

## The Book of Acts Lesson 7 3Q 2018

### Paul's First Missionary Journey

By Tim Jennings (announcements at end)

Before we get into the lesson I wanted to follow up on Ananias and Sapphira.

I received several emails from people who were concerned that I made the case that their death was not one of God inflicting punishment for sin. They referenced several comments from EG White in the *Acts of the Apostles* later in the same chapter that I referenced that seemed to say otherwise.

A review of what I presented in lesson 3:

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.<sup>8</sup> 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?

I received several emails referencing the following quotes, and as we explore this I want to point out there are two issues to address. One, whether God did inflict punishment for sin upon Ananias and Sapphira, and two, how I use EGW quotes. Some suggest I pick and choose the quotes I like and ignore other quotes. So, let's examine both concerns.

It is God who blesses men with property, and He does this that they may be able to give toward the advancement of His cause. **He sends the sunshine and the rain. He causes vegetation to flourish. He gives health and the ability to acquire means. All our blessings come from**

**His bountiful hand...** [what kind of law is being described here? In other words, what method does God use to bless? Do you think the mechanism for any negative consequence would be different?] {AA 75.1}

**But the hearts of men become hardened through selfishness,** and, like Ananias and Sapphira, they are tempted to withhold part of the price, while pretending to fulfill God's requirements. [How do hearts become hardened? What causes the hardening? What is the problem or result of hardening the heart? Is there a punishment in that? Remember we just read those who sew to the carnal nature from that nature reap destruction—what kind of law?] Many spend money lavishly in self-gratification. Men and women consult their pleasure and gratify their taste, while they bring to God, almost unwillingly, a stinted offering. **They forget that God will one day demand a strict account of how His goods have been used, and that He will no more accept the pittance they hand into the treasury than He accepted the offering of Ananias and Sapphira.** {AA 75.2} [How do you think this strict accounting will be demanded? Will it be like humans, counting pennies, or will it be by examining the character?]

**From the stern punishment meted out to those perjurers,** God would have us learn also how deep is His hatred and contempt for all hypocrisy and deception. [What is the purpose of this sentence? To whom might this sentence be aimed? To people who are close to God and know His methods, or people not so close?] In pretending that they had given all, Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit, and, as a result, they lost this life and the life that is to come. **The same God who punished them, today condemns all falsehood.** Lying lips are an abomination to Him. He declares that into the Holy City "there shall in no wise enter . . . anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie." Revelation 21:27. Let truth telling be held with no loose hand or uncertain grasp. Let it become a part of the life. **Playing fast and loose with truth,** and dissembling to suit one's own selfish plans, means shipwreck of faith. [What is the problem with lying? It shipwrecks the faith, which means what? What does it do to the person? Is this an infliction? And why does God hate it? Does a parent hate a child who does drugs? Do they hate the child doing drugs?] "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth." Ephesians 6:14. He who utters untruths sells his soul in a cheap market. His falsehoods may seem to serve in emergencies; he may thus seem to make business advancement that he could not gain by fair dealing; **but he finally reaches the place where he can trust no one. Himself a falsifier, he has no confidence in the word of others.** [What is described here? Does something change inside the liar? How does that change happen? What kind of law is involved?] {AA 75.3}

In the case of Ananias and Sapphira, the sin of fraud against God was speedily punished. The same sin was often repeated in the after history of the church and is committed by many in our time. But though it may not be attended by the visible manifestation of God's displeasure, it is no less heinous in His sight now than in the apostles' time. The warning has been given; God has clearly manifested His abhorrence of this sin; and all who give themselves up to hypocrisy and covetousness may be sure that they are destroying their own souls. {AA

### 76.1} [Wait, who is destroying their souls? Then how is it a punishment from God?]

So, how do we understand this?

Is the punishment for sin the sleep death? Is it the death Samson died when he pulled down the pillars, or that Daniel died from old age?

Yet the word punishment is used, what do we understand this to mean? And why didn't I originally include this?

