



2020 3Q Making Friends for God: Lesson 12

A Message Worth Sharing

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

A Message Worth Sharing—what is a message for this time that is worth sharing?

Read Memory Text:

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” Revelation 14:6,7 NKJV

Read the first paragraph, “Christ’s atoning death...” Let’s affirm that Jesus is the key—that Jesus is God’s solution to the sin problem, that Jesus is our Savior, that only through what Jesus has achieved for us is salvation possible. Let’s affirm our thankfulness to God and Jesus for Jesus and what He has done for us.

But having affirmed all of that does this paragraph sum up the gospel and the final message we are to take to the world? Is what is described in this paragraph different from any other Evangelical or Protestant Christian group?

I don’t disagree with anything in this paragraph, I just find it both inadequate and incomplete. It leaves out the central most important issue that Jesus came to expose and resolve, and the way its worded lends itself to be too easily construed through the lies of Babylon, the very thing that we are to come out of.

What is the key to the final message that this paragraph neglects that Revelation 14 points us toward?

What is the key lie that is the foundation to Satan’s rebellion?

God’s law, that God is Creator and His laws are design laws—this is the key. As long as we continue to present any idea through the lens of imposed law we still promote Satan’s lies.

Here are a several of historic quotes to show what the SDA church is supposed to be teaching:

The history of the great conflict between good and evil, from the time it first began in heaven to the final overthrow of rebellion and the total eradication of sin, is also a demonstration of God's unchanging love. PP 33.4 [What is the issue? God’s character of love, God’s methods of love, God’s law of love. What is the final message of mercy? The truth



about God's character of love! And love only exists in an atmosphere of freedom. Satan's system, government, methods, laws always erode liberty because it is based on imposed law that requires external enforcement and in the end such actions always destroys love. This is the great lie in Christianity that God imposes law and imposes penalties, thus to teach such things teaches God is something other than love! Let's keep reading...]

The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in **His work of beneficence**. [What is another word for beneficence? Altruism, giving, other-centeredness, love—and why was He not alone? Because love cannot exist in a singularity. The arguments against the Trinity are another attack on God's character of love. Listen to what comes next...] **He had an associate—a co-worker** who could appreciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings. [Who is able to know the mind of God? Who can enter into infinity? Who can share in the purpose of God? Only God...continuing on with the quote...] “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” John 1:1, 2. **Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, in purpose—the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.** “His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, **The everlasting Father**, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6. His “goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2... [Satan has been attacking the position of Christ from the beginning and the theories that Jesus is not fully God is part of Satan's attack]. PP 34.1

The Father wrought by His Son in the creation of all heavenly beings. “By Him were all things created, ... whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him.” Colossians 1:16... [Jesus is the Creator—fully God and Satan hates it] PP 34.2

The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. [Why? For the same reason our health require we breathe—it is the law life is built upon] God desires from all His creatures the service of love—service that springs from an appreciation of His character. **He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience;** [Why? Because it destroys love, incites rebellion, destroys creativity, destroys individuality, causes pain, suffering, misery, unhappiness—how could God take pleasure in such a thing. But this is what billions of Christians believe and teach, that God will use His power to inflict pain and suffering and death on those who don't love Him.] and **to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service.** [Because only in freedom is there love and only in this environment is there development of our individuality and abilities.] PP 34.3

Satan has been persevering and untiring in his efforts **to prosecute the work he began in heaven**, [what work did he begin in heaven? the war against God of course, which was what kind of war? a war of ideas against the character of God, and what was at the root of Satan's strategy in this war? What has Satan been constantly working to get intelligent beings to



