



## 2021 2Q The Promise: Lesson 2 Covenant Primer

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

**Read Quarterly Intro** First Four paragraphs, “In 1588...”

Do we see these dynamics today? Do we see fear rising? Do we see people willing to give up freedoms in order to feel safe?

What does a covenant of fear seek? Control!  
What does a covenant of love seek? Freedom!

Read second paragraph page 3, “How does it all...” Thoughts?

What is the problem with this paragraph? What is the root lie that it is based upon? That God’s law functions like human law.

Truths:

- God is love
- God is Creator
- God created humans sinless
- Adam and Eve sinned taking humanity out of harmony with God and God’s design laws for life. Humanity would die unless God intervened
- Jesus is our Savior, Messiah and no human could be saved without the incarnation and victory of Jesus

All of these things are true—the question is, as the lesson asks, “How does it all work?”

And our answers depend upon whether we see the issues through God’s law or through human law.

If we accept the lie that God’s law functions like human law, then we give answers like the quarterly just gave.

But if we reject the human law construct, and return to design law, the laws our Creator built reality to operate upon, then we understand that Christ took our sinfulness upon Himself in order to eradicate the infection of fear and selfishness and be the connecting link that reconnects humanity with God. Jesus, as a human, was tempted in every way just like we are but instead of choosing to sin, Jesus chose to live sinlessly, righteously, or another way to say it, He lived out God’s design law perfectly. Thus, Jesus, in His humanity, developed a sinless human character and destroyed the infection of fear and selfishness that causes death.



He arose on the third day with a perfected humanity and became our Savior—as Hebrews 5:9 says: “once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.” NIV84

Bible perfection is about maturity of character, which had to be developed. Jesus was sinless, but He also developed a mature character and this He offers as a free gift to all who accept it.

Thus, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Co 5:21 NIV84).

Notice the big contrast between what the Bible teaches and the lesson presents—Jesus is our substitute, and because He took our position and won the victory we can never win, we, through trust, are healed to BECOME righteous! We are not declared righteous even though we are not. This is the big lie that keeps so many trapped in sin.

This penal legal fraud is so corrupt because it takes the most amazing good news and makes it into a trap that prevents billions from experiencing the healing and joy that God has provided for them in Christ.

Jesus said the same thing to Nicodemus. Jesus didn’t say, “Unless a man be legally pardoned” or “Unless a man has my righteousness credited to his account in heaven.” Jesus said, “Unless a man is born again” i.e. receives a new heart and right spirit, receives my righteousness into his mind and actually becomes righteous.

Now if we want to use the language of “accounting” or “accounted” or “credited” righteous, what is the only “righteous” way we can actually use that language in regard to our righteousness?

Can we be accounted righteous by God if we are in fact not righteous? Will God lie and say we are one thing when we are actually not? No! We can only be accounted as righteous AFTER we have been made righteous by the victory of Christ being reproduced in us via the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 3:6 is a classic passage that the penal legal adherents who apply human law models love to quote to support their false supposition that our righteousness is *declared* and not *actual* righteousness. It reads:

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. KJV

According to the Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon, the word translated “accounted” in the KJV or “credited” in the NIV, is *logizomai* (pronounced: low-geeze-oh-my) and means:

to reckon, count, compute, calculate, count over... This word deals with reality. If I “logizomai” or reckon that my bank book has \$25 in it, it has \$25 in it. Otherwise I am deceiving myself. This word refers to facts not suppositions. Strong, J. (1995). Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon. Woodside Bible Fellowship.



So if God “logizomai” or accounts Abraham as righteous it is because Abraham has righteousness in him, otherwise God deceives Himself and all of us and God is not a deceiver.

Despite the actual meaning of the word, the way the vast majority of the Christian community teaches that the accounting is a “proclamation” “supposition” but not fact, a declared legal accounting or adjustment not an actual righteousness in the believer.

The reason people teach this falsely is because, having rejected the truth about God’s law, having accepted the lie that God’s law functions like human law, they have misdiagnosed the sin problem and thus misconstrue the solution—the plan of salvation.

To those who hold the false legal view, the sin problem is a legal problem, that we broke rules and the ruling authority finds us guilty of breaking the law and is required to inflict punishment for law breaking; but they also teach that God loves us, so sent His Son to take our legal position and placed the legal burden of our sins on His Son and then God, to be legal and just, punished His Son in our place and if we accept this legal payment of the blood of an innocent human sacrifice, then God will legally account His Son’s death as our legal payment and we get to be declared legally righteous even though we remain unrighteous in heart, mind and character.