Human beings on earth are at different levels of moral development—does God love only the mature, or does God love the immature as well? Does God speak only to the mature or does He speak to the immature as well?

If a child is unruly and continues to put themselves in danger by playing on farm equipment or running into the street, what does a loving parent do?

Does the loving parent discipline, but in the child's mind might it be understood as punishment? Does the parent inflict interventions that are unpleasant to the child in order to motivate/teach the child not to do this anymore?

Is the real danger, the ultimate problem for the child from the parent or the damage when hit by a car? But, because the child cannot understand the larger reality the loving parent steps in and takes upon their reputation the role of inflictor of punishment. When the child finally grows up they realize the infliction of punishment was never truly coming from the parent, but from the disobedience and the parent's actions were to protect them.

During WWII a troop ship was hit by torpedo and sinking. Water was flooding in and the soldiers were in a panic. Officers on deck shouted for order, but the panic was too great and as one soldier jumped on the ladder to come up another would drag him off. Suddenly, shots rang out as an officer shot down into the hold killing several soldiers, order was restored and the rest got out.

- Did the officer who shot into the hold hate his soldiers?
- Did the officer hate his soldiers drowning?
- Did the officer hate the soldiers refusing to listen?
- Were the officer's actions cruel?
- Were those shot punished for their refusal to listen—or was the action taken to save the rest?

This is God throughout the Bible. This is what is happening to Ananias and Sapphira—for the benefit of the emerging church and throughout history. The immature look at that example and they realize the danger of lying, cheating, etc. and in their childlike understanding consider God the source of the inflicted punishment. But perhaps resist the temptation to lie and cheat. Hopefully they will grow up and understand God is not the source of inflicted punishment.

Ellen White grew up to understand this. The following quote was written by her in the 1890's, while exiled to Australia. She sent it to Uriah Smith, who at the time was editor of the Signs, and he couldn't make sense of it, most likely because he was too spiritually immature, so he filed it in the magazine's files, where it was found in the 1950's and published in the selected messages.

**We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. The sinner brings the punishment upon himself.** His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure result. Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner, works in him a change of character, and makes it more easy for him to transgress again. **By choosing to sin, men separate themselves from God, cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death.** {1SM 235.2}

What does this describe? What kind of law is this?

EG White grew in her faith and understanding of reality. Yet, God's spokespersons throughout history have always written to the entire human population, thus they write to the children, the spiritually immature who need the threats of punishment.

Why didn't I include the punishment quotes in lesson three when I presented the other quotes? Because I knew what was meant. I understand design law. I knew about the quote from 1SM and other places. I know God is not the source of inflicted punishment, but takes that role for the immature. And I don't want to perpetuate the view based on imposed law that has kept the church impotent and obstructed our ability to take the final message to the world.

Those who sent in the question—thank you! I think from time to time it is important to clarify quotes like this. But to those who think I don't use the entire body of evidence, I refute that allegation. When all the inspired record is harmonized it reveals God as Creator, His law as design law, sin as deviation from His design that causes pain, suffering and death, and God as our healer and Savior working in perfect harmony with Jesus and the Holy Spirit to eradicate sin in order to save the sinner.

## SABBATH

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Read memory text: "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses." Acts 13:38,39, NIV

What does this text mean to you?

Was God able to forgive sins without the death of Jesus?

If Jesus didn't die for us, would that mean God is unforgiving toward us?

Did God become forgiving toward us only because Jesus died for us?

Was it Jesus' death and the presentation of His "blood" that influenced God to move from a position of unforgiveness to a position of forgiveness?

What of these Bible texts:

- 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? Rom 8:31,32
- For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16,17
- And God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him. 1John 4:19 GNB
- God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them...2Cor 5:19
- But God has shown us how much he loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us! Rom 5:8 GNB

Do these text sound like God needed Christ to do something to God for God to forgive us?