believe that results in rebellion against God and damage to them?) **to change the law of God.** [Satan achieves his goal when he gets intelligent beings to accept in their minds that God's law is imposed rather than design law. He can't change reality, but he can lie and can get intelligent beings to change their view or belief about God's law and this changes their belief about God, and changes them from loyal to sinful.] **He has succeeded in making the world believe the theory he presented in heaven before his fall, that the law of God was faulty, and needed revising.** [What kind of law can be revised? This is what Satan has succeeded at, at getting people to believe God's law is like human law, imposed rules, legislation, revisable. It is not!] **A large part of the professed Christian church, by their attitude, if not by their words, show that they have accepted the same error.** [Yes, including many in the SDA church. All penal legal substitution theology promotes this lie of Satan!] **But if in one jot or tittle the law of God has been changed,** [Because as Jesus said doing so would result in heaven and earth passing away.] Satan has gained on earth that which he could not gain in heaven. He has prepared his **delusive** snare, hoping to take captive the church and the world. But not all will be taken in the snare. [Who won't be snared by this lie? Those who reject it and embrace the truth about God's design law and thus about God's character and methods. It is the message of the 3 Angels to worship the Creator and reject the dictator views of God.] A line of distinction is being drawn between the children of obedience and the children of disobedience, the loyal and true and the disloyal and untrue. **Two great parties are developed, the worshipers of the beast and his image, and the worshipers of the true and living God.** [And the beastly system is the system of imposed law, coercion, force, inflicted punishment regardless of day of worship. God's system is that of the Creator, it is the system of life, of love, of truth, of freedom of design law. And God sent Christ to restore us back to life!] 2SM 107.2

Now consider these quotes—again in the setting of where we are in earth's history and what is the message we have worth sharing:

The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering,—a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition. (GC 582.2)

What kind of laws to men pass? What kind of laws does the Creator build reality to operate upon?

There is no such thing as weakening or strengthening the law of Jehovah. As it has been, so it is. It always has been, and always will be holy, just, and good, complete in itself. It cannot be repealed or changed. [Why? Because it is not legislated, it is not imposed, it is not a rule, it is not the kind of law humans make. God's laws are design protocols for life. To change them would be to destroy the universe and life as God built it. Thus it cannot be repealed or changed.] To "honor" or "dishonor" it is but the speech of men. (PK 625.1)

Between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah will come the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error. Upon this battle we are now entering—a battle



not between rival churches contending for the supremacy, but between the religion of the Bible and the religions of fable and tradition. (PK 625.2)

Again, what is the final conflict over? What difference does it make in how we view God’s law?

Let’s do a quick summary and then come back to the first angel’s message:

Sin is transgression of the law—but what is the difference if we understand the law differently?

Imposed law

Design law

Sin is being in legal trouble

Sin is having a terminal condition

God is required by law to
punish sin

God is required by His law
& character of love to save
sinners

Jesus died to pay legal penalty

Jesus died to be our Remedy

God killed Jesus in our place

God so loved that He gave Jesus
to be our Savior

Salvation is claiming a legal solution
of Jesus blood to appease God

Salvation is accepting the truth
Jesus revealed about God
opening the heart and
receiving the mind of Christ
via the HS—being reborn

Atonement is legal payment

Atonement is at-one-ment

The gospel is Jesus died to
propitiate God and atone
for our sin

The gospel is the eternal good
news about God

The final message is perverted
to be legal issues of right
days or right rituals or right
claims of legal salvation

The final message is the truth
about God’s character of
love –here is what one of
the founders of the SDA
church wrote:

“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 the revelation of His character of love.” Christ's Object Lessons, p.415

Connect the previous quotes about the final struggle between the law of God and the law of men and God's character and you will see that the rebellion of Satan is rooted in the lie that God's law is merely imposed rules, like humans make, that requires God to use power to inflict punishment.

The first angel's message is a call to reject this lie about God, to return to worship our Creator Him, who made the heavens, earth, sea and fountains of water and thereby give Him glory in how we live, by living in harmony with His design laws, because the hour of God's judgment has come.

This is the hour in human history in which people are to decide if God is like Baal, an imperial dictator who requires a blood sacrifice to appease him, or if God is like Jesus the Creator whose laws are design protocols and whose character is love and who gave Himself to cure or terminal sin condition.

