



## 2021 2Q The Promise: Lesson 5 Children of the Promise

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

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Read the story in the lesson, “A father and...” Do we know Jesus is coming back to get us? Do we have the same confidence of this little girl?

Why wasn't the little girl afraid? Was she floating in an ocean free of sharks? So she wasn't afraid of abandonment, she didn't doubt her father would return, but why wasn't she afraid of sharks while she waited for her father's return? Because she didn't focus her attention on sharks, she focused her attention on her father's promise.

Where does the Bible tell us we are to focus?

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...”  
(Hebrews 12:2 NIV84).

What would have happened to the little girl's attitude had she focused on the possibility of sharks or fatigue or drowning? Could her worrying about such things have actually burned up more energy and exhausted her sooner?

Are we vulnerable today to taking our focus off of Jesus and allowing the dangers in the world to fill our minds and overwhelm our hearts?

What happens if we focus upon:

- COVID
- Global warming
- Over population
- Social injustice
- Governmental abuse



- Gun violence
- Or any other danger in this world?

Who is the prince of this world? What is his goal? It is critical that at this time in human history we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and fulfill our responsibilities in how we live, practicing His methods in our lives while trusting our Savior with the future, with how things turn out.

## SUNDAY

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Read Genesis 15:1:

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward” (NIV84).

What does this mean?

What does it mean that God is Abram’s shield?

Shield from what?

Is this primarily a temporal shield from physical disease, starvation, attack from marauders, or is it something more, a spiritual shield, a shield against fear, selfishness, and eternal death?

Is it a shield from Satan’s attacks that would seek to destroy his faith, to destroy his usefulness in God’s plan—and what is God’s plan? To bring Messiah to heal him and the human race from sin and save us eternally—so is God shielding merely from temporal problems or is His shielding from temporal problems for the working out of His plan of salvation and deliverance from eternal ruin and death?

In fact, if we look at God’s shielding from a spiritual perspective—about carrying out the plan of salvation to save sinners—does God sometimes NOT shield people from personal temporal trials and even death because they are spiritually healed and have eternal life and their temporal trials or death, while



not brought about by God, God does not interfere to prevent because it will be the means to reach others and bring more people to salvation? Consider the martyrs during the time of Rome how their deaths in the arena led many to Christ.

The lesson asks, “Why would the first thing the Lord says to Abram be, ‘Fear not?’ What would Abram have to fear?”

From where does fear originate or come? It comes from sin and being out of harmony with God. As soon as Adam and Eve sinned they ran and hid because they were afraid.

The sin condition itself incites fear, guilt, shame a sense of inadequacy, fear of rejection, of not being good enough, insecurity, and fear of punishment. This comes from the condition and it is magnified when exposed to God’s love and truth.

When a sinner comes close to godly truth and love their sense of personal shortcomings, sinfulness, defectiveness becomes more intense and this causes a greater sense of fear. The individual either surrenders themselves in trust to God or runs from God. Thus, every time an angel appears to one of God’s prophets they first thing they say is “fear not” or “don’t be afraid.”

We have nothing to fear from God, we have something to fear from the sin condition, from sin itself, from refusing to allowing God to heal us.

It is like cancer, we don’t need to fear the cancer doctor, we need to fear unhealed cancer.

Or it is like going to the dentist, we don’t need to fear the dentist. He or she is there to help us, to identify any cavities and fix them. Yet, many people are afraid of going to the dentist—why? Because the healing process can be painful, even when the dentist is gentle.

Likewise, this truism holds: **Once there is brokenness there are no pain-free options.** There is only healing or remaining broken and getting worse. Going to Jesus requires dying to self, circumcision of the heart, crucifying the flesh and this process is painful to the self. It is going through the valley of the shadow of



death led by our shepherd in the path of righteousness for the restoring of our soul. Yes, it is painful, but not harmful; it results in healing, renewal and the resolution of pain and a life of joy and happiness. Yet, many people reject healing and instead choose the path of pain avoidance, of what feels good right now. It would be like taking pain medicine for a cavity instead of getting the tooth fixed.

This is what Eastern meditation does—it avoids the valley of the shadow of death by self-directed emptying meditation that results in calming the fear circuits and creating a sense of disconnection from the immediate. Biblical meditation leads one to truth, the truth of their condition and the truth of our God of love who longs to heal us; and then God leads us through the healing process, which is transiently painful, but results in transformation of the heart and curing of the sin problem.

So, where does fear come from? From sin and it is resolved by experiencing God's love transforming our hearts. Perfect love casts out all fear.

## MONDAY

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The lesson focuses our attention on the promise to Abraham and his “seed” and how all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

What does this mean?

Are the promises to Abraham just to the genetic descendants of Abraham or to all humanity?