Can we say that whatever Paul meant about "through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed" that it doesn't mean that through Jesus God has changed from unforgiving to forgiving. It doesn't mean God was either *unwilling* or *unable* to forgive due to some legal hindrance upon Him.

Do we understand Paul's words through design law or through human imposed law lenses?

Through the human imposed law people have construed some idea that Jesus' death was necessary to pay some legal penalty to get a legal pardon or forgiveness. This is not so. What evidence to we have to demonstrate this?

When Jesus healed the paralytic let down through the roof, right before he healed him Jesus said:

But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." Mt 9:6 NIV

Does Jesus have the authority to forgive sins? Did Jesus need His blood presented to Himself in order to do so?

Was this man's sins forgiven Him?

In the legal model, if God—the ruler of the universe—forgives someone their sins, that mean they are saved. In other words, there is a connection between forgiving of sins and salvation in the legal model that is linked. So, in the legal model the saved have their sins forgiven but the unsaved do not have their sins forgiven, isn't that how it is taught?

What about those who crucified Christ, the ones around the cross mocking, jeering, and taunting Him, were they saved? No, but were they forgiven by God?

Jesus said: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34

Were they forgiven? Were they saved? Hmm, how do we understand this?

Under the legal lie, it is a contradiction, under design law it is simple reality.

A child disobeys a parent’s instruction to avoid the house cleaners under the sink and drinks some of the substances poisoning him or her.

Now—walk through the issue of forgiveness—if a parent refused to forgive this disobedience, might it result in the parent refusing to act to save the child?

If the parent did forgive, which I think almost every parent instantly would, would the forgiveness of the parent save the child? Or would there be actions necessary by the parent beyond their “not counting their trespass against them” in order to save the child? And if the parent offers and antidote but the child somehow refuses to take it—what then? Do they die? But do they die forgiven? This is the situation with the lost in the end.

Now, in relationships if someone does another wrong, betrays a person, what is necessary for reconciliation?

- Does the person offended have to forgive?
- Does the offender need to repent?
- Are both required for reconciliation?
- And if in committing the offense the offender actually introduced some destructive element into themselves, would a remedy also be necessary?
- What if the offender believes that the one they offended is angry with them and wants to punish them for their wrong? How might they act toward the one they offended? Would their guilt and shame increase or decrease trust? And if they didn’t trust the one they offended and the one they offended actually had the cure to save them, would that be a problem?

So, putting it all together, what does Paul mean in the text?

Acts 13:38,39 from *The Remedy*: "So, my dear friends, I want you to understand that it is through Jesus that sinfulness in our hearts remits and we are restored to God's original ideal. Through what he achieved, every person who trusts him is healed and set right from every defect of character that the diagnostic code, given through Moses, could not fix."

This is the true message of Scripture. We are out of harmony with God and His design for life, and God is working to save us. But, when people read the Bible with the false law lens they read into it the

distorted views of God that undermine trust and lead to the false legal interventions.

You know I am working on paraphrasing the Psalms, and through the design law lens they are so beautiful. In conjunction with this idea of healing from sin, the forgiveness of sins, I wanted to share my paraphrase of Psalm 31:

### Psalm 31

- 1 O Lord, I come to you for healing;  
don't let guilt and shame destroy me;  
restore me to your perfect design.
- 2 Listen to me—listen closely,  
and heal me—heal me quickly;  
be my unfailing remedy,  
a healing sanctuary to renew me.
- 3 Since you are my remedy and my sanctuary,  
reveal your character of love by recreating me in your image.
- 4 Free me from fear and selfishness which has trapped me,  
for you are my remedy.
- 5 I trust you! And I place my life in your hands;  
you will cure me—no matter the price, O Creator—God of reality.
- 6 I hate the persistent use of false remedies;  
my confidence is in the Lord.
- 7 I will celebrate and rejoice in your love—your healing design for life,  
for you saw the misery of my terminal condition  
and knew the cause of the sickness ravaging my inner self.
- 8 You have not surrendered me to be enslaved by fear and selfishness—the enemy of your design;  
but have enabled me to stand free renewed in truth and love.
- 9 Pour your healing grace upon me, O Lord, lest I be crushed by guilt and shame;  
my eyes are swollen from crying,  
my heart is torn with sorry and regret.
- 10 My life is stuck, consumed with guilt—with reliving my mistakes,  
years wasted bemoaning the past;  
I'm exhausted, worn out with guilt,  
I am getting weaker every day.
- 11 My enemies—lies, fear and selfishness—have made me ashamed,  
my neighbors are tired of my self-loathing;  
My friends dread to hear more of my constant negativity—  
when they see me coming, they avoid me.
- 12 They have moved on, put me out of their minds as if I were dead.  
I am considered broken beyond repair.
- 13 I hear criticism in the words of others—  
I am terrified around people;

- they make plots to undermine me  
     they seek to crush my heart.
- 14 But I put my trust in you, O Lord;  
     You are my God!
- 15 My future is in your hands;  
     free me from fear and selfishness—my enemies  
     that constantly pursue me.
- 16 Immerse your servant in your life-giving glory;  
     heal me with your unfailing love.
- 17 Negate my shame, O Lord,  
     for I call upon you;  
     but let the unhealed be consumed by shame,  
     may they lie silent in the grave.
- 18 May the promotion of all false remedies be stopped,  
     for the self-sufficient deny reality,  
     they scorn God's design for life.
- 19 Beyond counting are the benefits of your goodness,  
     the treasures you have built into reality for all who humbly follow you.  
     Those who trust you and follow your methods  
         reap your blessings for all the universe to see.
- 20 You eradicate their sin-sickness by your presence—your secret plan—  
     freeing them from the trap of the proud and selfishness;  
     in your sanctuary you defend them  
         from the words of the accuser.
- 21 All praise and honor to the Lord,  
     for the wonders of his unfailing love that rescued me  
     when I was besieged by worldliness.
- 22 Terrified, I cried,  
     “I have cut myself off from God!”
- 23 But you heard my plea for mercy  
     when I called out to you for help.
- 24 Love the Lord, all his faithful followers!  
     The Lord preserves those who live in harmony with his design,  
     but the arrogant who choose their own way, he leaves to reap their full reward.
- 24 Be strong and confident,  
     all you who hope in the Lord.

## SUNDAY

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The lesson states a very powerful point: “God can operate only when we willingly place ourselves in a position where He can use us.”

Do you agree or disagree?

Why? What are God's methods? What does He want to achieve?

God wants our trust, love, loyalty, friendship—can any of these be achieved by imposing power, by coercion, by force, without the consent of the intelligent being?

What methods must be used to achieve this outcome? Truth, presented in love and leaving people free.

So, all constructs that present God as inflicting punishment for those who refuse Him, ultimately deny God's character and law of love and incite rebellion.

This is why the penal substitution view of atonement is so corrupt, it teaches people to believe a system that simultaneously misrepresents God and undermines trust and genuine healing.

Read third paragraph, "A period of intercessory prayer..." What is the purpose of intercessory prayer?

Is the purpose to influence God to love more, to be kind, to get God to do something good that God would not want to do?

If God always wants to do good, always wants to heal and save, then why do we need to pray? What are God's methods? How does He achieve His goals?

Does God violate freewill? Does He force His way in?

Thus, one aspect of prayer is our freewill consent inviting God into a situation. But there is another aspect: Does the process of praying have an impact upon the one who prays? Is there an aspect in which our conversations with God are healing, transforming, maturing to us? Does prayer help us in our spiritual growth?

Additionally, is there an aspect of prayer that exercises our own individual mental energies focusing our beings toward the welfare of others?

Can prayer, not only bring God into the equation, but can it allow us as believers to join our energies together and focus our intentions on the healing of others.