So, Revelation 14:6,7 from *The Remedy*:

Then I saw another messenger flying in midair, and he had the eternal good news about God's character of love to proclaim to everyone living on earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people—which represents a movement of people who arise to proclaim the truth about God's character of love throughout the world. He said in a clear, resounding voice, "Be in awe of God, and glorify him by living his methods of love, because the hour has come for everyone to make a judgment about God, and worship the Designer, Creator and Builder who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and springs of water— all of which operate upon his law of love."

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "Throughout salvation history..." What do you think of the use of the word judgment here? It is a correct use of the word, but it lends itself to being too easily misunderstood if one has a human law mindset.

In a human law mindset what does this sound like? A judicial process, God has some line of total number of bad deeds by a person, or nation, or group, and when that threshold is met, then God judges it is time for Him to act to punish all the badness. But, before He does, He sends warning that He is going to punish.

Is this how it sounds?

But, is this the truth of how it really is? No!

It is true, God is never caught off guard, and it is true God sends warnings to His people, no doubt about that. But, what the authors don't seem to incorporate into their explanation are two key pieces of



reality that illuminate events quite clearly and those two pieces of reality are: God's design law and the Great Controversy in which after Adam's sin the Messiah was promised.

With these truths in mind, the Old Testament is the record of God working to bring the Messiah and Satan working to stop God's plan.

With those two critical pieces of information we then see that God's judgments are not judicial but therapeutic. God is judging what actions are necessary to fulfill the plan of salvation, to keep open the avenue for the Messiah. God sends warnings to humanity of the dangers of deviating from His design laws, what will happen to them, like a doctor warning His patients of the results of smoking.

Then God takes actions, when necessary to excise necrosis in order to keep open the avenue for Messiah or no human would be saved.

What confuses people is they confuse first death, which is sleep, with second death which is annihilation and what God calls death. God has acted to put people to sleep in times past—for what purpose? To save humanity, to keep open the avenue for the Messiah, like at the flood, but God does not kill people. Every human in history is alive, some walking on the earth right now, but others asleep awaiting resurrection.

So, God sends these messages to warn people, in order to save people, but if people refuse the message what does God do? Does God ever become the source of death or is sin the source of death?

So, let's read a few passages from Genesis in *The Remedy*:

Gen 6:5 The Lord saw how human beings, by choosing to indulge selfishness, had completely corrupted themselves, destroying in themselves his design of love, and how their every desire was totally selfish and their hearts sought evil all the time. ⁶The Lord grieved at their suffering, and his heart ached over humanity's terminal condition. He also grieved at the action his love must take in order to slow the spread of sin and to keep open the avenue for the Messiah to come and save the human species. ⁷So the Lord pronounced his therapeutic plan: "I will remove the malignantly selfish humans from the face of the earth that I have made; I will remove humans and animals, both large and small, and the birds of the air. Having to do this grieves me, for I have created them." ⁸But the Lord was pleased that he had a friend in Noah...

Gen 6:11 The earth, created by God to operate upon the principle of love (the circle of giving), was being destroyed by the grossest violence and exploitation. ¹²God saw how fear and selfishness had spread throughout the earth, corrupting all living creatures, for all living things were violent and sought to dominate and destroy each other. ¹³So God pronounced his healing plan to Noah: "It has come before me that if I don't act, then all life on earth will end, because the earth is being destroyed by constant violence and exploitation. I am going to stop this cycle of violence and put an end to the living creatures and change the earth to slow down future corruption... ¹⁷Understand that I must act to save humanity—to keep open the avenue for the Messiah and slow the spread of sin—I am going to bring waters to flood the earth, and all the



creatures living upon it are going to die; and the face of the earth will be changed. ¹⁸ But I will fulfill my pledge to save humanity through you...”

So, what is God’s judgment? It is the accurate diagnosis of each person and the situation as a whole and what is necessary for Him to do in order to remedy the sin problem and save the species and as many people as possible. There is never anything penal legal in God’s judgments, they are always manifestations of love in order to heal and save.

Read second paragraph, “The message of eternal significance...” What is the message of “present truth” for us today?

