



2020 4Q Education: Lesson 3 The Law as Teacher

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

Read first paragraph, “In warning...” What do you hear when we read this? What is Paul dealing with—legalism, the idea of God’s law being rules imposed and that by law-keeping we can obtain healing from sin and experience righteousness and eternal life. Is it possible for us to do this?

Life doesn’t come from the law—but does life come in violation of the law? Consider these historic quotes in light of what Paul is saying—can we harmonize them?

It will be seen that the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven; that the love which “seeketh not her own” has its source in the heart of God... DA 19.2

Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the glory of our God to give. “I do nothing of Myself,” said Christ; “the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father.” “I seek not Mine own glory,” but the glory of Him that sent Me. John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father’s life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life. DA 21.2

All things both in heaven and in earth declare that the great law of life is a law of service. The infinite Father ministers to the life of every living thing. Christ came to the earth “as He that serves.” Luke 22:27. The angels are “ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.” Hebrews 1:14. The same law of service is written upon all things in nature. The birds of the air, the beasts of the field, the trees of the forest, the leaves, the grass, and the flowers, the sun in the heavens and the stars of light—all have their ministry. Lake and ocean, river and water spring—each takes to give. Ed 103.2

Then, understanding the idea that God’s law is the law of love, the law of service or giving, which is the law of life, we read the following Bible texts:

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. **I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people (Heb 8:10 NIV84).



All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, **do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts,** (Rom 2:12-15 NIV84).

So what is going on with the idea that life doesn't come from the law, but restoring us to life requires God putting His law in our hearts and minds?

From where does life originate? God is the source of all life—no creature or living thing has life in and of itself. (That's Satan's dream to have life eternal apart from God, that is the doctrine of eternal hell, life eternal apart from God, that somehow created beings have life in and of themselves.)

Do the design laws of God give life or are they the protocols upon which life exists?

For instance—do the laws of health give life? No—God gives life, but does maintaining life require we live in harmony with the laws upon which God built life to operate? And if someone is sick with cancer from years of smoking (violating the laws of health) and is dying and God heals them of the cancer—in order for them to live will they also need to stop smoking—live in harmony with the laws of health?

So, the laws do not give life, but breaking God's laws damage and ultimate result in death by cutting us off from the source of life.

Do you see how the design law understanding makes perfect sense of all of this, but an imposed law view causes confusion?

The most important question that underpins essentially everything Christian doctrine is: **How do you understand God's law?**

When you are discussing issues with others and come to points of disagreement, before getting into the specific doctrine or question or text, step back and clarify with them, *How do you understand God's law?*

If they understand God's law to function like human law, imposed rules, legal accounting, judicial action, imposed punishments, they will *never* understand your perspective. They are operating in a false worldview and all their conclusions about the Bible and God will be tainted with Satan's lie about God and God's law. They might accept Jesus as their Savior and teach that He died to save them—but they will teach it through the lie that it was to pay a legal penalty to an offended god who without that payment would use his power to kill them.



The entire world is drunk on the wine of this lie and we have a message that is to go forward at this time in earth's history to enlighten the world for the second coming of Jesus. This message calls people out of the confusion of Babylon—that system of thousands of Christian groups all arguing back and forth over this verse, this doctrine or that ritual because that is what you get with imposed law—confusion and argument. We call them to worship the Creator whose law is design law and reveal to them how God's law is constant and the law upon which life is built, upon which reality works!

Why are so many confused about this? Because of how God did use what *appears* to be imposed law in the Bible, like the Levitical laws and the 10 Commandments.

Then people read quotes like this one from *Christ's Object Lessons*

God's law is the transcript of His character. It embodies the **principles** of His kingdom. He who refuses to accept **these principles** is placing himself outside the channel where God's blessings flow. COL 305.3

Many people read things like this and think that God does impose law, that He gave the 10 Commandments at Sinai and they are the full and complete law of God. They don't understand the author's use of "principles" and instead latch onto the 10 Commandment list as a list of imposed rules.

