



## Family Seasons Lesson 11 2Q 2019 Families of Faith

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

Davie Siebert an online listener sent in this EGW quote that I had not seen before:

There needs to be far more lessons in the ministry of the Word of **true conversion than of the arguments of the doctrines**, for it is far easier and more natural for the heart that is not under the control of the Spirit of Christ to choose doctrinal subjects **rather than the practical**. - 17MR 143.2

This is one of the goals of Come and Reason Ministries to make God's Word practical—to demonstrate God's methods and principles and how they apply to our lives for healing and transformation, not merely to argue a point of doctrine.

### SABBATH

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Read memory text: “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1,2 NKJV

What does “author and finisher of our faith” mean? Does it have anything to do with righteousness by faith? Is it a way of referring to the plan of salvation?

Could we say “He is the author and finisher of the plan of salvation?”

Is this the same or a different message from what is taught in the sanctuary symbolism?

Then could we say this is the same as righteousness by faith and the same as cleansing the sanctuary?

How are all of this these the same thing? Can someone explain how?

What is the problem sin that caused that the plan of salvation is designed to fix?

When Adam and Eve sinned did God or God's law get changed? Did the condition of the humanity get changed?



Did they get changed in some aspect of their being? In other words, when they sinned were they exactly the same in heart, mind, character, motive and the only change was their legal standing, or did they actually become changed in their being?

What kind of law is God's law? Design law, so what happened when Adam and Eve broke it? They changed themselves inciting a terminal condition.

What then is necessary for human beings to be saved?

A remedy to cure the condition AND restored trust in the one who has the remedy.

What is the remedy? A perfect, sinless, mature, human character.

Could any natural descendant of Adam and Eve develop a perfect sinless human character?

So, how is Christ the author of our faith, or salvation? He came as a human and by using His human capacities He overcame every temptation to sin and developed a perfect, sinless, mature human character. (Heb 5:8,9)

He also exposed Satan as a liar and revealed the truth about God's character and methods thus providing the evidence to restore trust.

So, Jesus is the author of our salvation by taking up humanity damaged by Adam and healing it in His person providing a remedy for our salvation while also providing the truth to restore us to trust in God.

How is He the finisher? Because He directs all the agencies of heaven to apply in us what He has achieved. He said that the Spirit would come and not speak on His own, but only what He hears. The Holy Spirit is listening to Jesus and applying to us the perfection of Christ as we trust Him.

So, the human species was saved in the person of Jesus Christ and each individual human who is saved, is saved by trusting in Jesus Christ and experiencing from the work of the Holy Spirit the renewal of heart and mind and reproducing within the character of Christ—by our willful and active agreement and consent. In other words, our choice to say Yes to God and Yes to every element of His righteousness and No to every aspect of sin as we are confronted with it.

So, justification is, first the human species being set right or put right with God in the person of Jesus Christ. And then, as individuals it is being set right in heart with God, from fear and distrust, to love and trust. We trust Him and open our hearts. The heart is set right.



And sanctification is the daily healing of heart, mind, character that occurs as we grow in our knowledge, relationship and appreciation for God, continually choosing to trust and follow Him.

Bible perfection is perfect love and trust, such that fear and selfishness has been replaced with love and trust to the point that we become like those described in Revelation 12:11 "These are they who do not love their life so much as to shrink from death"

So, righteousness by faith is trusting God and being transformed into Christlikeness of character.

Cleansing of the Sanctuary is Christ working in our hearts and minds to restore us to righteousness and remove all lies about Him and defects from our characters.

Here are some EGW quotes that describe this:

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

**No human invention can find a remedy for the sinning soul...**The fountain of the heart must be purified before the streams can become pure. **He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility.** There is no safety for one **who has merely a legal religion,** a form of godliness. **The Christian's life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature.** There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. **This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit.** {DA 172.1}

**The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail.** The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. **Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer.** It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. **Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature...** {DA 671.2}



**The Holy Spirit ever abides with him who is seeking for perfection of Christian character. The Holy Spirit furnishes the pure motive, the living, active principle, that sustains striving, wrestling, believing souls in every emergency and under every temptation. The Holy Spirit sustains the believer amid the world's hatred, amid the unfriendliness of relatives, amid disappointment, amid the realization of imperfection, and amid the mistakes of life. Depending upon the matchless purity and perfection of Christ, the victory is sure to him who looks unto the Author and Finisher of our faith. . . . {OFC 211.1}**

Read first paragraph, “No matter what stage...” Are we impacted by culture? Of course.

