the point is, do we read the Scripture for what it says, or do we have certain blinders on, from paganism, from tradition, so we think we are reading something that isn't even there?

The greatest infection of Christian thought by paganism, isn't the forms, styles, titles, liturgies, dress, but the way we have come to view God's law as functioning no different than human law, and therefore God's character as the enforcer of His law is presented to be no different than any human dictator. Penal legal theologies are pagan in origin.

And the mission of God's remnant people is to worship the Designer, Him who made all reality, and return to functioning in harmony with God and His designs. We must free ourselves from the multitude of ideas that keep us captive and experience genuine healing of our minds, hearts and characters to be like Jesus. This will only happen when we come back to the truth of God as our Creator and Healer—and whose laws are design laws!



SUNDAY

The lesson suggests that the Apostles did their *teaching* at the Temple, and *fellowshipped* in homes. Are they suggesting that Christianity was a system of church services, going to edifices, and that they did not teach in homes?

Is this accurate, or is this again evidence of the infection of paganism, with its imposed law construct, and its authoritarian rule. In other words, the authors are invested in introducing ideas to make one loyal to the building, the center of church commerce, the business of church, rather than the actual healing of hearts and minds?

The lesson states that the apostles' teachings were authoritative—what does this mean?

What made the apostles' teachings authoritative?

When Peter refused to socialize with the uncircumcised fellows, were his actions authoritative? Why not, he was an apostle wasn't he?

The lesson suggests that the early Christians still attended *daily* temple ceremonies—is this most likely true?

I have serious reservations about this—first of all the New Testament repeatedly points out that the temple ceremonies were not necessary any longer; second, the apostles traveled and were often not near the temple. Finally, if they went to the temple was it because they were seeking to participate in the ceremony, or because that was where the people were who would be open to their gospel message?

But the lesson authors may have a different view....Read first paragraph **MONDAY's** lesson: "In Acts 3:1, Peter and John..."

Let's read Acts 3:1 "One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon."

Does this say they went up daily? Does this say they were going up to participate in the Jewish worship? Or does this merely say they were going up at a particular time?

The lesson cites several other passages in Acts suggesting these indicate that the Apostles and the early church were committed to the Jewish religious traditions. Let's examine these texts:

Acts 20:16: "Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.?"



What does this text say and what conclusions can we draw? Was this about Judaism, or was Pentecost now a Christian day? In fact, if it were Jewish wouldn't they have said the Feast of Weeks?

From the SDA Bible commentary on Acts 20:16:

Just why Paul was so eager to be at Jerusalem for Pentecost is not recorded. Perhaps the gathering of Jewish Christians who would be there at that time from all over Palestine would make possible a more efficient distribution of the relief offering he was taking to Jerusalem. Or perhaps because of the outpouring of the Spirit at a previous Pentecost, this feast held a special place in Paul's emotions.¹

Doesn't sound terribly devoted to the Jewish traditions to me—in fact Paul was quite ardent in promoting Christ and not Jewish traditions.

Acts 21:17-26 is about Paul's attempt to reach the obstinate Jews by doing a purification ceremony at the temple—NOT because Paul thought it was necessary, but because he was hoping to placate the offended non-believing Jews. And how did this work out?

So, it seems the New Testament church was distinctly severing itself from Jewish traditions, not embracing them. However, the Apostles did try and help the Jews understand the true meaning of their ceremonies and transition the people away from ceremony to the reality in Jesus.

But, just because they sought to reach those in that tradition, doesn't mean they wanted to perpetuate the symbolic and traditional—they didn't! The Apostles wanted people to enter the reality of Jesus!

TUESDAY

When the Jews asked Peter by what authority he was preaching, what were they asking?

What kind of authority are the Jewish leaders asking about?

Aren't they asking about the authority of office, of position, of title?

Is that the type of authority God wants us to recognize?

For instance, when Martin Luther raised his questions, how did the church authority respond? Did all parties agree that the weight of evidence and truth should be authoritative, or that church committee, counsel, position should be authoritative?

¹ Nichol, F. D. (Ed.). (1980). *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Vol. 6, p. 389). Review and Herald Publishing Association.