It is all a grand fiction that teaches people to continue to live sinfully while they claim they are legally righteous in heaven’s judicial system. This makes God out to be a terribly capricious, unjust and untrustworthy being. Such a god inflicts punishment on the innocent and declares the guilty just or righteous, this god promotes lies by declaring unrighteous beings to be righteous when they are not. This entire system creates a deity that cannot be trusted.

When we return to design law, we recognize that after Adam’s sin the condition of humankind was changed from sinless love and trust, to hearts filled with fear, selfishness and distrust of God.

The natural heart is enmity against God (Rom 8:7)—we don’t trust Him.

Thus, the Bible teaches that AFTER Abraham trusted God he was reckoned, accounted, or recognized as being righteous—why? Because his untrusting heart had been changed, or set right, or justified into trust, this is why God counted or accounted Abraham as right or righteous because His heart actually was put right with God. This is reality, in the trust relationship, we open the heart and receive into our hearts and minds the righteousness of Christ “it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me.” This is why God accounts us righteous, because as 2Cor 5:21 says, “we become the righteousness of God.”

## **SABBATH**

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In the first paragraph the lesson states, “This is a summary of the whole quarter, as we take one day each to look at the early covenants, the ones that in their own way were all present-truth manifestations of the true covenant, the one ratified at Calvary by the blood of Jesus, the one that we, as Christians, enter into with our Lord.”



This correct—and this is a key to understand all the covenants—all the covenants of the OT were various local or situational manifestations, templates, object lessons, applications of the one true covenant the covenant of grace.

In other words, the covenant of God is God’s healing plan—the actions God initiated and carries out to remedy the sin condition. Beneath the grand plan are many smaller interventions that are part of that grand plan and reveal the grand plan, but we should not lose site of the true covenant because of the local covenant.

For instance, the covenant not to destroy the world again by a flood is merely part of the larger covenant—the flood was a therapeutic intervention to keep open the avenue for Messiah, to keep the plan of salvation operational, to work out the larger true covenant of grace fulfilled in Christ.

All the covenants are communications from God of what He would do. Whenever there is some responsibility for human beings, it is always the responsibility that design law, reality, requires!

- Covenant with Adam was what God would do, He would send a Savior—Adam responsibility—to believe or trust that God would do it and unite with God in heart first and action second
- Covenant with Noah is what God would do, He would not destroy the world again with a flood again—humanity’s responsibility—believe it to be true and unite with God in heart first and action second
- Covenant with Abraham is what God would do, He would make a great nation from Abraham’s descendants and the Messiah would come through his children—Abraham’s responsibility—to trust God would do it and unite with God in heart first and action second
- New Covenant is also what God will do, He will reveal truth, destroy sin and Satan and restore His perfect design law in humanity by living it out as a human and then restoring His law in the people who trust Him, ultimately healing His universe—our responsibility—to trust Him and unite with Him in heart first and action second.

## **SUNDAY**

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The lesson suggests the covenant with God is like a marriage covenant which defines both a relationship and an arrangement—what do you think of this idea?

The lesson states that “the covenant obligation was obedience to God’s will as expressed in the Ten Commandments...” Is this true?

Are the Ten Commandments the complete and ultimate expression of God’s eternal law? Or are the Ten Commandments a list added after sin that did not even exist before Sinai?



- Did Adam and Eve in Eden have a law to honor their mothers?
- Did angels have a law in heaven to honor their mothers and fathers, or that sins would pass down the generations?
- How is the Sabbath defined according to Scripture—sunset Friday to Saturday—this planet rotating in relationship to our sun that didn't exist until day four of creation week of this planet. Yet Job 38 tells us the angels were already in existence.

The commandments were added and Paul makes it clear they were added in Galatians—the law was added as both a diagnostic tool and protective hedge for the sick and immature.

But God's law of love, the moral principles upon which life is constructed are eternal, they are principles the Ten Commandments are based upon, and this is why the greatest law is to Love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and neighbor as yourself.

The law of love originates in God Himself for God is love and God created His universe to operate upon the law of love. Thus, our covenant responsibility is to trust God and have our hearts reunited in love to Him such that He restores His living law of love within us.