But they have problems with Paul in Galatians where he says the 10 Commandments were added later—in other words the 10 Commandments didn't always exist. The principles of love for God and others, which are the basis of the 10 Commandments, existed eternally, emanating from the heart of God, but the 10 Commandments were added much later, after humans sinned.

The same author who wrote the quote from *Christ's Object Lessons* above also wrote the following:

If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved by Noah, and observed by Abraham, **there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision.** And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a sign, they would never have been seduced into idolatry, nor would it have been necessary for them to suffer a life of bondage in Egypt; they would have **kept God's law in mind, and there would have been no necessity for it to be proclaimed from Sinai or engraved upon the tables of stone.** And had the people practiced the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the additional directions given to Moses. {PP 364.2}

The law of God existed before man was created. The angels were governed by it. [Did angels have a law to honor their father and mother? Not to commit adultery? That sins would pass down 3-4 generations in beings who were at that time sinless? Did angels have a law in heaven, prior to sin, commanding them not to make graven images, not to worship other gods? Was the law that existed in heaven at that time the 10 Commandments?] Satan fell because he transgressed the **principles** of God's government. [Are principles rules or are they protocols, design laws?] After Adam and Eve were created, **God made known to them His law.** [What



do you think this was? Was it a list of 10 rules? Did Adam and Eve have a law posted in Eden PRIOR to their fall that said their sins would pass down 3-4 generations, when they were at that time sinless? Did Adam and Eve have a law posted in Eden for them to honor their father and mother? **It was not then written**, but was rehearsed to them by Jehovah. {SR 145.1}

The Sabbath of the fourth commandment was instituted in Eden. [If the Sabbath of the fourth commandment was instituted in Eden it was not instituted at Sinai correct? But that means it was also not in existence before Eden. So did the angels have a Sabbath commandment when Lucifer rebelled?] After God had made the world and created man upon the earth, **He made the Sabbath for man.** After Adam's sin and fall nothing was taken from the law of God. **The principles of the Ten Commandments existed before the fall and were of a character suited to the condition of a holy order of beings. After the fall the principles of those precepts were not changed, but additional precepts were given to meet man in his fallen state.** {SR 145.2} [Additional precepts? Yes, like sins passing down 3-4 generations, don't commit adultery, don't murder, etc. None of this has to be given to beings who are sinless and operate upon the principles of love because when we love as God designs we would never cheat, steal or murder.]

The law of God existed before the creation of man or else Adam could not have sinned. **After the transgression of Adam the principles of the law were not changed, but were definitely arranged and expressed to meet man in his fallen condition.** (Ibid., March 14, 1878). {1BC 1104.5} **The principles of love don't change, but what love does in different situation does change.**

So, why did God give the 10 Commandments? Are the 10 Commandments the full expression of God's law? No!

From *Could It Be This Simple?*

The Ten Commandments are like your DNA code. Yes, we can document a person's specific DNA sequence, offering us an accurate transcript of certain aspects of the individual. But would we know the fullness of the person--the sound of his laugh, the brightness of her smile, the warmth of his or her love--by studying the DNA code? Likewise, the Ten Commandments are but a dim reflection of God's law of love and liberty. Just studying the Ten Commandments will never reveal the fullness of God's law. Instead, we must see the law in living flesh.

God created humanity to be the repository of His living law of love. It was only after the human race fell and the divine law of love was no longer written in the mind that it became necessary to put it on stone in an attempt to awaken us to our sickly state. But it is God's plan to restore His law of love and liberty in our minds. Regarding the new covenant, the writer of Hebrews, quoting Jeremiah states, "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts" (Heb. 8:10). pp 65



If God's law is design law, the protocols upon which life operates and not imposed rules like humans make, then why did God give the 10 Commandments?