Here are two historic quotes about present truth:

God intends that even in this life the truths of His Word shall be ever unfolding to His people. [Why unfolding? Because this is how reality works. We are not only in darkness and misunderstanding about God and His kingdom, but we are finite, so even in the Earth made new we will always be advancing and growing in truth. We will never be God and never have infinite knowledge. This is quite exciting always new discoveries. But does Satan want us to advance in truth? It is a godly approach to establish our doctrines and refuse to advance in our understanding?] There is only **one way in which this knowledge can be obtained.** We can attain to an understanding of God's Word **only through the illumination of that Spirit** by which the Word was given.... And the Saviour's promise to His followers was, “When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth.... For He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you.” John 16:13, 14. CSA 46.7

God desires man to exercise his reasoning powers; [If we are able to obtain this knowledge only through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, then why do we have to exercise or reasoning powers? Because we are not robots. The Holy Spirit illuminates our minds to comprehend truth, but we must exercise our God-given reasoning abilities to think it through, to comprehend, to choose and agree, to, as Paul says, be fully persuaded in our own minds. This is the only way for us to be transformed while retaining our individuality. If God were to simply write the truth into our being we would not be us anymore but robots or computers. And it isn't truth cognitively comprehended, but truth embraced and accepted into the character as principles we build our identity upon that matters. Many people will be lost who know the truth cognitively, but don't accept into their hearts and characters—Satan knows the truth about God, but rejected God's methods, principles and character and thus formed a character of selfishness instead.] and the study of the Bible will strengthen and elevate the mind as no other study can.... A sense of the power and wisdom of God, and of our inability to comprehend His greatness, should inspire us with humility, and we should open His Word, as we would enter His presence, with holy awe.... CSA 47.1

In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation. [What is the message to this generation? Is it not the 3 Angels Messages—which



is the truth about God as Creator, which brings us back to His law being design law!?) The old truths are all essential; new truth is not independent of the old, but an unfolding of it. **It is only as the old truths are understood that we can comprehend the new.** [This is a fantastic point—we in our class are not denying any of the old truths, but advancing them by putting them in their right setting of God’s design law. For instance, Christ died as our Savior, and without the life, death and resurrection of Jesus we could not be saved. But we reject the penal/legal theory built on Satan’s lie that God’s law is like human law and continues to distort God’s character and undermine our trust in God. We put the death of Christ in its right setting as God’s solution or remedy to the sin problem. Jesus died to reveal truth and destroy lies in order to win us to trust AND to eradicate sinfulness from the species by being tempted as a human just like us but instead, as a human, living out God’s law of love perfectly thereby restoring into the species human God’s law of love. Christ developed a perfect, sinless human character and thus becomes our Remedy—nothing penal legal at all, it is simply what life and reality in God’s universe requires.] When Christ desired to open to His disciples the truth of His resurrection, He began “at Moses and all the prophets” and “expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27. **But it is the light which shines in the fresh unfolding of truth that glorifies the old.** He who rejects or neglects the new does not really possess the old. For him it loses its vital power and becomes but a lifeless form. COL 127.4

What is the truth for our generation? What is the new light that illuminates the old? It is the truth of God’s design laws, worshipping Him as Creator and understanding the entire conflict as a question over God’s law, what type of law. Thus the entire Bible is embraced and understood in the fuller light of present truth.

MONDAY

Read second paragraph, “From the first to the last...” As we described in a previous class, the overarching theme of Bible prophecy is the coming Messiah to destroy sin and restore humans and the Earth back into heavenly perfection. Praise God!

And is there a message for God’s people today?