As we are going to discuss in detail each of the covenants in future lessons, we won't go into each one in detail today. Instead, we will examine in detail an old article I found while studying for this week's lesson. It is from the pamphlet *The Savior of the World* entitled The Covenant of Grace, written by WW Prescott and I want us to unpack it together. Do you agree or disagree with what is described?

**When I become confused over the apparent chaos in world affairs, and am perplexed over some of my own trying experiences, and a suggestion of doubt about the love of God arises in my mind, I find an antidote for such a poisonous atmosphere by thinking of Jesus and Calvary.** [Can you see why I was intrigued by this article? Are we tempted today to become confused, perplexed, distraught, upset over the chaos in the world or our own struggles? I would recommend the same antidote—Jesus and Calvary.] God does love us. His thoughts toward us are “thoughts of peace.” Jeremiah 29:11. [Do you realize how the false legal view distorts and obstructs this truth. Billions of Christians falsely believe God is against us, a severe judge waiting to punish sinners, being who needs His Son to pay a penalty, to offer His blood as a payment in order not to kill us. Yet, they turn around and say “God is love while teaching this.” It creates conflicts in the mind that don't make sense and damages human reason and causes people to lose the ability to discern and makes them more vulnerable to authority, someone in authority to tell them what to believe, think and do. The truth is that God's thoughts toward us are thoughts of peace!] He has given us full proof of His love. What more could He do for us that He has not done? Isaiah 5:4. “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things?” Romans 8:31, 32. [Do we recognize God is always for us and never against us!] Away with doubt and fear! “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee.” Isaiah 26:3.” O Jehovah, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will praise Thy name.” Isaiah 25:1.



**In considering the wondrous love of God as revealed to us in redeeming us from sin and its dreadful consequences, [What is God redeeming us from—sin, not His own anger, wrath or inflicted punishment! Do you see the lie embedded in much of Christianity that Jesus came to take away our punishment—this isn't true—Jesus came to take away our sinfulness, to restore us back to God's original and perfect design of love] it may throw light upon the whole problem of His manifested grace if we give some thought to **the divine purpose in creating us. [What was God's purpose in creating us?]** This is clearly stated in the Scriptures. God speaks of His sons and daughters as those "whom I have created for My glory." Isaiah 43:7. And He further says of Israel, "Thou art My servant; Israel, in whom I will be glorified." Isaiah 49:3.**

**Creation was an act of love on the part of a holy God in bringing into existence beings who could reveal the glory of His own love. [What does love do? How does love function? What do loving parents naturally want to do? Why do they want to have children? What is God's purpose? To love us, to give us every ability and capacity to grow and develop to be as much like Him as a created being can be—thus we have abilities to love, but also to procreate and to have dominion—but to be experienced as God designed it, in loving service. Thus we are to rule as Christ rules through loving service!]** **Love formed us in His own image, that we might love. [What is our purpose? To love!]** Genesis 1:26. **Hence the fundamental law of our being, and the very purpose for which we have been redeemed,** was expressed by our Lord when He was asked to distinguish between the commandments in the law: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second like unto it is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments the whole law hangeth, and the prophets." Matthew 22:37-40. **[What is the fundamental law of our being, our purpose? To love—what kind of law is this? Is it a rule or is this built into our being, a protocol upon which our very lives are constructed to operate? Can love be generated by threatening to punish those who don't love? Do you see the perversity of how human law works? Do you see the perversity of suggesting that God will use power to externally inflict punishment on those who don't love Him? Such lies, when believed, break the circle of love and trust and obstruct God's healing love from entering the heart.**

The fundamental law of our being is to love, and Satan seeks to coopt this law, to hijack it, to replace the love of God and the love for with something else. Satan seeks to get us to love something other than God, to love power, money, ourselves, our looks, our countries, our race, our political parties, our gender and then fight anyone who doesn't love what we love the way we love it. It is a perversion of our fundamental design that destroys rather than heals! **In our relation to God nothing can take the place of this love. [Why? Because God has rules that if we break it, He will punish, or is it like saying: in our body nothing can take the place of blood? If we replace our blood with anything but blood what happens? If we replace love for God with duty to God, fear of God, obligation, legal rule-keeping to honor God, what happens? If we replace love with anything else and still seek God what happens? And if we love anyone or anything more than God what happens?]** "If I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I





give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:3. **A burning body cannot be substituted for burning love.** And why?—**Because God made us to reveal His character of love by living with Him in the atmosphere of His love; anything short of this will not satisfy the heart of God.** [Why? The answer given is because this is how we were made by God—it is how we are built, our design, to operate upon the living law of love! And why would God not be satisfied if we choose not love? Why would a parent not be satisfied if a child with leukemia refused a life-saving bone-marrow transplant?]