In God's universe, can this directly exert and positive influence? Yes, if we understand quantum connection, our prayers when focused with love and good intention can have a direct positive healing physical impact on the one being prayed for, through the quantum connections that God built into His universe.

Just as a person can use their physical body through Newtonian physics to massage, put pressure on a wound, do CPR, set a bone, and our direct physical contact and intervention can be healing, so too our prayers through quantum connections can exert positive impact on others.

So, I want to thank all of you who regularly pray for me and this ministry!

Read bottom green section, “Think how...” What is present truth for today? 3 angel’s messages? And what is that message?

What makes it harder to reach those who are already churched?

When people already believe they know the answer to a problem they are less open to a different answer.

When people are told one worldview, one way of thinking, one “present truth” they are often resistant to update unless life events don’t fit their view, or questions arise they can’t answer or people lead them to reconsider.

## **MONDAY**

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Read second paragraph, “Acts 13:13 records...” What does this mean?

Does this mean John Mark lost his salvation or turned against God?

Could it be that John Mark engaged in a ministry, a mission, that he wasn’t well suited for and got exhausted and discouraged?

Do different people tolerate life experiences differently?

For instance, do some people get overwhelmed if they have to speak in public? Does that mean if they avoid this they are not working for God?

Should we expect every person to thrive in the same ministry or same duty?

Read last paragraph, “The climax of the sermon is...” What does it mean “the law has not been abrogated?”

Abrogate means to repeal or make void—why is it necessary for the lesson to make this point?

Would they need to say, “The passage does not say the law of gravity was abrogated?”

If we insert any design law in there do we see how silly the sentence is?

So, this sentence is further evidence of the infection of imposed law, the types of laws that can be changed or repealed. And this is how most Christians think of God’s law, so the authors want to make the point God did not repeal his IMPOSED law because that is how they understand law. But when we

understand reality we know His law hasn't changed and cannot change.

Read bottom green section, "What does it mean..."

- Does salvation only through Jesus mean a person has to verbally use the name of Jesus?
- Does it mean they have to be baptized in the name of Jesus?
- Does it mean they have to identify as a Christian?

Paul wrote:

For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.<sup>14</sup> (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law,<sup>15</sup> since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)  
 Rom 2:12-15

What is the new covenant? Having the law written on the heart—what does Paul say these people have experienced? But they haven't heard the Scripture story—how is this possible?

Paul already told us in Romans 1:20:

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

God's design law, which reveals His character and methods are revealed in nature so that people are without excuse. So, people who recognize the principles of love, kindness, honesty etc. respond to the Holy Spirit and are renewed and have the law, God's design for life written on their hearts.

Then, how are they coming through Christ?

Which member of the Godhead was the one through whom the earth was created, and thus wrote God's law into nature?

Colossians 1:15-17:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.<sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. NIV

So Jesus is the member of the Godhead who created nature, and thus this is the first reason that people who come to God through nature come through Christ. But there is another way—and that is when they find God trustworthy in nature, and open their hearts to this higher power, the Holy Spirit takes

the achievements of Christ, the divine nature that Christ restored into humanity, and reproduces it in them. Thus they are still saved by the same remedy as everyone else, even if they don't know the verbal name or mechanism yet.

One of the founders of the SDA church put it this way:

Those whom Christ commands in the judgment may have known little of theology, **but they have cherished His principles.** [Which is what type of law? Design law, principles can be learned and appreciated from how reality works, but imposed rules cannot. Thus another strike against the penal substitution theology.] Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them. **Even among the heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness;** before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. **Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required.** Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God. {DA 638.2}

How surprised and gladdened will be the lowly among the nations, and **among the heathen**, to hear from the lips of the Saviour, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me"! How glad will be the heart of Infinite Love as His followers look up with surprise and joy at His words of approval! {DA 638.3}

**But not to any class is Christ's love restricted.** He identifies Himself with every child of humanity. That we might become members of the heavenly family, He became a member of the earthly family. He is the Son of man, and thus a brother to every son and daughter of Adam. His followers are not to feel themselves detached from the perishing world around them. They are a part of the **great web of humanity; and Heaven looks upon them as brothers to sinners as well as to saints.** The fallen, the erring, and the sinful, Christ's love embraces; and every deed of kindness done to uplift a fallen soul, every act of mercy, is accepted as done to Him. {DA 638.4}

What about the second question, "How do you reconcile the necessity to keep God's moral law with the fact that the law is unable to justify?"