The lesson points out that culture was a powerful factor that influenced the change of Sabbath to Sunday.

What is evidenced by this changed? What does this change reveal about how people think about God and God's law?

So, what is the problem—the day people go to church upon, or how they view God and God's law?

## **SUNDAY**

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Read first paragraph, “As the gospel...” What is the gospel—good news—about what?

Do you think the true gospel has been preached around the world or an infected view, the idea of God and Jesus, but distorted in a way that makes God out to be like Satan alleges, the source of inflicted pain and suffering?

So, does the gospel, the true good news, need to go to the world? How would you describe it?

So, what do we say to a person in the Middle East about the gospel? How do you tell them about it?

So, let's say you teach a person about the problem of sin, caused by Adam and Eve, and God's solution for it through Jesus and they accept Jesus and want to be baptized and join the church. But the person has four wives—what would you say about that?

- Would you require him to keep only his first wife?
- What if she was arranged by his parents when he was 4 years old and he never loved nor chose her?
- What if the second wife is the one who he gave his heart to?
- What if the wives he let go would be homeless?



- Would you let this person have membership in your church if he kept all four wives? How about hold church office? What does the New Testament say about church leaders? They must have only one spouse. But does it say church membership requires only one spouse?

What about a gay couple who are married, have lived together monogamously for years and have adopted children and then convert to Christ and want to be baptized and join the church—what would you tell them?

What does this mean:

“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1Sam 16:7

Does it **only** mean physical attributes like skin color, height, weight, grooming, clothing, jewelry or does it mean behavior—how we act, speak, and live?

Is it about the behaviors or about the heart motive, the character? Can certain behaviors be sin in one situation and righteous in another—depending on the motive of heart?

- Can a person refusing to help someone be either selfishness or love, depending on the situation?
- Can we tell by the behavior alone?

So, if we bring the gospel to people is it about getting them to adhere to a certain list of rules or behaviors, or is it about getting people to know and love Christ, such that selfishness and fear are replaced with love, trust and Christlike character?

When we lead people to Christ are we primarily concerned with the eternal salvation, the heart of the sinner being restored to godliness, or are we primarily concerned that the convert behaves in a way that makes us comfortable?

Is it our job to tell people what sin in their lives needs to be resolved, or is it the job of the Holy Spirit to convict the heart?

Where do we draw the line? Do we then accept without confrontation active child molesters, rapists, murderers, thieves, adultery, addicts who refuse to get help? What about active gossips and slanderers?

Why would we confront such activity? Because it DESTROYS the sinner and we love them and don't want them to destroy themselves, and we don't want them to lead others into destruction with them.

So, do we draw the line?



Read second paragraph, “Christ’s death was for the sins of...” What does this mean? What did His death do to, for, or about our sins?

Is it about our acts, deeds, that He did something or about our sinful condition that He did something?

When we sin does sin do something to us? What does sin do to us? Then what does Christ need to do about our sins?

Why does God show no partiality? Because of His character which is the foundation of His law. His laws are design laws, they never change, and they show no partiality. Pick any division you like—black, white, Hispanic; Christian, Jew, Muslim—it doesn’t matter, pick any division and have them jump off a tall building—will gravity treat them differently? Have them all tie a plastic bag over their head, will the law of respiration treat them differently? Have them commit sin, will God’s law of love treat them differently?

No, God treats everyone the same.

Some miss this because of what appears to be differences in outcome.

If a Norwegian and Nigerian both stand in the summer sun for many hours in Miami, will the sun treat them differently? No, the sun treats them exactly the same, the difference in their response is the difference in them, not the sun. God treats everyone the same—in that He loves all infinitely and provides all truth and love to heal them, but we all respond differently and need different truths and interventions from God depending on our situation.

Read last paragraph, “At the same time...” what is God’s truth?

What is pseudo-Christianity? How would you describe it?

How is pseudo-Christianity still active today? Are there any elements of it alive in your church? What elements?