**Sin banishes love and genders hatred.** [What does sin do? Does sin cause an outcome? Is this outcome predictable? Then it becomes a diagnostic tool or measure we can use to discern whether God’s principles are active or sin is active. In the world today, do we see more love or more hatred and less love? Then what does that mean? It means there is more sin and what is sin? Transgression of God’s design laws for life. In other words, we see more hatred and less love because people are seeking to advance their agendas through imperialism, rule of law, legislation, coercion, the power of the state, violations of the law of liberty. People are not practicing God’s law of presenting truth in love while leaving others free, instead they are presenting lies, propaganda, and using coercion to silence and intimidate and punish all who don’t believe the lies. Satan’s kingdom is advancing by using more imposed laws to restrict more liberties and when that happens love is always damaged and rebellion instilled.] **Sin seeks to abolish the law of love to God and man, and to put in its place the law of selfishness.** [What is described here? It is not simply doing bad things, sin interferes with God’s design, obstructing our actual life and function, damaging and destroying those who sin. And when someone sins against us or someone we know or love, the act of sin will plant a seed in our hearts, a seed of hurt, anger, frustration, resentment, and if not removed then the wrong done will inflame our own fears and selfishness (carnal drives) and we will be tempted to seek to resolve our fear by retaliating, directly or through legal means, suing, getting political power and changing laws and forcing others to comply. In other words, each time a person sin they not only damage themselves, they spread seeds into other hearts that if not rooted out cause others to become more fear-ridden and selfish, i.e. sinful. We pluck out such sin-seeds by God’s grace, by forgiving the wrong doer, by applying truth and understanding the wrong doer is searing their conscience and hardening their heart, by love for the wrong doer and uplifting them in prayer for God’s grace to reach them, and by practicing God’s methods in how we conduct ourselves. We are to be lights in a dark world, and the light shines the brightest in the darkest places. So it is when the darkness of Satan’s methods are practiced that we have opportunity to live the light.] Sin has no time or place for the worship of God, but sets up the idolatry of self. **Sin must be dealt with in order that the purpose of God in our creation may not be thwarted, but that the image of God may be restored in us. And God has dealt with sin.** [Why must sin be dealt with? So that God’s purpose in our creation may be achieved—and what is that purpose? To glorify God in love! To live lives of love! And who deals with the sin problem? And what does it mean to deal with it—does this sound like a legal solution in a book is required, or something in the living soul is required?]

**Man was originally crowned with glory and honor, and given dominion over the world (Psalm 8:5; Genesis 1:26), empowered to reign upon a throne of love; [What kind of**



crown? One of Glory and honor—what does this mean? From where would humanity’s glory and honor originate? From our Creator, who built us with the abilities, capacities and operational protocols to love, beings in His image, and what is the throne upon which we are to reign? The throne of love! Remember Ezekiel’s vision of God’s throne, it rests upon a moving wheel inside a rotating circle inside a moving wheel—the law of love is the foundation of God’s throne and is to be ours! What kind of throne or government or authority or law is this? Contrast this with Satan’s government—remember in Isaiah Satan is described as seeking to ascend to rule over and this is how all the kingdoms of the world govern, by a few ruling elites exercising power to exploit, dominate and take from the masses to maintain their power. But Jesus, did not think equality with God was something to hold on to, but surrendered Himself all the way to the cross in order to uplift the masses. This is the government or throne of love it is exactly the opposite of the kingdoms of this world.] **but distrust of God dethroned him [mankind], and he became the slave of sin.** [What happened? Lies believed break the circle of love and trust. Notice, we became enslaved to fear and selfishness, to sin, through distrusting God. Not through breaking rules, the acts of sin are the manifestations of distrust displacing love and the outworking of fear and selfishness in the heart.] **The purpose of God in the gospel is to restore man to his place on the throne by renewing the love of God in his heart, and so enabling him to conquer selfishness;** “He that overcometh, I will give to him to sit down with Me in My throne, as I also overcame, and sat down with My Father in His throne.” Revelation 3:21. **Love is the all-conquering power, and love will win.** [How is it we are restored to the throne that God has for us? Is this a legal process where God sends Jesus to pay a legal penalty, take punishment, and declare us righteous even though we are not? No, it is literal, actual, restoring God’s living law of love into the heart and mind of all who are restored to trust in God. It is love enabling us to overcome fear and selfishness.]