Because we needed it to reveal to us our sin-sick hearts and minds and act as a hedge of protection. The written law, the 10 Commandments are simply a diagnostic tool to diagnose us, but the written law has no capacity to heal. It is like an MRI, which can reveal disease inside us hidden from sight, but cannot cure what it reveals. That is the purpose of the 10 Commandments.

Paul writes in 1 Timothy 1:8 that the law was not given for the righteous—the spiritually healthy—but for the unrighteous, those who are still terminal in sin and have not repented and had God's law written on their hearts and minds.

SUNDAY

Read the last two paragraphs, “First, they hear, and then, they learn to fear God....” Does this make clear and perfect sense, or is some part of your mind going—“wait a minute?”

“the more we come to know about God, the more we can fear Him, too, because we can see just how holy and righteous He is and how sinful and unrighteous we are in contrast, and how it is only by grace—undeserved merit—that we are not destroyed.”

So, does this sound like they mean fear as awe and admiration or fear as in, dread, terror, to be afraid?

But, what about 1 John 4:18:

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. NIV84

Wait—we are to come to know God so that we love Him, and the more we love Him the less fear we have, because if we remain in fear we are not made perfect in love. But the lesson says that the more we come to know Him the more fear we have while we love Him....

Do you see the infection of Satan? **This idea of combining fear and love as being holy or virtuous is a lie of Satan.** It stems from the imposed law lie, which teaches sin must be punished. When we cling to the lie that God's law functions like Satan's, imposed rules then we cling to the idea that God must punish sin, we love Him for punishing Jesus in our place, but we fear Him because we know He would punish us if it wasn't for Jesus hiding us from His gaze.

This entire idea is false—God is not the source of pain, suffering or death. God is the source of life; pain, suffering and death are the results of actions that break God's design laws, that separate us and distance us from God.



The closer we come to God the more we are restored to God's design for life until we are ultimately healed completely by God and experience eternal life with Him.

Anything that incites fear of God obstructs God's plan to save us. Let me say that again, anything that makes us afraid of God obstructs God's plan to heal us.

Now, there is a place where the immature, the child, who doesn't understand reality, may attribute fear to their parent, and the loving parent allows the child this misunderstanding in order to protect them in their immaturity from outside dangers—but the parent expects the child to grow up and stop being afraid of the parent.

For instance, a loving parent will set a rule for their small children not to play in the street. If the child disobeys and plays in the street the loving parent will discipline—inflict a painful consequence upon the child in order to protect the child from what would happen if they were hit by a car.

- In the child's mind why is it wrong to play in the street? Because mommy or daddy will punish.
- In the child's mind where is their fear focused? On what mommy or daddy will do.
- But where is the real threat?
- What should the child truly be afraid of? Being hit by the car—which takes them out of harmony with the laws of health causing pain and death.

Notice how the loving parent steps in between the child and reality and takes onto themselves the role of being the inflictor of pain allowing the child to view them as the source of suffering, but in reality the parent is never the source of the suffering, but is merely stepping into that role long enough for the child to grow up and understand reality and realize that they never needed to have fear of the parent—ever. This is what God often did in the Old Testament and what He wants for His immature children to grow up and understand. When we understand reality, God's true character and methods of love, His design laws, then we love Him and all fear of Him goes away.

Satan has tricked billions, by his lie about God's law, to be more afraid of God who is trying to save them than the sin in their life which is killing them.

The persistent idea that a right attitude toward our Heavenly Father is to both love and fear Him comes straight out of Romanism—the imposed law lie:

From my book *The God-Shaped Heart*:

Our instinctive notions of dictator gods are based on human imposed-law constructs—gods of power who rule by coercion. This is level four and below thinking. This is immaturity. But Jesus overturns such ideas! Jesus reveals a God who presents truth in love and leaves his creatures free. The apostles, once freed from the false-god view, preached Jesus and him crucified and presented God's law as love—and the New Testament church grew (Rom. 13:10; Gal. 5:14; James 2:8).