God has covenanted in Genesis 3 to save the human species. He chose Abraham to be the progenitor of the family through whom Jesus would be born—but the covenant was not restricted to his biological descendants; **it was given to all those who are like Abraham in character.**

The Jews in Christ day believed the promises to Abraham were based on biology, genetics, and Jesus let them know their understanding was wrong:



**I know you are Abraham's descendants.** [Jesus acknowledges their genetics] Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word. [They are not lovers of truth. They are not open to be led out of lies into the light of truth. Remember those who are lost in the end are those who did not love the truth and thus be saved. The Bible doesn't say that the saved know ALL truth, for none of us know all truth, only God is infinite and knows all things. The saved are those who have hearts that love truth and want to grow in the truth when it is presented and the Holy Spirit enlightens them to see and understand it. But these leaders didn't have minds and hearts that loved truth, in fact they hated it and constantly worked to obstruct it. Thus the means to heal them they rejected.] I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what you have heard **from your father.**" [Here Jesus tells them that their genetics doesn't determine whose children they are; He tells them that they have a different father than Abraham even though they are genetically descended from Abraham.]

**"Abraham is our father," they answered.** [They protest and insist that it is genetics that matters]

**"If you were Abraham's children,"** said Jesus, **"then you would do the things Abraham did.** [Now Jesus makes it clear who is a child of Abraham and it is **not** about genetics; it is about being like Abraham in character, about trusting God, about having the faith of Abraham, about living out God's methods and following where God leads. In fact, in Scripture the faithful are often referred to as the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—why? Because the three represent the covenant lived out—We must have the faith of Abraham and thus are children of Abraham; but we must also have a miracle birth (be born from that which is dead—remember Sarah womb was considered dead. So we which are dead in trespass and sin must be reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit) and thus are children in Isaac; and we must, in union with God, wrestle against our own fears, selfishness and sinfulness to be overcomers and thus are children of Jacob and get a new name Israelites—heirs of the promise.] As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. **You are doing the things your own father does.**" [Jesus again makes it clear we are children of whose character we emulate and develop.]



“We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.” [Again they protest Jesus’ revelation and now claim God as their Father.]

Jesus said to them, “**If God were your Father**, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. **You belong to your father, the devil**, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:37-44 NIV84). [Jesus makes it unmistakable, genetics are irrelevant, what matters is character. Those who have faith like Abraham are children of Abraham. Those who reject the truth, don’t trust God, prefer a legal religion with an imperial dictator god are children of their god the devil.]

Paul wrote the same thing: “And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:29 New English Translation)

What of the genetic descendants? They are also promised salvation through Christ—there is no difference between any human being—there is no Jew or Greek, there are only sinners who have accepted Jesus and been reborn, healed, saved, and sinners who have not accepted Jesus and remain terminal. Thus the Bible divides humanity into only two groups:

- Saved and lost
- Wheat and tares
- Fruitful vine and withered vine
- Faithful woman and harlot
- Righteous and wicked
- Sheep and goats

But humanity divides itself into many various groups and then fights against each other, such as:

- tribes
- races



- ethnicities
- nations
- political parties
- religions
- denominations
- sports fans
- climate change believers and climate change deniers

In America, the greatest divisions seem to be along race and politics—yet the racial division in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a manipulation and diversion to prevent the people from genuine unity, from uniting. The real cause of the majority of conflict, hostility and division in our society is not caused by racism in the hearts of the vast majority of people, it is caused by classism—by powerful wealthy elites who control various media outlets and constantly inflame racial tensions to prevent the financial middle and lower classes from uniting and electing leaders that represent their concerns and breaking up these mega-corporations that are now directing the policies of this nation and in fact the world, all of this the move toward globalism. These mega corporations don't want national boundaries because they can't make as much money in one nation, they need to operate in all nations, getting the cheapest labor to produce their products and then selling their wares around the world with minimal taxes, tariffs and trade barriers.

And so, they incite racial divisions to prevent a majority of the people from uniting and acting to break up their power and monopolies and influence.

It is exactly as Revelation predicted, the beastly system is forming and will coerce through various means including economic means to advance its agenda. There will only be two groups in the end—the righteous and the wicked and they will not be separated by denomination, political party, race, nation—**they will be separated by character!**

The lesson in the first paragraph states that Jesus, “would at the cross pay for this sins of ‘all the families of the earth.’”

What does this mean?





What law lens are we reading this through?

- To whom is the payment made?
- What is the payment?
- Is it blood? Is it death?
- Is it a human sacrifice?
- Is it paid to God?
- What kind of god requires a human sacrifice?
- Is it paid to Satan?
- What would God need a payment for?
- What is the purpose of a blood payment?
- Do we need to understand what the payment is for, what it is to accomplish?
- Does the law lens we look through impact our understanding?
- What questions do you have about this?

Under design law does it may more sense? If a parent donates a kidney to save their child dying of renal failure—has the parent “paid a price” to save their child? What kind of price is paid? Is it a legal price? Is it a price paid to the doctor or hospital? Who receives the donated payment of a kidney? The one dying and why is this the price necessary to save them?

This is the reality—we are terminal and dying of a condition we did not choose but were born with. Jesus came and paid the price necessary to save the species, procure the remedy to cure our condition, and thus the payment is made to us. And what is that payment? It is metaphorically taught as flesh and blood (John 6:53-56) or bread and wine—but what is it? The Word or truth to destroy lies and win to trust and the new sinless life/character of Christ which is represented by the “blood” –the life is in the blood—Leviticus 17:11.