**The source and ground of our salvation is the grace of God, which is love dealing with sin.** [What is grace? It is love dealing with sin, to achieve what? The eradication of sin from the heart and mind, the restoring of love into our inmost being!] **The assurance of this love manifested in saving grace is made known to us in the promises of God, which constitute the covenant of grace.** [What is the covenant of grace? Love manifested to eradicate sin from sinners!] The fundamental promises, designated as the “**new covenant**,” are thus expressed; “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will accomplish [margin] a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them forth out of the land of Egypt; for they continued not in My covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the **covenant** that I will covenant [margin] with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put My laws into their mind, and on their heart also will I write them:** and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people: and they shall not teach every man his fellow citizen, and every man his brother, saying, **Know the Lord: for all shall know Me,** from the least to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and their sins will I remember no more.” Hebrews 8:8-12... [What is the covenant, the agreement—we agree to trust God and He agrees to fix us—to remove fear and selfishness and restore His law of love in us!]





... **The moral law, which is to be written in the heart, is the law of love.** [What is the moral law? Where is it to be written? Is this a list of rules? Is the moral law imposed like human law, or is it design law, protocols upon which life is built by God to operate?] **It [the moral law] is the expression of the very nature of the God of love as interpreted to us in the life and teachings of Christ,** who said, “I have kept My Father’s commandments.” John 15:10. **To keep this law is to love as God loves. To the natural heart this is impossible, and so God has promised to give us a new heart:** “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you.” Ezekiel 36:26. In harmony with this provision is the prayer of David: “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a steadfast [margin] spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10. **We may call this conversion, or regeneration, or the new birth, or the new creation; but in any case it is the impartation of a new life from God, that life which is love, and is revealed in loving.** [Is this describing a legal accounting or an actual healing, recreating, transformation of the heart and mind? Understand, our God is the Creator, the God of reality, the God who is love and who built life to operate upon love. Sin is a breach in that law, that results in death unless remedied by God through the work of Christ. Thus, God has covenanted to provide us a new heart and right spirit to heal all the damage, if we trust Him. There is nothing legal in the covenant it is the covenant of love not rules.] **Those who have this experience are “partakers of the divine nature”** (2 Peter 1:4), and that nature is expressed in obedience to the divine law of love.

“**When the principle of love is implanted in the heart, when man is renewed after the image of Him that created him, the new covenant promise is fulfilled,** ‘I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.’ And if the law is written in the heart, will it not shape the life? ... [When is the covenant promise fulfilled? Notice, it is when the heart is changed back into the image of Christ. It is not fulfilled in a legal declaration that we are accounted righteous even though we are not righteous. If we haven’t been transformed to righteousness, if we haven’t been reborn, if we haven’t had a new heart recreated within, the covenant of grace has not been realized in our lives. The penal substitution theology is a lie and a fraud that cheats people out of what God wants to do in their lives.] **Here is the true test. If we abide in Christ, if the love of God dwells in us, our feelings, our thoughts, our purposes, our actions, will be in harmony with the will of God as expressed in the precepts of His holy law.** [What is the true test? Our thoughts, feelings, purposes, actions being restored to harmony with God. Does this sound like being declared righteous even though we are not, or as 2Cor 5:21 says, we become the righteousness of God?]

**And this experience is guaranteed to us by the promise of God, and is provided for us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of love:** for we know that “the love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given unto us.” Romans 5:5. “Salvation is of Jehovah.” Jonah 2:9. [Who is the agency that makes this experience a reality in the believer? The Holy Spirit—do you see why Satan works to destroy our value of the Holy Spirit in various ways?]