Let’s read the message to the Laodicean church in Revelation chapter 3, from *The Remedy*:

¹⁴“To the messenger to my children in the church in Laodicea, write:

This message is from Jesus—the consistent, reliable, faithful and true Witness—who is the origin of God’s creation.¹⁵I know your choices. I know that you are neither on fire with love, nor do you appear cold with selfishness. I wish you were either on fire for my kingdom, or clearly opposed to it!¹⁶But because you are a lukewarm mix of cold hearts practicing selfish methods while appearing to be on fire for my kingdom, you misrepresent me and make me sick to my stomach. I am about to vomit you out.¹⁷You claim to be spiritually rich and full of heavenly treasure, thinking you have the truth and are in need of nothing, but you are so self-deceived that



you don't realize you are devoid of my character of love. You are decrepit, pathetic, bereft of true godliness, with minds so closed that you can't even comprehend truth. You stand naked and exposed.¹⁸ My prescription for you is to exchange your corrupt motives for the gold of godly love purified through fiery trials, so that you can be rich in what heaven values. Exchange your filthy, selfish characters for the perfect character of Christ — pure and white — so that you can cover the shame of your imperfection. And apply the salve of the Holy Spirit to your minds, so that you can see and understand the reality of your own condition, and that of God's kingdom of love.¹⁹ "It is those whom I love that I diagnose and provide these therapeutic interventions, so take ownership of yourselves: turn away from destruction, and apply the Remedy."²⁰ I am here now! I am standing at the door to your hearts, knocking with truth and love. If any hear my voice and open their hearts, I will come in and commune with them, and they with me.²¹ "Everyone who prevails by completing the treatment, and lives in harmony with my methods of love until the end, will sit enthroned with me—just as I overcame, and sit enthroned with my Father."²² Those whose minds are open to truth will understand what the Spirit reveals to the churches."

Is this a message for Christians today? What is the reason many Christians struggle with true godliness of character? What is the connection with this message and the message of the 3 angels?

How does the lie about God's law fit into this?

What happens to the person who believes they are in legal trouble with a god who will torture and kill them unless they get a substitute to plead to this god and pay this god a blood payment of his own blood not too kill them? What happens if they believe that salvation is a legal adjustment of their record by claiming the legal payment of their substitute and that once they make this claim by "faith" they are saved?

Do you see how the lie that God's law is like human law has corrupted the gospel and trapped millions into a fraud that prevents actual righteousness and results in exactly what Revelation describes as Laodicea?

I am sadly seeing this on our Ministry Facebook feed this week. I posted a blog about the principles of liberty written into the US Constitution being under attack and how this is part of Satan's end-time strategy to bring about his beastly system. I did not mention any political party or politician but wrote about the principles of God versus the principles of Satan unfolding in the world around us, hoping to enlighten people to the two antagonistic methods and principles.

But sadly, the vast majority of the comments are political advancing one party or candidate or railing against another. Some are even threatening violence or war. It is quite sad to see how many don't realize they are joining with Satan regardless of whether they are left or right if they embrace imposed law methods and want to use coercion to force their methods upon others.

For those with eyes to see you realize that Revelation is coming true right before our eyes.



TUESDAY

The lesson points out that the epicenter of Revelation is chapter 14, it is the end time message to prepare people for Christ's return. We have already explored 3 verses of this chapter, but let's read this chapter from *The Remedy*:

Then I looked and saw Jesus the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, which represented the place of victory over sin. He was with the 144,000 who had been healed and had the character of Jesus and the Father completely restored in their minds, which was symbolized by the name of the Father and Son written on their foreheads. ²I heard the sound of God's presence—like the ocean roar or deep thunder—and with it, what sounded like many harps being played together, symbolizing the beautiful melody that comes from the lives of the healed. [Have you ever seen lives that were like beautiful music? Beautiful music requires harmony—this is a metaphor for those whose lives are in harmony with God and His law of love—it is beautiful. But, have you seen lives that are dissonant out of harmony with God and His design of love?] ³As God and the four living beings and the elders were watching, the healed lived Christlike lives that were like the sound of beautiful music—a song which only the 144,000 who had been redeemed from earth could sing. ⁴These are the ones who did not corrupt themselves by filling their hearts with false views of God or practicing Satan's methods—they kept their characters pure. They follow Jesus the Lamb wherever he goes, always revealing the truth about him. They were redeemed from fallen humanity and are the first fruits—the first ones so settled into the truth about God and the Lamb that nothing could move them. ⁵No lie about God was found in their testimony; they are without blame.