But sadly, after apostolic times, Christianity gave up its hold on the selfless God of love. The church rejected the understanding that God is Creator and his laws are built into the fabric of reality and replaced this truth with an authoritarian god in the mold of Caesar, a dictator who demands worship on the threat of punishment. [Jurgen] Moltmann [in his book *Sun of Righteousness, Arise*, writes]:

The Roman father of a family corresponded to the Roman father gods and to the later father of the gods, Jupiter, acting as a household priest. The Caesar was seen as the *pater patriae*, the father of his country, and ruled as priestly king of priestly father, the *pontifex maximus*. On the one hand these titles reflect the people's expectation of protection by the ruler, and on the other his unrestricted power: the father of his country is omnipotent—*pater omnipotens*. In Lactantius's writing about "the Wrath of God," we can clearly see how the Roman idea of the father has been transferred to the Christian God: the one God is both Lord and Father, his power being fatherly and also supreme. "We should love him because he is the Father, but we should also fear him because he is the Lord. . . . In both persons he is deserving of worship. Who would not love the Father of his soul with a proper childlike reverence? Or who without punishment could disdain the one who as the ruler of all things has the true power over all?" [Jurgen Moltmann, *Sun of Righteousness, Arise: God's Future for Humanity and the Earth* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010), 89.]

When the God of love whom Jesus revealed is replaced with this dictator view, it is no surprise that Christian husbands abuse their wives just as frequently as men who have never heard of Jesus. Why? Because they are operating on the same imposed law. And just as an apple cannot avoid falling to the ground when released, so too our characters (our hearts) cannot avoid becoming like the god we worship—it is the law of worship! pp. 129

This idea that we are to love and fear God is a strictly pagan idea stemming from accepting Rome's lie about God's law. Our message is to return people to worship our Creator God, whose law is design law, be healed in our hearts and minds such that His perfect love casts out all fear. Yes, we have ever increasing awe of God but ever decreasing fear of God.

MONDAY

What does it mean that the law is a witness against the people?

The lesson asks us to read from Deuteronomy 31, let's start in verse 15 from the NIV84:

Then the LORD appeared at the Tent in a pillar of cloud, and the cloud stood over the entrance to the Tent. 16 And the LORD said to Moses: "You are going to rest with your fathers, and **these people will soon prostitute themselves to the foreign gods** of the land they are entering. **They will forsake me** and break the covenant I made with them. 17 **On that day I will become angry with them and forsake them; I will hide my face from them, and they**



will be destroyed. Many disasters and difficulties will come upon them, and on that day they will ask, ‘Have not these disasters come upon us because our God is not with us?’ 18 **And I will certainly hide my face on that day** because of all their wickedness in turning to other gods. [What is described? What kind of law? What action does God take when people turn away from Him? He leaves them free—the law of liberty. Why does God do this? What choice does God have? If God were to use His power to continue to bless and protect people from rebellion what would that mean? It would mean God violates His own law, it would mean that freedom doesn’t exist, which means love doesn’t exist, it would teach people that destructive ways are actually healthy. What does the Bible call it when God let’s people go to reap what they have chosen, in other word, turns His face from them? God’s wrath. Why does harm come to them? Is God inflicting it? What is the only result of breaking God’s design law for life? Pain, suffering, ultimately death. So, what is God wanting for them to understand? Do we understand any better than they did? Was the law written a witness against them? How?]

19 **“Now write down for yourselves this song and teach it to the Israelites and have them sing it, so that it may be a witness for me against them.** [Why will this be a witness? If you read the words to the song in DT 32 you will see it describes reality, what God did for them, how they rebelled and worshipped demons, how God leaves them free, how they reap what they have sown and how God is always love. It witnesses that God’s law is design law and people are free to accept God and be healed or reject Him and get worse.] 20 When I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, the land I promised on oath to their forefathers, and when they eat their fill and thrive, **they will turn to other gods and worship them, rejecting me** and breaking my covenant. 21 **And when many disasters and difficulties come upon them, this song will testify against them,** because it will not be forgotten by their descendants. **I know what they are disposed to do,** even before I bring them into the land I promised them on oath.”[God knows the selfishness in their hearts and He knows what unremedied selfishness will result in. He also knows the future so He knows this is how it will go. But God’s actions of love and grace despite this testifies that their suffering and loss are not from God but from sinfulness in them.] 22 So Moses wrote down this song that day and taught it to the Israelites.