**Obedience to the law of love is not a hardship, not a burdensome duty imposed upon us as the price of blessing from God,** [notice the language this author uses, God’s law is NOT



**IMPOSED** upon us, it is not some obligation we must do as the price to receive God's blessings!] but the fruit and the test of our fellowship with God through the Spirit. But at the same time it is the **absolute condition of maintaining our standing before God**. [What does this mean? What law lens are you hearing this through? Obedience to design law is not a burden any more than breathing is a burden. Living out God's design laws bring life, health, joy, happiness, and invigorate us. Breaking the design laws destroy us, cause us suffering and pain. Why is obedience an absolute condition of maintaining our standing before God? For the same reason that breathing is an absolute condition for maintaining our health!]

**At the very root of the relation of a creature to his God, and of God admitting the creature to His fellowship, lies the thought of obedience....** In the promise of the **new covenant** it takes the first place. God engages to circumcise the hearts of His people—in the putting off of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ—to love God with all their heart, and to obey His commandments. **The crowning gift of Christ's exaltation was the Holy Spirit, to bring salvation to us as an inward thing.** The first covenant demanded obedience, and failed because it could not find it. The **new covenant** was expressly made to provide for obedience. To a life in the full enjoyment of the new covenant blessing, obedience is essential." [How is obedience possible? Though the agency of the Holy Spirit working in the heart—to do what? Change the heart, obedience is the living out of God's law of love, which is only possible after the heart has been renewed, recreated, circumcised, transformed, justified, set right, which the Holy Spirit does when we trust God! This is healing, not legal. So, again, why is obedience essential? Is it a legal obedience, like obeying human law, or the obedience of free people who desire to live in harmony with God and His design laws for life?]

**The enabling power** for such a life of obedience is ministered to us in this most helpful promise: **"I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep Mine ordinances, and do them."** Ezekiel 36:27. **This means simply that God in Christ has personally assumed the responsibility for our life of love and obedience, according to the covenant promise which He has made in these words:** "I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: and I will make an **everlasting covenant** with them, that I will not turn away from following them, to do them good; and I will put My fear in their hearts, that they may not depart from Me." Jeremiah 32:39, 40. **This is the gospel of the grace of God. This is the covenant of grace.** Here is the distinguishing feature of Christianity as interpreted to us by Inspiration. **By promise and by oath God has pledged Himself as the Saviour of those who trust in Him,** that "we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us." Hebrews 6:18. "Jehovah, Thou wilt ordain peace for us; for Thou hast also wrought all our works for us." Isaiah 26:12. Blessed assurance! Strong encouragement indeed! [Is this a legal process or an actual activity of God in the species human... First in Jesus Himself as a human and secondarily the work of God via the Holy Spirit applying in us the victory of Christ to regenerate and recreate us. Thus the covenant is God's treatment plan, God's activity and actions to nullify sin and restore His righteousness, His design of love in us through Jesus! So the agreement or covenant is—God sending Jesus to be our remedy, to take up the broken condition of humanity caused by Adam and cure, fix, cleanse, restore the human



condition back to sinless perfection, first in the humanity He assumed, and then, to work in each person who trust God to infuse us with a new heart, right motives, desires, the character of Christ via the work of the Holy Spirit. God does all of this in the covenant, our responsibility is to trust Him and choose to align ourselves with Him following His directions in our lives.]