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another messenger flying in midair, and he had the eternal good news about God's character of love to proclaim to everyone living on earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people—which represents a movement of people who arise to proclaim the truth about God's character of love throughout the world. ⁷He said in a clear, resounding voice, "Be in awe of God, and glorify him by living his methods of love, because the hour has come for everyone to make a judgment about God, and worship the Designer, Creator and Builder who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and springs of water—all of which operate upon his law of love." [Do you see this message as the message we are to give today?]

Rev 14:8 A second messenger followed the first, proclaiming throughout the world: "Don't trust Babylon the Great—a symbolic description of religions that misrepresent God—as it is fallen into the lies about God and intoxicates the world with its pagan views of God, maddening the people with its adulterous idea that God coerces and must inflict punishment if not properly appeased."

Rev 14:9 And a third messenger followed the first two and proclaimed in a voice that was heard throughout the world: "If anyone gives worth and honor to the beastly system of coercion by choosing the methods of the beast and thus marking themselves as 'loyal in heart' by



embracing the character of the beast, or marking themselves as ‘loyal in deed’ by practicing his methods,¹⁰ they will reap the full fury of unremedied sin when God no longer shields them from their destructive choice. They will experience immeasurable torment of mind and burning anguish of heart when they stand in God’s fiery presence and are bathed in unquenchable fire of truth and love—all in the very presence of Jesus and the holy angels.¹¹ The memory of their suffering and the lesson of their self-destructive choice will never be forgotten throughout all eternity. There will be no peace of mind—day or night—for those who prefer the methods of the beast and model after him, or for any who choose to mark themselves as followers of the beast.”¹² This requires patient endurance on the part of the healed, who live God’s methods of love and remain true to Jesus.

Rev 14:13 Then I heard another voice from heaven say, “Write this: Happy are those who die to sin and self, trusting the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from working to save self, and their loving deeds will follow them.”

Rev 14:14 I looked, and I saw Jesus, the Son of Man, surrounded by a cloud of brilliant angels, wearing a crown of gold on his head—symbolic of his perfect character and rule of love. He had a sharp sickle in his hand, symbolizing his intent to bring his followers home.¹⁵ Then another messenger came out of the heavenly temple and called in a clear voice to Jesus, who was in the cloud of angels: “Take your sickle and cut your followers free from all earthly ties and bring them home! The time to reap has come, because your people have matured and are ready to be cut free.”¹⁶ So Jesus, seated amongst the cloud of angels, swung his sickle and all throughout the earth his people were cut free and brought to heaven.

Rev 14:17 Then another angel came out from the temple in heaven, and he had his own sharp sickle.¹⁸ Yet another angel came, from the altar, with the authority of the fire of truth, and called in a loud voice to the angel with the sharp sickle: “Take your sharp sickle and gather the cluster of those who—like grapes—have ripened, but ripened on the vine of earth’s principles; for they are fully hardened in their selfish ways.”¹⁹ The angel swung his sickle and gathered those who—like grape clusters—were ripened into complete rebellion against God, and he threw them into the winepress where they were pressed down under the destructive force of unremedied sin when God no longer shielded them from their destructive choice.²⁰ When God finally let go, they were crushed—outside the city of God—under the weight of guilt, shame, despair and fear that unremedied sin brings. Their lives ebbed away, and the dead were piled up 6 feet (1.8 meters) high for nearly 200 miles (320 kilometers) around the city.

Does this sound like the Revelation you have always read? What is different?

Does it make a difference to read it through the lens of design law?

When you think of God’s final judgment what comes to mind? Is it judicial or diagnostic?

WEDNESDAY



Read first paragraph, “Revelation’s last-day message...” If we present the final message to the world as a legal message about the right rules and God having a judicial review of legal elements in heaven, are we presenting the eternal gospel or are we perpetuating the lie of Babylon?

The final message is about God’s character of love and it is only understood correctly when we understand His law correctly. This is why the final struggle is over what it all began over in heaven, a question of God’s law.