WEDNESDAY

Read second and third paragraphs, “Whatever education venue...” Wow—what do you think of the idea that we cannot explain why pain and suffering happens to the faithful, the obedient? Really?

It makes me wonder if this is written by a level two thinker. Remember the 7 levels of moral decision making? Level two is Marketplace Exchange, the quid pro quo, you do something for me in exchange of an agreed upon reward.

This is the health-wellness gospel, if you do right you will get health and wealth, but if you do wrong you get sickness and poverty.



This was the thinking of the Pharisees 2000 years ago when they taught that disease was punishment from God for sin and thus they got angry at Jesus for healing disease. In their view He was overruling God's just punishment upon sinners.

This is the thinking of the Apostles when they asked Jesus who sinned the blind man or his parents that he was born blind. And what did Jesus say?

This is the thinking of those who when tragedy strikes and a child dies they say, "Oh, you must have had some sin in your life for this to happen."

It is sick, it is childish, it is immature and it is NOT how God's kingdom works.

While it is true there is cause and effect and we do reap benefits from living in harmony with God's design laws and suffer when we violate them. We must remember we are not living in sinless Eden—we are living in a war zone. We are living in enemy occupied territory. We are living in the world of the prince of darkness where Satan has power to act. Thus, in this world God's law is not lived out perfectly, but God, His agents and His design law are at war with Satan's design, law and agents.

Thus—all nature groans under the weight of sin. There are all kinds of physical diseases and defects that affect every human being regardless of their righteous character. All people age and die the first death—this is the law of sin and death at work on planet earth.

But more than this, there are evil people who seek to do evil and the righteous suffer.

There are natural disasters because nature is unraveling as a result of God's slowly loosening His restraining hand and giving Satan more and more freedom. Why? Because the Holy Spirit dwells in hearts and minds of people and as people harden their hearts the Holy Spirit is slowly withdrawn from the earth and Satan gets more freedom and nature becomes more violent.

There are pestilences and poisons in the environment that affect the righteous as well as the wicked.

The reason the righteous suffer is not a mystery, it is clear and understandable. Yet, in their suffering the righteous always have God with them—they retain their peace with themselves, they retain their new heart and right spirit, they retain their love for God and others, they retain their hope and surety in a better world to come.

Right in the middle of the faith chapter, Hebrews 11 we read from *The Remedy*:

Based on his confidence in God, [Abraham] made his home in the land promised to him, even though he was like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did his son Isaac and grandson Jacob, who were also heirs of God's promise. He wasn't concerned with earthly palaces, because **he was looking forward to living in the city whose foundation, architect and builder is God.**



All of these people were living in trust, confident in God when they died. They did not receive all the things promised, but they understood them in their minds and rejoiced in their reality. And they openly acknowledged that they were strangers and aliens, and **not part of this selfish earth**. They were making it plainly known that they wanted a different land—a land of their own. And they didn't want the land they had left, for they could have easily returned from where they had come. No! They were longing for a better country — **a land free from selfishness, disease, death, crime and exploitation, where guards, police and security are no longer needed — they were longing for heaven. Therefore God is honored to be known as their God (for they value his methods of love, truth, and freedom) and he has prepared an eternal home for them.**

Do we have this perspective that we are foreigners and aliens in a world infected with selfishness and because of this, bad things will happen to God's people, but we know that this sinful world is not our home?