**Another feature of the new covenant, the covenant of grace, which marks its superiority over the old covenant, is that it has a gloriously efficient mediator, even Jesus the Son of God.** [How do we understand Jesus as mediator? To whom is Jesus working to influence and change? Where is Jesus' activities being applied? Where is the effect needed if we are to be saved? Does God need Jesus to work on Him? Do we need Jesus to work on us?] We have not come to Mt. Sinai, but to Mount Zion, and "to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant" (Hebrews 12:24); to Jesus who has shared with us in our experiences of temptation (Hebrews 4:15) and knows our need: "for there is one God, one mediator also between God and men, Himself man, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all." 1 Timothy 2:5, 6. **Through His mediation all the blessings of the new covenant are ministered unto us.** [To whom are the blessings of the new covenant ministered? to us, not to God!] **By His life of suffering obedience, culminating in His death on the cross, He has made atonement for our sins.** [What does this mean? What laws lens do you hear it through? Atonement, at-one-ment, reconciliation. Our sinfulness has damaged us and separated us from God, Jesus' victorious life is the means through which God seals the breach, reconnects us to Him, fixes the problem, restores unity, makes us one or at-one with God again. When Adam sinned God did not get changed, God's law did not get changed, but the condition of humankind did get changed inciting a disconnect, rebellion, a break in our unity with God. We became filled with fear and selfishness and no longer operated upon God's design law of love. Thus, atonement is reuniting us to God. Jesus is the means whereby God fixes the brokenness and simultaneously maintains the integrity of His law, why? Because the means of fixing the sin problem is through the application of His law, through living out of and restoration of His law in humanity. The new covenant, writing my law in the heart and mind. You cannot have health while violating the laws of health, you only have health by restoring one to living in harmony with the laws of health. Thus, God fixes the sin problem through restoring His living law into humanity.] Exalted at the right hand of God and sitting upon the throne of grace, He has "become the surety of a better covenant" (Hebrews 7:22), and **through His mediation the gifts of God are supplied to us, and all the requirements of God are wrought in us.** [Again, to whom is the mediation ministered and the requirements provided? To us!] Through His mediation the covenant of grace, instead of being a mutual agreement, is resolved into His "precious and exceeding great promises" (2 Peter 1:4), of which He Himself is the yea: "[For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God]." 2 Corinthians 1:20. **Apart from His mediation, we should be utterly helpless, "having no hope and without God in the world."** Ephesians 2:12. [Why? Is it because apart from His mediation we would not have anyone to influence God, to plead with Him to bless us, or to turn away God's anger and wrath and God would lash out to destroy us? Or is it because apart from Christ's mediation we would not have the remedy to our terminal sin condition and would die in trespass and sin?]



But some one may feel like suggesting, “You are making it too easy for the transgressor by placing all the responsibility for success in the Christian life upon God.” Do not misunderstand me. **There is one thing which God does not do, and which He does not permit any other person to do. He has given to us freedom of will, and He will not disregard it. I can say No to God, and He will be governed accordingly, but I must take the inevitable consequences. In this sense I am the arbiter of my own destiny. I can take my own choice.**

[What law is active in this description? The law of liberty, and why is this law operational and why won't God violate the law of liberty? Because love only exists in an atmosphere of freedom, if God were to threaten to kill us if we don't submit it would destroy love and incite rebellion. If God were to make the choice for us, manipulate our minds in some way, it would destroy our individuality and make us robots. God will not do this because He is love and did create us in His image with our own individuality to operate upon His living law of love. Why if we say no will God “be governed accordingly”? Is this some law outside of God that God is bound to obey? No, it is because God is bound by Himself, His own nature, character of love and God will not violate the law of liberty because to do so would not only destroy love, destroy our individuality and incite rebellion, it would violate His own character and nature.]

This privilege and its meaning were recognized by Moses, the man of God, when he solemnly declared to the people, “I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before thee life and death, the blessing and the curse: therefore choose life, that thou mayest live, thou and thy seed.” Deuteronomy 30:19. **There is no power which will compel us to choose to commit sin. There is no power which will compel us to choose to do righteousness. We alone are responsible for the choice which we make. Therefore we commit no sin without first consenting to it,** and an act is charged against us as sin when we consent to do that which we know to be contrary to the will of God. [And is the sin problem the act, or is the act the evidence of the sinful condition of the heart and the real problem is a fear ridden selfish heart out of harmony with God's law of love?]

**Judas was a traitor at heart before he actually betrayed his Lord.** [There it is, the issue is always the heart, the behaviors are the manifestation of the heart. This is why a legal religion always fails because legal religions focus on outward appearance, on behavior, but God's kingdom is within you, it is the kingdom of love that heals the heart and then the behaviors change.] He deliberately chose to do the infamous deed, for we read that “he consented, and sought opportunity to deliver Him unto them in the absence of the multitude.” Luke 22:6. We imitate Judas when we **consent** to commit a known sin. The will determines our way of life.

**Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise.** You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; **He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure.** Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, and your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.”

Such are the results of making a right choice.



