



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

Jesus pleads before the Father, carrying out the Father's purpose to save sinners, the Holy Spirit listens to Christ and works in you and me communicating the love, grace and pleas of Christ to you and me to win us back to trust, so we will open the door to our hearts and let Him save us from fear and selfishness!

Read last paragraph, "Jesus identified Himself..." What are the keys to death and the grave? Why does Jesus's death and resurrection hold the power over death and the grave?

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Heb 2:14,15 NIV84

What does this mean and how is it related to Christ's victory and the keys to death and the grave?

- What is life eternal? John 17:3: live eternal = knowing God
- Then what is eternal death? Not knowing God
- Then what is Satan's power of death? Lies about God that we believe, which results in broken love/trust and inciting fear and selfishness—the carnal drives, also known as the law of sin and death



- Then how does Christ's death and resurrection gain the keys to death and the grave and have the authority to overrule death?
 - Christ revealed truth to destroy lies, thus destroying Satan's power and winning all who accept the truth about God He reveals back to trust and
 - Christ developed a perfect sinless human character restoring God's design law of love back into humanity while simultaneously destroying, in His humanity, the infection of fear and selfishness. Thus, He arises with a perfect humanity that becomes the source of salvation for all who obey Him. Those won to trust experience the infusion of Christ's perfection and have the infection of fear and selfishness removed.

The keys are the actual elements that are required by the reality of God's character and how He built life to operate. It isn't a legal achievement, but an actual accomplishing of what is necessary for death to be defeated—destroying the cause of death—lies, fear and selfishness—in all who trust Him.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson points out the literal and symbolic nature of the seven churches in Revelation that there is a:

- Historical application to the churches in John's day
- Prophetic application to periods of time corresponding to each church
- Universal application that some people will identify with one of each of these messages no matter what time they exist

THURSDAY

Read the message to the church of Ephesus, from *The Remedy*:

¹"Write to the messenger to my recovering children in the church in Ephesus: This message comes from Jesus, who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven lampstands.² I know you—your choices, actions, works, determination, and commitment. I know that your hearts are repulsed by wickedness in humanity, and that you have examined those who claim to be my ambassadors but are not; and you rightly determined them to be false.³ I know that you have stayed true, revealing my character of love despite persecution, and have not given up.

⁴"Yet I have diagnosed you with one serious problem: You have let go of your first love.⁵ I implore you, remember the pinnacle of purity from which you have fallen! Turn back to your first love and practice again the methods you did then. If you do not turn back, the light of truth will be lost to you and your minds will be darkened.⁶ To your advantage, you have hated the hedonistic practices of the Nicolaitans that so damage the mind—which I also hate.



⁷ "Those whose minds are open to truth will understand what the Spirit reveals to the churches. Those who overcome—complete the treatment and are renewed in love—will eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

thoughts?

What contributes to love waning?

Read story beginning page 77 in *The God-Shaped Heart*

Linda was eager to be married, to have someone special to spend her life with, but there were not many prospects on the horizon. Then one day she met Herman. He treated her so nicely. He opened the door for her, held her hand as they walked, and pulled her chair out as she sat down. After months of courtship, Herman proposed. Joyfully, she immediately said yes, and they were married.

For the honeymoon Herman took her to a very nice place. They had a wonderful time, but all too quickly the honeymoon was over. Their first morning home Linda was awakened early at 5 a.m. by a bright light. She opened her eyes and there stood Herman saying, "Rise and shine. The honeymoon is over, and we need to get down to real life."

She noticed he was holding a piece of paper in his hand, and he presented to her the first of many lists to come. He had spelled out in great detail her responsibilities in two-week segments.

March 1–14:

5:30 rise and shower

6:00 begin breakfast; see attached menu

6:15 awaken Hermie-cuddles with a gentle kiss and turn on his shower

6:45 serve breakfast (do not forget grapefruit)

7:15 begin breakfast cleanup while husband brushes teeth

7:25 meet Hermie-cuddles at the door with appropriate jacket (be sure to pay attention to the weather), and say good-bye with a smile and a kiss

7:30 finish breakfast cleanup

8:00 free time

8:15 housecleaning; see attached cleaning supply list and detailed instructions

M—north rooms

T—east rooms

W—south rooms

TH—west rooms

F—the garage



11:00 balance checkbook
12:00 lunch, whatever you like except marked items; check list
12:30 miscellaneous duties

M—car maintenance and wash car
T—dry cleaning and banking
W—shopping
TH—wash windows
F—yard work

3:30 dinner prep; see attached menu
4:30 meet husband at door with kiss and hang up his coat
5:00 serve dinner
5:45 dinner cleanup
6:15 free time; see list of suggestions
6:45 draw Hermie-cuddles's bath
7:00 do next day's ironing
7:45 hand husband towel as he exits bath
8:00 neck and back massage for the man of your dreams
9:00 lights out, pleasant dreams sweetheart

Linda was given a new list with slight variations every two weeks without fail. As the years dragged on—and they were dragging—ten years into the relationship Hermie-cuddles dropped dead of an unknown cause. Linda's first reaction was to praise God! She didn't know whether to rejoice or grieve.

She made a vow that she would never, ever, get married again. But after three years of being single, she met a guy named Michael. He was like Herman in some ways. He opened the door for a lady to walk through. He was polite and courteous. He pulled out her chair as she sat and enjoyed holding her hand. And she kept telling herself, "No way, no way, no way." Then one day Michael popped the question, and she said yes.

They had a wonderful honeymoon. The first day back she woke up with a start at 5:30 a.m. and saw Michael standing at the end of the bed with a piece of paper in his hand. Immediately, she jumped into a karate stance, yelled "no way," and yanked the paper from him ripping it in two. Michael, with a sad and surprised look, said, "Linda that was a poem I wrote for you after you fell asleep last night."

As his words sank in, she felt bad about her reaction. She picked up the pieces and read his beautiful expression of love, and it broke her heart. While she was reading, Michael came in and served her breakfast in bed. And no list was forthcoming. Ten years passed being married



to this wonderful man. One spring day while cleaning in the attic she came across an old shoebox filled with lists given to her by Herman the horrible.

She pulled out one of the lists and began to read. The strangest realization came over her. She said quietly to herself, “Wow, I do all of these things for Michael, and I never think about it.”

What happened to Linda’s love? Is there a lesson for us in the history of Christianity? What happens when we replace design law with a list of rules?

FRIDAY

read and discuss questions

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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.