



Oneness in Christ Lesson 13 4Q 2018 Final Restoration and Unity

As I was preparing the lesson for this week, one of our online listeners, Terry Utt, sent me a link to a short 5 minute YouTube video, produced by the US Airforce, filmed in the National Cathedral. He said he wished our church could have made this video. Consider the message of unity and whether there is a lesson for us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q41ctPLDHvU>

SABBATH

What do you think when you hear the title? Do you get excited? Do you get enthusiastic? Do you get anxious and fearful?

Read memory text: “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” NKJV

What is righteousness? The state of being righteous, which means what? To be morally upright—which is defined by what? What is the standard to determine what is right, just, upright, righteous?

I am going to read you a quote from EGW that some might use to promote a legal penal view of righteousness, but I am going to insert the author’s own definitions and descriptions of the terms used and you will see that it is not penal/legal at all, but healing and transforming through Christ. The challenge for each of us is to know the truth so well and have our minds so filled with the facts that when people pull quotes like this you can immediately insert the various definitions to know the true meaning and not get confused.

Righteousness is obedience to the law. The law demands righteousness, and this the sinner owes to the law; [what does this mean? What law, design or imposed? Why do we owe the law righteousness?] but he is incapable of rendering it. [Why are we incapable? Did we make a choice to be incapable or were we born incapable?] The only way in which he can attain to righteousness is through faith. [Which means what? Trust, in what or who? And when we trust God does something happen in us? What?] By faith he can bring to God the merits of Christ, and the Lord places the obedience of His Son to the sinner's account. [What does by faith mean? Does it mean by trusting and having confidence in Christ? What are the merits of Christ? They are the attributes and achievements which are his perfect character. What account? Would it be our heavenly record? What is recorded in the heavenly record, a list of deeds or our actual character? This same author wrote “Remember, your character is being daguerretyped [photographed] by the great Master Artist in the record books of heaven, as minutely as the face is reproduced upon the polished plate of the artist. What do the books of



heaven say in your case? Are you conforming your character to the Pattern, Jesus Christ? {TSB 62.1}. So how does the merits of Christ get put in your heavenly account? By recreating Christ within you. And this is how we by faith bring the merits of Christ to God by having Christ live in us.] **Christ's righteousness is accepted in place of man's failure, and God receives, pardons, justifies, the repentant, believing soul, treats him as though he were righteous, and loves him as He loves His Son.** [Why does the Father receive us as holy and righteous as the Son? Because as Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Gal 2:20 NIV, Why does the Father see Christ's righteousness? EGW said it this way: "This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us... By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. **When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness,** which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah. COL 311 Why does the Father see Christ's righteousness when we exercise faith/trust in Jesus? How does faith get the righteousness of Christ into our records? All the legal descriptions cheat people from this reality!] **This is how faith is accounted righteousness;** and the pardoned soul goes on from grace to grace, from light to a greater light. He can say with rejoicing, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:5-7). {FW 101.1}

She quoted Titus 3, lets read verses 4-8 from *The Remedy*:

But when our God and Savior appeared with the kindness and love of God,⁵ he healed us—he procured the Remedy. We could not do it ourselves, neither have we contributed anything to the cure. He did it because of his compassion. He heals us through the work of the Holy Spirit who cleanses our hearts and minds⁶ by taking what Christ achieved and generously reproducing it into us,⁷ so that—having been regenerated to be right in heart by the Remedy Christ achieved—we actually receive eternal life.⁸ This is the truth. I want you to make this truth clear, so that those who have partaken of the Remedy and trust God will focus their resources on doing good; for living in harmony with the law of love is healthy for everyone! Titus 3:4-8 *The Remedy*

Or consider this quote about righteousness, remember we are talking about the new heaven and new earth the home of the righteous:



Righteousness is holiness, likeness to God, and "God is love." 1 John 4:16. It is conformity to the law of God, for "all thy commandments are righteousness" (Psalm 119:172), **and "love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10). Righteousness is love, and love is the light and the life of God.** The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him. {FLB 109.2}

Not by painful struggles or wearisome toil, not by gift or sacrifice, is righteousness obtained; **but it is freely given to every soul who hungers and thirsts to receive it.** "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat;. . . without money and without price." Isaiah 55:1. "Their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord," and, "This is his name whereby he shall be called, The Lord our righteousness." Isaiah 54:17; Jeremiah 23:6. {FLB 109.3}

What is righteousness? It is love—God's character of love reproduced in us. It is not rule keeping, but living as God constructed and designed life to live!