What is the primary idea that makes Christianity a blend with paganism?

How about an imperial law—rules imposed, requiring externally inflicted punishment for rule breaking, requiring the god be propitiated by the blood of a human sacrifice? Does this idea exist in any of our churches today? Is it Christian or pseudo-Christian? Doesn’t this make God appear to be like any other human government?



What is the real-world impact of believing this view? What happens to us, to our hearts, minds characters? Does it affect how we treat each other and our families?

## MONDAY

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The lesson asks us to evaluate how culture can impact family life and what lessons we can learn from the Bible examples below:

- Genesis 16:1-3—Abraham takes Hagar to have a child
  - This wasn't merely about culture, for Abraham could have had other wives prior to this if he wanted. This was about Abraham seeking to fulfill God's promise of a child and using his ability to achieve it. Thus, within that culture he used Hagar. How would Abraham do it today in our culture?
  - Either obtain a surrogate to be impregnated by him, or divorce Sarah and marry another wife to give him children
  - So what is the lesson we learn from this?
    - Can't fulfill God's plan by doing it our way
    - Doing it our way can make it worse
- Genesis 35:1-4—Jacob instructs all in his family to give up their idols of foreign gods—what lesson do we learn?
  - A time come in our lives when we have to make a choice; a time comes where wavering between two views is harmful and obstructive to healing and we must choose.
  - Elijah—if God is like Baal worship him, if Yahweh worship Him
  - This is what we are doing in this class and in the New Paradigm pamphlet, calling the question, saying to people: Stop wavering between two opinions that God is love but also the source of inflicted pain, suffering and death. Choose to reject the Baal view of God and worship the Creator whose laws are design laws
- Ezra 10 they sent away all their foreign wives AND their children—what lesson is taught?
  - Rid from our lives the ties to selfishness and this world—cutting away our loyalties to anything that is opposed to God's kingdom
  - Would this mean ridding from our lives our loyalties to human governments?
  - Would it mean ridding from our lives working to accomplish God's purposes through passing human laws and electing certain leaders?
- 1Kings 11—Solomon marries many wives from other nations—what lesson do we learn?
  - Bringing worldly influences into our lives corrupts good character

The bottom pink sections asks, “What things in your particular culture are helpful to family and in harmony with the Bible?”

- freedom of religion
- education



- moral equality of people regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnic background
- principles of autonomy
- programs that help the poor, infirmed and elderly
- health care, firemen, police, and governmental order
- caring for the earth—promoting a clean and healthy environment
- national parks
- food inspection and safety standards, clean water and sanitation
- Regulations against child labor and exploitation of children

“What things are not?”

- competitiveness
- getting rich as the primary goal for life
- the false idea that because people are equal in moral worth that they are equal in abilities
- the false idea that because we have freedom of conscience that all beliefs are equally valid or healthy
- the intolerance of any opinion or view not your own
- star-worship
- instant gratification
- fast food/junkfood
- GMO foods
- TV/Gaming
- evolutionism and godless philosophies
- God presented as the source of inflicted punishment—sends disasters to punish people etc.
- That we are owed something from others or our governments

## **TUESDAY**

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The last paragraph states, “With change comes the experience of loss and the anxiety of uncertainty as to one’s immediate future.”

What helps you cope with change?

- God—how does God help you cope?
- mindset about change—view it as opportunity or as loss of opportunity, view it as protective and helpful or as destructive and harmful?
  - Lost a job when I was 22....
  - Do we trust God with the changes in our lives?
- Family and friends





What helps you cope with loss?

- If we trust God does that mean we don't have pain with loss?
- How does trusting God help us deal with loss?
- What else helps?
- Family and friends—knowing you are not alone
- Purpose—if we know our loss serves a purpose we value does that help?

What helps you cope with uncertainty?

- What can you be certain about in the face of uncertainty? This is what helps me cope, to step back to the absolutes, the things I can be certain of:
  - God loves me
  - God wants my best interest
  - God's design laws, how reality works
  - What is the truth
  - This too will pass

“God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him.” {MH 479.2}

## **WEDNESDAY**

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Read bottom paragraph, “A common approach...” How do we help our children come to know Christ?

What is the difference between believing in Christ and believing in the church?