And this is why we at Come and Reason Ministries refuse to promote one political group or politician or nation over another—because this world is not our home—Jesus said His kingdom is not of this world. **We cannot achieve our mission for God through human governments.** Recently, as I have pointed out the failings of trying to do so, some who have aligned with one political movement or another have gotten offended and think I am taking political sides, but I am not.

Hear me clearly—what I am trying to do is to **FREE YOU FROM LOYALTY TO ANY HUMAN SYSTEM AND ESTABLISH YOU IN LOYALTY TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**

Read last paragraph, “Without question...” Can we have a heavenly perspective to understand that we **can** prosper in God's kingdom while not prospering in the world?

What happens to the gold of godly character when we start focusing on the riches of the world and how others have more than we do?

Do we see movements afoot today that are stoking the flames of envy and jealousy based on the riches of the world?

What is the Christian response? Where are we to focus?

The lesson references Psalms 84:10, this is from *The Remedy of the Lord in Song*:

Better is one day spent in the courts where you dwell
than a thousand away from you;
I would rather stand at the entrance to the house of my God
than live in comfort in the tents of the wicked.



THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “Jesus Christ...” Why did Jesus have to die in order to save us? What law lens do you look through?

Why and how was He our just substitute?

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

He became our substitute so that we might *become* the righteousness of God. In other words, it was for our healing, actual fixing of the brokenness in us, not a legal adjustment or declaration. But how, what did He need to achieve? Couldn't God, in His grace and love, merely give us a legal pardon?

If your child disobeyed your instructions to never touch the pesticides in the garage and for some drank some of the poison and were convulsing, would your legal pardon or personal forgiveness fix the problem? What is needed a remedy and a cure.

This is a metaphor of the reality that transgressing God's design law for life is like transgressing the laws of health—it actually damages the transgressor. Because of Adam's sin humanity became terminal, dead in trespass and sin and needed a remedy and a cure for the condition.

Thus Jesus merged His sinless divinity with or terminal sinful humanity in order to live as a real human being, be tempted in every way just like we are but without giving in to any temptation and thus develop a new humanity purged of the fear/selfishness infection.

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. [The two one, referring to Jews and non-Jews. In other words, unifying people into one body. How, by destroying the dividing wall of hostility—what is the dividing wall of hostility? What caused Cain to kill Abel? What causes all hostility, division, violence, conflict? Sin, fear and selfishness, the carnal nature—thus Jesus came to destroy sin that exists in the heart of sinful humans. Sin is the dividing wall. What about abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations? What is the purpose of the added law, the 10 Commandments and other ordinances? They were ADDED as a diagnostic instrument to expose sin, and are they necessary when sin has been eliminated? Are MRIs needed when there is no disease? So Jesus destroys the need for the written law which exposes sin, by destroying sin in the heart. Why did He do this? Next verse] His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. [One new man? Yes, the second Adam, a new human being that is free from sin, free from fear and selfishness, free from the carnal drives. In Jesus the carnal nature was eliminated and God's perfect character of love was established. Thus, through Jesus we may partake of the DIVINE nature and be part of a new humanity, cleansed and renewed, and all who do are reconciled or at-one with God through the



cross where Jesus destroyed the infection of fear and selfishness and thus put to death their hostility.] (Ephesians 2:14-17 NIV84)

His sinless life and sacrificial death destroy the infection of fear and selfishness—the carnal nature—and restore God’s perfect design of love into the humanity He assumed, thus becoming the second Adam the new head of a perfected humanity.

once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him (Heb 5:9 NIV84)

Remember Bible perfection is not sinlessness, Adam and Eve were sinless in Eden, but they were not perfect because Bible perfection is about character, which cannot be created, it must be developed. Jesus as a human developed a perfect character and thus became the Remedy, the source of salvation for all who trust Him!

This is what the law requires:

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

Read second paragraph, “Perhaps John...” What law is involved here? The law of worship.

What happens when we replace Jesus as Creator whose law is design law and His mission was to fix the damage Adam did, with Jesus as imperial dictator whose laws function like Caesar’s who came to pay a legal penalty to the divine punisher of sin-crimes?