So all of this is described in this way in the book *The Desire of Ages* and I think this is one of the best summation descriptions:

The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. [Why does the law require it? Because it is the protocol life operates upon, like saying the law of respiration requires that we breathe"] 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.** [How do we have remission of sins that are past, by a legal payment? No! By God's forbearance] 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 what is an effective method to break people out of the penal/legal view of salvation which is a lie and keeps people trapped in sin rather than experiencing the freedom of a new heart provided by Christ?

Would connecting the presentation of the gospel with some aspect of reality in which design law is obviously demonstrated and which brings healing and health be beneficial in promoting the gospel?

Consider this quote:

Medical missionaries and workers in the gospel ministry are to be bound together by indissoluble ties. Their work is to be done with freshness and power. **By their combined**



efforts the world is to be prepared for the second advent of Christ. Through their united labors the Sun of Righteousness is to rise, with healing in His wings, to lighten the benighted regions of the earth, where the people have long lived in gross darkness. Many who are now dwelling in the shadow of sin and death, as they see in God's faithful servants a reflection of the Light of the world, will realize that they have a hope of salvation, and **they will open their hearts to receive the healing beams, and will in turn become light bearers to others yet in darkness.** {CT 468.2}

This is what our ministries does—weaves together the design laws of life, the laws of health and the gospel truth!

What law does our physical health operate upon? When medical personal bring healing interventions what laws are they utilizing?

- Can doctors get patients well in violations of the laws of health?
- Do doctors try and teach people how to live in harmony with the laws of health?
- What kind of laws are the laws of health?
- If patients refuse to follow medical advice, what happens to them?
- Do medical personal inflict pain and suffering and death upon non-compliant patients?
- Are there powerful lessons that apply to the plan of salvation and how sin kills and how God through Christ heals?
- Can you see why Satan wants to separate the medical work from the gospel?
- Can you see that the legal/penal ideas have nothing to offer the medical work and are exposed as a fraud, thus Satan wants to separate the gospel from the medical work.
- And can you see how he has done this in the SDA church?

So how is it that a person with a serious medical condition dies if they refuse treatment? Is this how the wicked die if they refuse God's salvation? Here is a very powerful quotation that Karin Covi sent me this week written by EGW one of the founders of the SDA church, what do you think?

The Spirit of God keeps evil under the control of conscience. When people exalt themselves above the influence of the Spirit, they reap a harvest of iniquity.... Warnings have less and less power over them. They gradually lose their fear of God. **They sow to the flesh; they will reap corruption.** The harvest of the seed that they themselves have sown is ripening.... **Their heart of flesh becomes a heart of stone.** Resistance to truth confirms them in iniquity.... **All should be intelligent in regard to the agency by which the soul is destroyed. It is not because of any decree that God has sent out against men or women. He does not make them spiritually blind. God gives sufficient light and evidence to enable them to distinguish truth from error. But He does not force them to receive truth. He leaves them free to choose the good or to choose the evil. If people resist evidence that is sufficient to guide their judgment in the right direction and choose evil once, they will do this more readily the second time. The third time they will still more eagerly withdraw from God and choose to stand on the side of Satan. And in this course they will continue**



until they are confirmed in evil and believe the lie they have cherished as truth.—
Manuscript 126, 1901 (Sermons and Talks 2:183, 184). {CTr 103.4}

Read first paragraph, “One of the greatest promises...” Do you think Jesus wants to come again as soon as possible?

Then why has He not yet returned?

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2Pet 3:9 NIV

Jesus said,

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. MT 24:14 NIV

What does this mean?

What kingdom? Would it be the kingdom of love? Has Christianity taken that message to the world, or has Christianity taken the message of a dictator god, who will use his power to torture and kill all who disobey him?