When Satan rebelled in heaven, was there a weekly Sabbath? No! The final question is not about the weekly Sabbath, but **it is about what the weekly Sabbath is a sign of—which is design law.**

The weekly **Sabbath was created for man** at the end of Creation week as a time filled with God’s methods/law, i.e. truth, presented in love, leaving people free.

Thus, the Sabbath, as a day of rest, is evidence or sign of design law.

Sunday became a day of rest by legislation, thus it is a mark of imposed law.

The final issue in the war is whether God is like Jesus revealed, Creator, Builder of reality who governs on design law, or whether God is a dictator who makes up rules and inflicts punishment on rulebreakers.

WEDNESDAY

Read second paragraph, “In an age...” What does this mean to you? What message do you hear?

When people believe the imposed law lie then they believe they can get away with sin, there are loopholes, there are exceptions, they might not be caught, the authorities might not know, they might get someone to erase the record of their sin, or get someone to hide the judge from seeing their sin.

We see this in society today that people are doing all kinds of violence, rioting, looting, murdering and thinking they can get away with it because many in authority are not enforcing human law.

But, we don’t see people lining up to pour gasoline over themselves and light themselves on fire, or jump off the Empire State Building, or ingest radioactive toxins—why not? Because all of these actions operate upon design law and the law breaker cannot avoid the damage to themselves. This is how reality works.

All the looters, rioters, murderers are searing their own consciences, hardening their own hearts and this cannot be avoided. They take themselves further and further away from harmony with God.

What does it mean “only His righteousness is good enough to pass through the judgment?”



Do you hear this as something legal? If only His righteousness is good enough to pass through the judgment how does that help us?

Is it some legal loophole that for those who claim the legal payment of Jesus that in the judgment when the Father looks at our record He sees the righteousness of Jesus stamped in there?

Would you hear it differently if it was worded, "only His character is perfectly healthy enough to pass through the examination without being diagnosed as terminal?"

What does this text mean?

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2Cor 5:21 NIV84

or this?

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. Gal 2:20 NIV84

or this?

"Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

If Jesus righteousness is the only thing good enough to pass through the judgment, where must it be applied? Where must we find it in the judgment? Would it be in the hearts and minds of the saved? And if Christ's righteousness actually becomes ours, and our characters actually become righteous because of the indwelling of Jesus, what will our records reveal?

And then, could we use the metaphor of covered by the righteousness of Christ? Yes, because He doesn't cover over, but covers for, He takes the sin away and gives us His righteousness and we are actually changed.

The penal legal lie teaches a fraud that I call the candy-coated rotten apply theory in which the robe of Christ's righteousness is like the candy on a rotten apply, it covers over the rot of sin. This is a lie that the imposed law penal substitution theology teaches.

The truth is we become righteous through our faith or trust in Jesus, this is the righteousness by faith message.

Here are a couple of historic quotes:

The righteousness of God never covers a soul all polluted with sin. John says, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). **Will you let Him take it**



away? You cannot bear your own sin. **Christ says He will take your sin** if you lay hold of the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour... {1SAT 237.2}

From where is the sin taken away? This author says it is taken away from the soul, not from a record book. It is a literal, actual, healing of the person's character that is being described.

Here is another quote:

Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear in God's presence. This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul. "I counsel thee," He says, "to buy of Me . . . white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear." Rev. 3:18. {COL 311.3}

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 311.4}

THURSDAY

Read last paragraph, "Revelation 14 describes..." I agree it describes two systems of worship the Creator and the beast—and what is the foundational difference between these two systems or governments? The laws of each, and what is the type of law in God's kingdom versus the beasts? Design law in God's kingdom and imposed law in the beasts.

And what method does God use to govern with Design law? Truth, love freedom.

What method does the beast use with imposed law? Lies, fear and selfishness, and coercion.

What are the flags, pennants, signs, marks of these two systems or kingdoms?

Sabbath a sign of Creation and design law, built in the fabric of time itself as a day of liberty and freedom revealing God's design methods and...

Sunday a mark of imperialism, legislated by man as a day of rest and worship, thus a mark of imposed law and coercive enforcement.