Simple, breaking the laws of health cause disease, but once in a terminal state, suddenly keeping the laws of health do not provide remedy. Smoking causes cancer, stop smoking doesn't cure the cancer.

## TUESDAY

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Read first paragraph, "Acts 13:38,39..." What is meant by "Even if the law could produce perfect obedience in us, that perfect obedience cannot atone for past sins (Rom 3:19; Gal 3:10,11).

Let's check out the referenced texts and see if they speak to the question:

- Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Rom 3:19 NKJV
- All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."<sup>11</sup> Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." Gal 3:19,20 NIV

Does this say anything about atoning for past sins? Or do both texts speak of the inability of the law to resolve any sin, past, present or future?

What is the lesson trying to imply by "perfect obedience cannot atone for past sins"?

They are introducing a falsehood, a lie based on the lie about God's law, that sin is behavioral, bad deeds that are legally recorded and must be accounted for in some legal way. Thus, in their view even if we suddenly started keeping the law it doesn't resolve the legal guilt from the past.

In a sinful human world, with sinful human laws and courts this make sense. If someone murdered someone 10 years ago and since then never murdered again our legal justice system doesn't say since you are now living in harmony with the law you have no legal debt for your past murder. No, our system of imposed rules says they still must pay for their crime.

But, when we return to design law we realize that past sins are symptoms of a condition of being out of harmony with God and it isn't the record of the past that needs addressing but the condition of the heart. So, when a person is renewed and at one with God in heart/mind today the past deeds are not remembered, this is how they are dealt with.

If one were sick and vomited all over mother's new furniture when a child, such actions don't matter today as long as one isn't sick today. The issue isn't how gross the symptoms were back then, but whether one is still sick today.

Thus, the Bible says:

- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.<sup>5</sup> It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, **it keeps no record of wrongs.** 1Cor 13:4,5 NIV
- God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, **not counting men's sins against them.** 2Cor 5:19

This doesn't make sense to the penal view which teaches God does count our sins against us.

But notice what Peter describes and how the past sins are dealt with:

- For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;<sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to

perseverance, godliness;<sup>7</sup> and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

<sup>8</sup> For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>9</sup> But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and **has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.** 1Pet 1:5-9

Does it say such a person has forgotten his record of past sins were erased, or forgotten that the record books were cleansed? No, Peter describes the healing of the mind, the writing into the being the law of God, the development of a godly character and if this hasn't happened then the past sins are not cleansed. In other words, the cleansing is the cleansing of the heart and mind, not a legal cleansing or a historical erasure.

## **WEDNESDAY**

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Read first paragraph, "Under the instigation..." Do we still have problems with religious leaders actually inciting opposition to the work of God?

How can we protect ourselves from being caught up in a mob and being misled by religious leaders?

By thinking for ourselves and examining the evidence and practicing God's methods, truth, love freedom!

## **THURSDAY**

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Read bottom green and discuss

## **FRIDAY**

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read and discuss questions 1 and 4

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Check our website for new chapters of *The Remedy* the Psalms will be going up slowly as they are completed and edited. When an entire book of the Old Testament is complete then it will be added to the app and when you update the app you will get the new book. Thank you for your prayers and support as I work on this project.

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

**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

**December 1, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be doing an Aging Brain seminar in Dallas, TX. Organized by the Arlington SDA church.

**January 4-6, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking for the Florida Conference of SDA Women's Convention in Orlando, FL.

**February 2-3, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking Christ's Church of Oronogo, MO.

*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 9, 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!