Can one belong to the church and not know Christ?

Can one know Christ and not belong to an organized church?

Why does Christ want us to belong to a church group of some kind?

## **THURSDAY**

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The lesson states that the Spirit longs to fill believers with excitement about the gospel—why do you think there is such little excitement?

Will the Spirit empower us to take a false gospel to the world?



What is the message that God would have us take to the world?

## **FRIDAY**

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Read first paragraph, “The religion of Christ uplifts...”

Why does the religion of Christ uplift the receiver to a higher plane of thought and action?

Because the religion of Christ is harmony with life itself, it is living in harmony with the principles upon which life is built to operate.

What does “being purchased by the sacrifice of His Son” and “blood-bought” mean?

Purchased from whom?

How did Christ purchase us?

Is the blood referring to red-corpuscles or is it a metaphor for the life of Christ?

What holds us in bondage? Lies about God we believe and our own carnal, selfish nature.

Then what is the price to set us free? Truth and a new nature.

What was necessary for Jesus to provide these to us?

God had to become human and reveal, by action, the truth of His character and methods, and develop for us a new human nature, a human character in perfect harmony with God’s design law for life.

Who receives the truth and the new nature? Then to whom is the price paid?

Why is this price necessary?

If Christ didn’t pay it would God be unwilling to forgive? Would we be saved if Christ didn’t pay this price? Why not?



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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Thus far we have received much positive feedback regarding the New Paradigm pamphlet and have not received any negative feedback about the substance of the pamphlet. But we have received some feedback regarding the style of presenting it, and a reaction some have had that I thought I would share and address:

First again let me re-emphasize the goal and purpose of the document—it is to help people experience God’s healing in their lives—to remove fear, misunderstanding and open hearts to God’s transforming presence. To that end it directly confronts the imperial/imposed law lie by focusing on a specific doctrine within the SDA church demonstrating that it is always about healing and never about legal accounting.

The feedback:

- Concern that the opening with the statement that there has been a delay in the second coming and that there is an infection of thought in Christianity and the SDA church is too controversial and would be off-putting to some. This point was not disputed, it was only the concern starting out with this statement.
  - This concern is not without merit—and it is neither right nor wrong, just is. But I wanted to be very direct and get to the issue up front, so I stated it up front.
- Concern with the Call to Action Section—that it was too aggressive or could sound attacking, or contribute to conflict.
  - I think this was the most threatening to some people and thus would most likely cause a reaction—and that was the reason it was put there—to cause people to react, to stop and think, to trigger people to not merely say “this is another interesting theory” and then ignore it, but to realize it is actionable and applicable to our decision making.
  - To call the question—to cause people to stop and really consider the way we understand God’s law and thus God. In order to call people to worship the true God and experience transformation. I believe the HS is waiting for a people to tell the truth about God so the final message can go forward. This is the motive.
  - Regarding leadership and fitness for leadership, consider this example: Hospitals have policies and procedures (rules) requiring surgeons to scrub their hands before surgery. Now, we understand why this is so (bacterial pathogens etc.) but what if a surgeon didn’t understand why. They just obeyed the rules. So, they scrubbed comprehensively and thoroughly and as a result had low rates of infections. But whenever they are asked why they scrub, the surgeon says, “Because it is hospital policy.” If a resident asks, but what happens if we don’t scrub, the surgeon answers “The hospital will revoke your privileges,” While his statements are both true, would you want this surgeon to be the head of your surgery department or the head of residency training? Why not, he has low infection rates and always washes his hands? Now, he certainly deserves to keep his