If we were to promote Sabbath as an imposed law of God enforced by God through inflicted punishment then we are actually promoting the wine of Babylon, the lie of Satan that God functions like sinful beings. It is only by returning to design law that we can see the truth.

Can we do anything by our behavior to make the Sabbath more or less holy than it is? No—then when we “keep the Sabbath holy” are we keeping it holy or ourselves holy? And can we keep ourselves holy only one day in seven?

So, is Sabbath keeping a legal matter or a lifestyle that persists all week long, i.e. living God’s design laws as represented by the Sabbath?

Consider this quote:

All through the week we are to have the Sabbath in mind and be making preparation to keep it according to the commandment. **We are not merely to observe the Sabbath as a legal matter.** We are to **understand its spiritual bearing upon all the transactions of life.** All who regard the Sabbath as a sign between them and God, showing that He is the God who sanctifies them, **will represent the principles of His government. They will bring into daily practice the laws of His kingdom. Daily it will be their prayer that the sanctification of the Sabbath may rest upon them.** Every day they will have the companionship of Christ, and will exemplify the perfection of His character. Every day their light will shine forth to others in good works. 3TT 20.3

Those Pharisees of Judaism and Adventism who keep a legal weekly Sabbath are actually not Sabbath-keepers—they are the ones who crucified Christ.

In the time of the end every divine institution is to be restored. **The breach made in the law at the time the Sabbath was changed by man, is to be repaired.** [She doesn’t say the breach made in the law BY the change in the Sabbath, because the breach is much more than that. Remember when Satan broke the law of God in heaven the Sabbath didn’t yet exist. We must of course recognize and accept the truth about the Sabbath, but accepting the day of the week while keeping the imperial law view doesn’t repair the breach.] God’s remnant people, standing before the world as reformers, are to show **that the law of God is the foundation of all enduring reform** [why? Because it is the law of life, the principles upon which life is established and operates. One cannot have health in violations of the laws of health. So all enduring reform is merely putting people back in harmony with God’s design laws for life.] and that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is to stand as **a memorial of creation**, a constant reminder of the power of God. [What power? This is key—when you hear this do you hear physical might and power, the power to create? That power was demonstrated during the first six days of creation week—but what power was revealed during the 7th day? Was a different power revealed? Paul says the the gospel is the power for salvation (Rom 1:6), Remember this quote from EGW: “God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan’s government. The Lord’s



principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. **God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power.**" DA 759.1. What is the power of God that the Sabbath reminds us of? That God is moral—He presented truth in love and then leaves us free—God rested and did not compel. This is the power that the Sabbath is to remind us of. If we make it only about physical power we continue to obstruct the healing truth.] In clear, distinct lines they are to present the necessity of obedience to all the precepts of the Decalogue. Constrained by the love of Christ, they are to co-operate with Him in building up the waste places. They are to be repairers of the breach, restorers of paths to dwell in. See verse 12. {PK 678.2}

What was the breach made in the law **when** the Sabbath was changed? It was not the mere change of the day of worship—the breach was the idea that God's law is imposed law—this is the breach we are to repair.

Thus, we cannot repair the breach by teaching the right day of the week through imposed law lenses—that the Sabbath is an arbitrary test and that God will use power to punish those who don't keep it. This only perpetuates the lie, keeps the breach in the law open.

We are to repair the breach by returning to design law worship and this results in our transformation, for by beholding we are changed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SURPRISE — **The Book of Genesis** has now been added to our website Remedy and will be added to the app soon.

Saturday, October 3, 2020! Come and Reason will be presenting a live in-person event at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga TN! **Healing the Mind and Transforming the Character in a Broken World** is one-day event and will be packed with presentations by Timothy R. Jennings, Katie McPherson, Ben Bost and Kent Delhousaye. Join us to learn principles and strategies to heal the mind and heart from fear and habits that overrun our lives You'll want to book your spot soon before the event is sold out-- lunch is included in this great price! Click [here](#) for more information.

October 9-10, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakewood SDA church in Lakewood OH

November 6-7, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at an AACC River Conference at Plano, TX. More info at <http://theriverconference.com/>