Read last paragraph, “That so-called...”

Why can we not be released from obligation to obey the law? For the same reason you cannot be released from the obligation to obey the law of respiration—to stop living in harmony with the law is only possible by death.

TUESDAY

Read second and third paragraphs, “The Lord tells Joshua...” What does this mean?



What law? Why do blessings come from obedience to God but cursing come from disobedience?

Is it imposed—does God use power to miraculously give blessings and inflict punishments? Or is it how reality works? Any examples?

What about David and the showbread versus Uzzah and the ark?

Why didn't David get into trouble for going in and eating the showbread and giving it to his men, which broke the Levitical law, but Uzzah died when he broke the Levitical law by touching the ark?

Ancient Israel is not only a historical reality—real people who did real things, which are accurately recorded in the Old Testament—but its history is also recorded “as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come” (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Israel, to help them learn and teach the larger reality, was given a little theater (the sanctuary), with intricate props, beautiful costumes, and a precise script—all designed to help them act out God's plan to save humans from sin. We must recognize this perspective in order to understand why it was okay for David to take the showbread from the temple and give it to his men to eat, but it was not okay for Uzzah to touch the Ark of the Covenant during transport on a wagon pulled by oxen.

Symbolically, the showbread represents Jesus, the Bread of Life, of which the priesthood of believers, as sinners on earth, are to partake. It is in partaking of Jesus that sinners are healed (saved) from sin and death and receive righteousness and life.

This was acted out theatrically on a weekly basis, when, on each Sabbath, the daily priests, in their white robes (which represent the righteousness of Christ), joined the High Priest (representing Jesus), in the Holy Place to eat the showbread. Thus, when David and his men ate the showbread, they not only received physiological nurturance, but their actions were in harmony with the script—sinners partaking of Christ and receiving life.

The Ark of the Covenant represents a universe healed completely from sin, a universe restored to the sinless presence of God. Symbolically, only the High Priest, who represents Jesus, entered the Most Holy Place, where the Ark resided. He did this at the end of the annual drama, in order to bring sinners into oneness (at-one-ment) with God. Following this came the Feast of Tabernacles, symbolically the time when the saved tabernacle, or dwell, with God again.

It is only through Jesus that the rest of humanity can be healed, restored to righteousness, and made ready to live in God's presence. Sinners on earth can enter into the presence of God only through “the new and living way” opened through the veil by Jesus (Hebrews 10:20).

When Uzzah touched the Ark, his actions, within the drama, said that he was entering God's presence without Christ. But any sinner apart from Christ remains unhealed from sin and cannot live in the unveiled glory of God—thus, Uzzah died.



We must remember, however, that this was all theater—meaning Uzzah’s death was the death the Bible calls “sleep” and from which all will experience resurrection (Daniel 12:2). It is the same death that God told Daniel he would experience (Daniel 12:13). We don’t know the condition of Uzzah’s heart; we don’t know in which resurrection he will arise. The death of Uzzah was not the "wages of sin" death that comes after the Judgment—it was the first death. Therefore, it was not a punishment for sin; it was the proper demonstration, within the object lesson theater, of what happens to unhealed sinners who enter God’s presence. This was done to educate all humanity that sinners can come into God’s presence only through Christ.

Also note that the Ark was captured at one point by the Philistines and they did not die from touching it. Why? Because they were not part of the acting troupe—they were not on stage—they were not part of the script. God in love revealed to them with tumors and breaking their idol that their gods were false, but there was no penalty for touching the ark that God was required to inflict upon them.

So, when we discuss “law” we must always discern the difference between design law and imposed law, and how love can use imposed rules, like a parent with teeth brushing, to help the immature learn and stay safe.

FRIDAY

Read top two paragraphs and discuss

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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- The Infinite Sacrifice of Christ;
- Overcoming Addiction Lasting Freedom;
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