- surgical privileges, but I don't think anyone would seriously consider him for leadership of the department. We want leaders who not only follow the rules, but understand why, which requires we understand God's design law.
- The Bible teaches that if we don't understand the truth about God's design law then we are not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness (Heb 5:11-6:1) and the final message of mercy is the message about God's character which wins us to trust to experience righteousness, i.e. righteousness by faith message.
    - In our example of the surgeon above—the rules approach would teach that righteousness comes from keeping the rules, but design law, reality, knows righteousness comes from cleansing from pathogens. Likewise, rule keeping in Christianity is not acquainted with righteousness, because righteousness is about cleansing hearts from fear and selfishness—sin.
  - So we love our church and want our church to be the most beautiful and Christlike with a message that reveals God in all His glory because the people look like Christ in character. This is why we call for people to move beyond rules-thinking to God's design and methods.
  - But because of this section and the phrase “an increasingly authoritarian church leadership” the GC has cancelled my invitation to speak at the World Health Conference at LLU in July. I was scheduled to do one lecture, which has now been cancelled. I am bringing this up because our calendar has had it on our schedule for several months and I wouldn't want people to go thinking they were going to attend one of my lectures and me not be there without informing them of this fact.
    - Let us treat the GC decision with kindness, understanding, and respect. They have every right to cancel my speaking and I am not hurt and respect their choice to do so. So please let no one launch any type of complaint or campaign of protest against this decision. Yet, we also have the responsibility to evaluate what that cancelation reveals. If someone wanted to reveal they were **not** authoritarian, when the suggestion that authoritarianism was on the rise, how might a person respond? Perhaps by restraining one's use of power? This is the beauty of the Sabbath—when Satan alleged God was authoritarian, made up rules, enforced those rules, God responded not by force or authoritarianism, but by giving evidence during creation week, and then creating a time for freedom—a time when He stopped using His power and rested leaving all free to think for themselves.
  - Then some have reacted to the article by making allegations in various places (Australia, here in the US) that Come and Reason Ministries is an “offshoot” movement, or I have been disfellowshipped or I have started my own church.
    - All of these allegations and rumors are false. We are a 501(c)3 not for profit organization, not a church, just like many other not for profit organizations like Light Bearer's Ministry for example. Allegations like this occurs when people don't want to



accept truth and because it is true they can't refute it so they try to divert attention away from the actual message to another issue by attacking the messenger or in this case alleging we are an offshoot, which if accepted then cause people to devalue and not consider the message being presented. So if someone makes such an allegation, simply say those allegations are false and are designed to prevent people from considering what is being presented, how about evaluating the substance of the article and speaking to it.

**Thank you to all of our supporters!!! We appreciate your prayers and financial support, which allows us to do and provide all that this ministry does... audio, video, print, conventions, events, etc.**

**New Paradigm about the Investigative Judgment and Sanctuary** is now available in print form in Canada, South Africa and Australia. If you would like print copies please contact our hub in your country.

**Audio version of the Remedy is Now available for Streaming:** Download the free app SoundCloud and **you do NOT have to purchase** a subscription to SoundCloud. Just search for Remedy Bible or use this link [https://soundcloud.com/the\\_remedy\\_nt/albums](https://soundcloud.com/the_remedy_nt/albums) and you should find it and you can stream it at no cost. Just click "follow" on the album and you will go to it easily in the future.

- Come and Reason with Dr. Tim Jennings weekly Podcast is now broadcasting, please follow us.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!** January 17-19, 2020, in Allen Texas (30 miles north of DFW airport) we will have a Come and Reason Ministries: The Power of Love Training and Equipping Course. If you would like to be prepared to more effectively share this message then come to this course. More details will be forthcoming shortly.

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.

#### **References Requested:**

I would like to compile a reference source for God's design laws, a list of Bible verses and other writers' quotations that describe God's various design laws.

Therefore, I am asking our listeners, whenever you come across a quotation from anyone, or a Bible verse, that describes or demonstrates a design law in action, please send it to us at: [topics@comeandreason.com](mailto:topics@comeandreason.com) and put "**DL Reference**" in the subject line. Once we compile a sufficient list we will post it online for everyone to have.



**June 8, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will present The Aging Brain Seminar at Mid Columbia Medical Center, in The Dalles, OR.

**June 28, 29, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Windsor SDA church in Windsor, Ontario Canada

**July 19,20, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Living Truth SDA Church in London, Ontario Canada.

**September 13,14, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Gentlebrook Intermediary Care Facility, Hartville, OH.

**September 21, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Crossroads Community Church in Georgetown Delaware.

**October 9-12, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Come and Reason Ministries will have a booth in the exhibit hall sharing our material with the attendees.

**October 25,26, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Family Life Ministry Bronte SDA Church, Oakville, Ontario.

**November 15-17, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Norwegian SDA Health Worker's Retreat in Oslo, Norway.