What about today—when we raise questions do church leaders typically respond by pursuing the authority of truth or by holding to the authority of position, office, and church tradition?

When we say the Bible is authoritative, what do we mean? Is it authoritative like a the Major League Baseball rule book is authoritative over baseball?

In Baseball what makes the rulebook authoritative—the rule itself—if it is in the rulebook, it has authority. Is this how the Bible works, if a directive is in the Bible it has authority because it is in the Bible, or is it in the Bible because it has authority? Is the Bible merely a code book, or is it a book of enlightenment, a book designed to teach us how reality works, so that we develop the ability to discern the right from the wrong (Heb 5:14).

"Young men should search the Scriptures for themselves. **They are not to feel that it is sufficient for those older in experience to find out the truth; that the younger ones can accept it from them as authority.** . . . (MYP 258)

"We must study the truth for ourselves. **No man should be relied upon to think for us. No matter who he is, or in what position he may be placed, we are not to look upon any man as a criterion for us.** We are to counsel together, and to be subject one to another; but at the same time we are to exercise the ability God has given us, in order to learn what is truth. **Each one of us must look to God for divine enlightenment.** We must individually develop a character that will stand the test in the day of God." *Testimonies to Ministers* 109,110; first published in *Gospel Workers*, 1892 ed., pp. 128,129; cf. 2RH 311:3:1 (RH, June 18, 1889); CW 45; ST, Feb. 6, 1893

"**Satan** is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. **He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves.** . . . (RC 369)

"**The people of God have educated themselves in such a way that they have come to look to those in positions of trust as guardians of truth, and have placed men where God should be.** When perplexities have come upon them, instead of seeking God, they have gone to human sources for help, and have received only such help as man can give. . . . **The president of the Conference is not to do the thinking for all the people. He has not an immortal brain,** but has capabilities and powers like any other man. . . . **When men place the president of the Conference in the place of God, . . . they are doing that which is exactly opposite to what Christ has told them to do.**" *Review and Herald*, Aug. 7, 1894 (3RH 173:1:1 - 3:2 and 174:1:1)

Do we believe, the SDA church the Bible is authoritative? Or, only those portions of the Bible that we can find an EGW quote to support?

Read bottom green section, "Think about the desire..." What would motivate people to use coercive



power, the authority of office over another person?

Is it not fear?

- Fear that they might lose power
- Fear that they might be wrong
- Fear of what others will think
- Fear of what will happen to the institution
- Fear of being condemned by God for not upholding the standards

WEDNESDAY

What do you think of the story of Ananias and Sapphira?

Does the Bible say God killed them?

Does the Bible say God punished them?

What does the Bible say? That they lied, they were confronted on their lies by Peter citing the authority of the Holy Spirit and that they died.

What are the possibilities?

- Some suggest that it was punishment for sin—why can we be 100% positive this was not the case?
 - What is the punishment for sin? Eternal death—did they die eternally or will they arise again?
 - Does the punishment for sin occur before the Great White Throne Judgment or after? Had that judgment happened yet?
 - Then, this cannot be punishment for sin—it must be something else
- It was natural causes—why should we doubt it was simply a case of dying of old age, or body wearing out?
 - Because the circumstances are inconsistent with a natural death
- Dying from shock—why is this a possibility?
 - Because it is documented through history that people can die when confronted with a sudden shock, or a powerful shaman. The source of the shock being the confrontation by Peter and the truth. But we cannot know for certain because we are not told.
- God acting to put them to sleep, why is this also possible?
 - Because God at times has acted to put people to sleep who were obstacles to His plan to save and heal the human race.
 - What might have happened had Ananias and Sapphira not died then? Might they have entered into some leadership position and the early church had been corrupted with greed? Might God have diagnosed, or judged, that a therapeutic excision of their influence was necessary for the health of the early church? If this is so, then recognize

such an action was an act of love, not anger, and was designed to heal, not destroy and was not a punishment for sin.

Here is commentary from a book entitled *The Acts of the Apostles* what do you think?