**I do not need to be told that the god of this world will use every possible means to keep us from choosing to serve God.** I know it in my own experience. **He paints the glories of the world in glowing colors, and promises all that the natural heart desires,** if we will only choose to worship him. [And what does it mean to worship Satan? Does this mean joining a satanic cult? How do people worship God's enemy? Is it not by aligning their hearts with the methods, motives, principles and actions of Satan? And what are those? Lies, fear, selfishness, coercion, exploitation—like pursuing social justice through more human government, law, coercion and punishment!] But we must not forget that “there is no truth in him,” and that “he is a liar, and the father thereof.” John 8:44. In his service all joy ends in bitterness of soul, **all selfish pleasure destroys the capacity to love,** and all hope is quenched in everlasting despair. [All selfish pleasure destroys the capacity to love. This is design law. This is what sin does, it sears the conscience, hardens the heart, damages the reason. In other words, sin persisted in will eventually destroy the faculties that respond to truth and love—it destroys the capacity to love. Notice, the author did not say all pleasure, all selfish pleasure and that is what the world offers—selfish pleasure. Worse, it offers it in a way that justifies the selfishness, claiming it is healthy and right and ridiculing godliness as judgmentalism] **Do not listen to his fables of deceit.**

**From the first promise of victory over the serpent, made in Eden (Genesis 3:15), to the last promise of the advent of our Lord in glory to reward those who have been redeemed by His loving mercy (Revelation 22:12), we are dealing with the covenant of grace.** [There has always and only been one covenant, the covenant of grace, all the others are simply various manifestations of it.] The call to us now, as to His people of old, is, “Come ye, and join yourselves to Jehovah in an everlasting covenant that shall not be forgotten.” Jeremiah 50:5.

**“Saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God.”** [What kind of covenant? A relation—not a legal transaction. And the relationship operates upon love, truth, liberty, trust—it is the outworking of God's character built into the laws He constructed reality to operate upon.]

**Let each one of us say with absolute sincerity, “Into this covenant of a wholehearted love in God and in me I do with my whole heart now enter.”** Thrice blessed is he who will thus accept the inestimable blessings of the covenant of grace.

The Savior of the World - SOTW p. 81 <https://m.egwwritings.org/en/book/1409.319#333>

## MONDAY

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How was the covenant with Noah a manifestation of the true covenant of grace fulfilled through Jesus?

- Satan was working to destroy the avenue for the Messiah
- God worked with the one human and his family still loyal to God to keep open the avenue for





the Messiah

Was the decision to destroy the earth in the flood done as punishment for sin as grace working to heal and save? What law lens do you use?

If you deal with those stuck in the human law lie and teach God was punishing sin at the flood—ask them, in their model, when does the judge inflict punishment, before or after judgment? And since the judgment is future, even in their model, the actions of God cannot be for punishing sin, it must be for another purpose, which is the covenant of grace acting to keep open the avenue for Messiah.

## TUESDAY

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Read Genesis 12:1-3, from the NIV84:

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

What does this mean?

From *The Remedy*:

The Lord had told Abram, “Leave your homeland, your relatives and your father’s house, and go to the land I will show you. My plan is for your descendants to become a great nation that lives out my methods, for they will be the avenue for the Messiah. I will change your character and make it a great example of my healing plan – that healing comes through trust – and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless and support you, but those who oppose you I will oppose; and the entire human race – all earthlings – will be blessed through you.”

How is this the true covenant of grace?

## WEDNESDAY

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Exodus 6:1-6 God tells Moses how He will deliver Israel from Egypt in fulfillment of the covenant promise to Abraham.

For what purpose was the promise given to Abraham and what purpose in bringing Israel out of Egypt?

Are these different covenants or all part of the one true covenant?





## THURSDAY

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The New Covenant—which is recorded in Jeremiah 31 and Hebrews 8 and 10, and it is writing the law on the heart and mind. Is this a new covenant, as in, never been thought of before or is it the true covenant that people forgot or didn't understand?

The lesson asks how do we understand the law being written into the heart?

## FRIDAY

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Read first paragraph and discuss, “The yoke...”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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**Change in Class Time:** April 3, 2021 our class will start meeting at 10:00 a.m. and go until 11:00 a.m. Then we will have a live 30 minute Q&A for our online viewers. This will be one of the benefits for members only.

**New Member's Section is now open:** This is FREE but will require a sign in and will contain member's only content. We are currently loading *The Remedy* audio to this section of our site and will eventually remove it from Soundcloud. We will have other exclusive content on this site as well.

**SHARING campaign:** March 2021 Meditation Guide—Biblical versus Eastern  
**BE SURE TO USE OUR WEBSITE STORE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER—DON'T SEND AN EMAIL.**