If God is waiting because He wants people to be saved, to be healed, to not perish, to repent and experience a new heart and right spirit within—can that be achieved by teaching people a false penal/legal view of God?

Or, does the penal/legal view actually obstruct the gospel and prevent hearts and minds from being healed?

It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. **At this time a message** from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. **His character is to be made known.** Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the **light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth...The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character** they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them. {COL 415}

Is there anything we can do to hasten the coming of the Lord?

Would it not be to reject the false legal/penal view, embrace the truth of God’s design law and character of love, enter into a trust relationship with Him and reveal His character of love in how we live and treat others?



SUNDAY

The title is The Certainty of Christ's Return—does this give you hope or fear?

In the second paragraph the lesson quotes Enoch from the book of Jude:

“Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” vs 14,15

What do you hear? Does this sound like a healing message or a punishing message?

What is this judgment?

- Is it a determination of who is saved and who is lost?
- In other words, is the judge weighing forensic evidence and deciding who will be saved and who will be lost?
- Are our cases in the hands of the judge and it is up to the judge to decide whether we are saved or lost?
- Is it the decision of the judge that determines our eternal destiny?
- Or, is this judgment merely the final diagnosis, the final declaration of the actual condition of each person's character?

When God declares:

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. Rev 22:11

is God making it so, or is God merely stating what already is so? Who made the choices for some to be righteous and some to be unrighteous?

When God said in Hosea 4:17 that Ephraim is joined to idols, let him go, was that God making a judgment? Was God's judgment what caused it to be this way or simply the declaration that it was already this way?

In the judgment will God's declaration of our state make us that way or merely acknowledge and accept that we are the way we are?

How did we get that way? By either trusting God and opening the heart to receive the remedy Jesus has provided applied via the Holy Spirit, or by holding to lies and keeping our hearts closed and hardening in selfishness.



So, Enoch's words in Jude, from *The Remedy*:

"Be aware, the Lord is coming to earth with millions of his holy angels in order to bring about the accurate diagnosis of all things—to bring all selfish beings face to face with their own terminal condition, with the pain and suffering they have caused, and with all the lies about God they have told."

MONDAY

The Promise of Restoration—is this real or metaphor?

This is real—so when we talk in this class about healing, restoration, recreation we are not talking metaphor but the reality to which all the metaphors point.

Those who hold to the legal lie suggest that the healing view we teach is just one metaphor among many and that because they include all the metaphors along with the healing metaphor their view is richer and deeper. What is wrong with their position?

They have taken reality—restoration, healing, renewal, recreation and denied it is real and made it only a metaphor, so that people don't actually seek healing, they instead seek legal pardon and covering over their iniquity.

It would be like a person dying of cancer seeking to be forgiven for cancer and have the medical record altered to say there is no cancer, even though they are still terminal. It is a fraud and this is what the penal legal model does to people. This is why God is waiting. This is why we are not in our new earth, because millions of hearts and minds are trapped in a false view of God which keeps them in fear and insecurity.

We have a message for this time—the message of God's character and law of love to be shared to free hearts and minds to experience genuine renewal to be like Christ!

Do we believe that the home of the righteous will be a real physical place with physical bodies, and real earth, water, sky, and animals and people? Absolutely yes!

And what kind of place will the new earth be?

Will it be like it was before Adam's fall?

Here is one commentator's description of the earth before sin:

When God had formed the earth, there were mountains, hills, and plains, and interspersed among them were rivers and bodies of water. The earth was not one extensive plain, but the



monotony of the scenery was broken by hills and mountains, not high and ragged as they now are, but regular and beautiful in shape. **The bare, high rocks were never seen upon them, but lay beneath the surface, answering as bones to the earth.** The waters were regularly dispersed. The hills, mountains, and very beautiful plains, were adorned with plants and flowers, and tall, **majestic trees of every description, which were many times larger,** and much more beautiful, than trees now are. The air was pure and healthful, and the earth seemed like a noble palace. Angels beheld and rejoiced at the wonderful and beautiful works of God. {3SG 33.1}

A description of the earth after the fall and before the flood:

The curse did not change at once the appearance of the earth. It was still rich in the bounty God had provided for it. **There was gold and silver in abundance.** The race of men then living were of very great stature, and possessed wonderful strength. **The trees were vastly larger, and far surpassing in beauty and perfect proportions anything mortals can now look upon. The wood of these trees was of fine grain and hard substance--in this respect more like stone.** It required much more time and labor, even of that powerful race, to prepare the timber for building, than it requires in this degenerate age to prepare trees that are now growing upon the earth, even with the present weaker strength men now possess. **These trees were of great durability, and would know nothing of decay for very many years.** {3SG 61.2}

What about Adam's abilities before the fall? Do you think we have degenerated not only in physical ability, but mental ability? Do you think Adam had control over nature? Could Adam walk on water? Could Adam move things with his mind?

Here is a commentary for consideration:

While they remained true to God, Adam and his companion were to bear rule over the earth. **Unlimited control was given them over every living thing.** The lion and the lamb sported peacefully around them or lay down together at their feet. The happy birds flitted about them without fear; and as their glad songs ascended to the praise of their Creator, Adam and Eve united with them in thanksgiving to the Father and the Son. {PP 50.2}

TUESDAY

Will the earth made new be a physical place in which the righteous will live with real physical bodies?

Job said:

But I know there is someone in heaven
who will come at last to my defence.
Even after my skin is eaten by disease,
while still in this body I will see God.



I will see him with my own eyes,
and he will not be a stranger. Job 19:25-27

Paul of course describes the resurrection in 1Cor 15 and 1Thes 4 and our corruptible bodies will be changed to incorruptible bodies, these mortal bodies will be made immortal.

We can't conceive of what that will be like.

WEDNESDAY

Read the top paragraph, "For behold..." What does this mean?

Does this mean in heaven we won't have any memory of sin? Will the events on planet earth we wiped from the collective consciousness of all intelligent beings?

Will the memory of history be erased?

Why is this not possible?

What is it that makes us who we are as unique individuals?

It is our life experiences—identical twins are not identical people. Our biology doesn't make us who we are, it is our life experiences, which is embedded in our memories. To wipe out our memories would wipe out our identities—it cannot be done while preserving us.

And such an interpretation of this passage contradicts the rest of Scripture. What to these text describe:

- The 144,000 people stood before the throne, the four living creatures, and the elders; they were singing a new song, which only they could learn. Rev 14:3
 - What does this mean? Why can't others learn it? Because it is the song of their experience. Here is what the SDA Bible commentary says of this text:
 - The experience is of such a personal nature that only those who pass through it can appreciate its significance. To them the song is a treasured and comprehensive summation of the experiences through which they have passed in the closing stages of the conflict between good and evil.¹
 - What is required in order to sing a song of one's experience? That one remembers their experience!
- What about David, Bathsheba, Solomon and Uriah? Will they know each other, what will that mean?
- What did Jesus mean when he said "I tell you, then, the great love she has shown proves that her many sins have been forgiven. But whoever has been forgiven little shows only a little

¹ Nichol, F. D. (Ed.). (1980). *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Vol. 7, p. 826). Review and Herald Publishing Association.



love.” Luke 7:47 GNB

- Does our memory of how much we have been forgiven impact our love?

What about this quote from the book *Maranatha*:

Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy has now been made plain. **The results of rebellion**, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, have been laid open to the view of all created intelligences. The working out of Satan's rule in contrast with the government of God has been presented to the whole universe. **Satan's own works have condemned him. God's wisdom, His justice, and His goodness stand fully vindicated.** It is seen that all His dealings in the great controversy have been conducted with respect to the eternal good of His people and the good of all the worlds that He has created. . . **The history of sin will stand to all eternity as a witness** that with the existence of God's law is bound up the happiness of all the beings He has created. With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: "Just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." {Mar 346.2}