Ananias and Sapphira grieved the Holy Spirit by yielding to feelings of covetousness... They thought they had been too hasty, that they ought to reconsider their decision. They talked the matter over, and decided not to fulfill their pledge. **They saw, however, that those who parted with their possessions to supply the needs of their poorer brethren, were held in high esteem among the believers;** and ashamed to have their brethren know that their selfish souls grudged that which they had solemnly dedicated to God, they deliberately decided to sell their property and pretend to give all the proceeds into the general fund, but really to keep a large share for themselves. **Thus they would secure their living from the common store and at the same time gain the high esteem of their brethren.** {AA 72.1}

But God hates hypocrisy and falsehood. Ananias and Sapphira practiced fraud in their dealing with God; they lied to the Holy Spirit, **and their sin was visited with swift and terrible judgment...** [does this say punishment or judgment? And who judged them? Peter certainly did, and God did and was the judgment similar to a judgment you might have if you discovered your child smoking—would you make a judgment? And what would it be? Do we hear words like judgment only through the imposed law lens, or design law lens? God judged it unhealthy and judged it would hurt the early church, and judged that the most therapeutic thing to do would be nip it in the bud to protect the healing remedy!] {AA 72.2}

Infinite Wisdom saw that this signal manifestation of the wrath of God was necessary to guard the young church from becoming demoralized. [What is the wrath of God according to Scripture? God giving people up to reap what they have chosen. And what was the reason, to punish their sin or to protect the young church?] Their numbers were rapidly increasing. **The church would have been endangered if, in the rapid increase of converts, men and women had been added who, while professing to serve God, were worshiping mammon.** This **judgment testified that men cannot deceive God**, that He detects the hidden sin of the heart, and **that He will not be mocked.** It was designed as a warning to the church, to lead them to avoid pretense and hypocrisy, and to beware of robbing God. {AA 73.4}

God cannot be mocked, what Bible verse comes to mind and does it give a insight into why God cannot be mocked?

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.⁸ The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; Gal 6:7,8

Why is it God cannot be mocked? Because of design law, you reap what you sew. Was this true for Ananias and Sapphira?



What does one reap when one chooses to separate themselves from God? Death, why is it we don't all reap it instantly? Because God graciously intervenes to suspend such consequences giving us more time to reconsider. But, in Ananias and Sapphira's case, God let them have their choice.

THURSDAY

The story talks about the second arrest and Gamaliel's advice to the Sanhedrin—what do you think of his advice?

Read bottom pink section, “What does this story tell us about...” How can you tell whether the counsel you are getting is good counsel or not?

What about the counsel Rehoboam received?

So, how can you tell whether the counsel you are getting is good or not?

- By the office of the person giving the counsel—conference president, university president, pastor, priest, pope?
- By the education—theologian, doctor, lawyer?
- By their relationship, mother, father, sibling, spouse?
- By their church affiliation—member of your denomination?
- By their political leanings?
- How about by whether their counsel is in harmony with how reality works, with God's design laws, methods and principles, harmonized with Scripture and real experience—that you prayerfully study and comprehend?

How many church leaders want us to use the last one?

FRIDAY

Read and discuss the questions



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Francesca had her baby: For those who haven't heard, Francesca Brewster our Administrative Director, had her baby: Miles Joseph Brewster was born 6/11/2018 at 10:40pm. He was 7 lbs 14 oz; 20.5 inches. Mom and baby are healthy and happy.

The Remedy APP: Thanks to all of you, our supporters, The Remedy App is now available for free for Android and Apple devices. It is also available on the multi-Bible app, My Bible by Denys Dolganenko at mybible.zone

Each Tuesday watch our new TV Program—The Dr. Tim Jennings Show on WBTN.TV Network. Go to TimJenningsMD.com for more info.

New Video 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 Thursday.

September 14,15, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be Keynote Speaker at Crossroads Community Church in Georgetown, Delaware.

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

September 30-Oct 2, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at NAD of SDA Mental Health Education retreat for pastors at Kettering, OH.

October 19, 20, 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing a seminar at Camelback SDA church, in Phoenix, AZ.

November 9,10 2018: Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at Houston, TX, in conjunction with the AACC

In partnership with Come and Reason Ministries and Hixson United Methodist Church
Mental Health Matters Community Gatherings for Help, Hope and Healing

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!