The inhabitants of all worlds will be convinced of the justice of the law in the overthrow of rebellion and the eradication of sin. [What does this mean, do you hear it through imposed or design law lenses, keep reading] When man, beguiled by Satan's power, disobeyed the divine law, **God could not, even to save the lost race, change that law.** [Why not? Because God's law is design law, how He built the universe to operate, which is in harmony with His own character of love. To change the law would be to change His own character and destroy the foundation of life itself, notice what she says next] **God is love, and to change the law would be to deny Himself, to overthrow those principles with which are bound up the good of the universe.** [His laws are the principles, protocols, upon which life is built. All the legal imposed law views are Satan's lies] The working out of the plan of salvation reveals not only to men but to angels, the character of God, and **through the ages of eternity the malignant character of sin will be understood by the cost to the Father and the Son of the redemption of a rebel race.** [What will be understood for all eternity? Both the beauty and wonder of God's character of love and the malignant character of sin. How is it understood? By remembering exactly what happened when God's principles were set aside and Satan's imposed law methods practiced.] In Christ, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, all worlds will behold the marks of the curse, and **angels as well as men will ascribe honour and glory to the Redeemer through whom they are all made secure from apostasy. The efficiency of the cross guards the redeemed race from the danger of a second fall.** [Why will there be no second fall? Because we all remember!] **The life and death of Christ effectually unveils the deceptions of Satan, and refutes his claims.** The sacrifice of Christ for a fallen world draws not only men, but angels unto Him bonds of indissoluble union. Through the plan of salvation the justice and mercy of God are fully vindicated, and **to all eternity rebellion will never again arise, affliction never again touch the universe of God.** {Messenger, June 7, 1893 par. 6}



But this eternal security is only possible if all intelligent beings remember. If we have our memories erased then we haven't learned the truth of the difference and we are vulnerable to having the rebellion arise again.

And who would teach the idea that memory would be erased? And what system of theology always includes this? The penal substitution system, which is further evidence of its false origins.

So what does the Isaiah text mean? Simply what it says, we won't think about, won't focus on it, it won't come to mind, but that doesn't mean we don't have memory of it. In fact, we will travel the universe to tell the wonderful story of redemption through Jesus, which will require we remember.

THURSDAY

Life on the New Earth—all things made new.

What about the New Jerusalem?

Compare the New Jerusalem with the Most Holy Place in the sanctuary:

Most Holy Place

Cube
covered gold
saved are at-one
God dwells there
High Priest cleanses
Surrounded by 12 tribes

New Jerusalem

Cube
paved gold
saved are at-one
God dwells there
High Priest cleanses hearts
Gates of 12 tribes

The New Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ—the church is the Bride of Christ and the people live in the New Jerusalem and are the shining living stones that beautify the city.

So is the New Jerusalem real? I think it is, but it is also an object lesson of our restored perfection and unity with Christ.

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, “The resurrection...” What does this mean? What is the blood of the Lamb that we wash our characters in?

Jesus is the Word made flesh and we are to eat the flesh of Jesus; what does this mean?

When Jesus said unless we eat his flesh and drink his blood we have no part with him, what does that mean?



What of this description?

“In the study of the Bible the converted soul eats the flesh and drinks the blood of the Son of God, which He himself interprets as the receiving and doing of His words, that are spirit and life.” Fundamentals of Christian Education 378.1

“The leaven of truth works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous. **By it [the truth] the impure are cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb.”** Christ’s Object Lessons 102

So, how do we understand the paragraph about washing our robes of character in the blood of Jesus?

What would happen if we conclude that it means we are to claim the legal payment of Jesus death, the blood, and present it by faith to the Father, and that will have our records expunged in the courtroom of heaven and we will be declared to be righteous even though we are not?

It would mean we put an idea into people’s minds that prevents them from experiencing the true washing of their robes. They accept a lie and their characters remain infected with fear and selfishness and they never even think to ask for the Holy Spirit to transform them to Christlikeness.

This is what the penal substitution lie does.

Read and discuss questions 1 and 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

January 4-6, 2019: CANCELLED Dr. Jennings was scheduled to speak at the Florida Conference of SDA women’s retreat, however this week received an email that said one person mentioned to the organizer that there were questions about my theology so they cancelled Dr. Jennings speaking.

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

February 22-March 9, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be in Australia speaking in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Adelaide, Avondale, Sydney, Livingston, Perth, and Melbourne.

April 3-6, 2019: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Sophia Bulgaria.