Read last paragraph, “No question...” First, we agree completely that Jesus is the means whereby the covenant is realized. Well said!

But there is a word used in this paragraph that too often is misunderstood, a word that is used by those who advance the imposed law concept to create a falsehood that obstructs God’s plan of salvation. And the word? “accounted.”





The way it is taught is that this is a legal accounting, some forensic adjustment in ledgers somewhere in heaven, in which we are accounted or declared to be righteous through the legal application to a book in heaven when we remain unrighteous. This is a lie.

The Bible teaches that “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)

This is substitutionary atonement—or substitutionary at-one-ment. Jesus our substitute, took our terminal sin condition upon Himself in order to overcome it, cure it, become our remedy SO THAT we might BECOME the righteousness of God. This is the healing substitution model. It is based upon reality, upon God’s design laws, in harmony with the character of God.

But the penal legal lie is based on human imposed law and makes God out to be the source of pain, suffering, death and it is taught that God must be appeased by the blood of His Son in order to not use His power to kill us.

Now I have some good news and sad news, not bad news, sad news. The good news is that our message is penetrating and many people are responding to this incredible good news and having their minds freed from the lies about God. The message of God’s character of love is reaching hearts and mind and changing lives—that is the good news! But the sad news is that the promoters of the imposed law view of God are attacking us again. It is very sad to see this, but it is evidence of our success at countering their false views.

Recently, I became aware that another pastor is going around presenting a PowerPoint program entitled “Tim Jennings”—yes, his title slide is my name. His presentation is not a mere discussion of doctrinal beliefs, contrasting various theological positions, even a discourse on what he believes is faulty theology. No, this is a specific and personal attack designed to discredit me, and do you think he is presenting an honest program, an accurate description of what I teach and then merely disagreeing and showing why he disagrees? No, he has created multiple false characterizations of what I teach, woven in with a couple of quotations of others used by me, to represent me as teaching things I do not teach.

First, I want to comment on his method.



He doesn't attack my actual beliefs or positions, but other people's positions that he assigns to me. He does this in two ways, first he identifies historic references that I have cited, such as Irenaeus and Robert Franks, and then takes **their** positions (not mine) on atonement and attacks those theories making it appear that those views are mine when they are not. I cite these historic sources to demonstrate that the church did not always promote penal substitution, not to endorse those theories. The second way he does this is by quoting an email he received and using the emailer's description of what they think I teach and then attacking that view as if that is my position. What he does not do, is take my view as presented in my various materials and address truthfully what I teach. Instead he assigns to me, by association, views that are not mine and attacks these false views.

The three big lies he presents are that:

- 1) I don't believe Scripture and think myself superior to the Bible and have taken it upon myself to correct errors in the Bible.
- 2) I don't believe in the substitutionary nature of Jesus sacrifice for our salvation and
- 3) that I teach Moral Influence Theory.

These assertions are false! I absolutely believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, but not the inerrancy of translation. But he attacks me for paraphrasing the Bible. He uses EGW quotes about letting the Bible speak for itself and that men should not seek to correct the Bible. He compares me to Joseph Smith. This is another fraudulent allegation by association. Joseph Smith believed the Bible has errors that needed correction. I do not. I believe the Bible is without error in the truths revealed for salvation—however, translators are not without error. There are many errors that have entered via translation that are not in the original Greek or Hebrew. The comma placement when Jesus was talking to the thief on the cross; the insertion of the word "men" when Jesus said "when I be lifted up I will draw all *men* unto me" are just a couple of examples. The purpose of translation is to make the meaning of the original manuscript most understandable. Not the original words, the original meaning. But, he sets up *The Remedy* falsely as my attempt to correct the Bible rather than my attempt to make the Bible's message most truly and accurately understood. This is quite different than what Joseph Smith did. He also doesn't compare my paraphrase with the Greek, but with other English translations, which I criticize for being



done after the imposed law construct became accepted orthodoxy and thereby introducing false legal concepts. The reason he does this is that he has the false law premise and falsely believes the Bible should teach appeasement theology, when it doesn't teach any such thing.

I teach that salvation is only possible because of the substitutionary death and resurrection of Jesus, but teach that this at-one-ment is a healing restoration to unity with God through Jesus' accomplishments, not penal-legal, not paying some legal price to God or God's law. We don't believe that God needed something done to Him, but sinners needed something done to us. And what we needed is two fold—we needed to be influenced morally—influenced with the truth about God to reject the lies and be won to trust. But if we stopped at this point and only taught this much, then we would be teaching the Moral Influence Theory. But **we never stop here**, we always say that our salvation required more than a revelation of truth to win us to trust; our salvation also required an actual remedy to cure our sin condition and we could not develop it. Jesus, as our substitute, took our sin condition upon Himself and overcame it. He developed a perfect, sinless, human character and destroyed the infection of the carnal nature (fear and selfishness). This is what the law requires and what Jesus objectively achieved, and it is a requirement for our salvation (DA 762). This view is presented widely in my blogs, *The God Shaped Brain*, the God and Your Church Seminar, the Power of Love Seminar. In the *God Shaped Heart* I actually go through the various atonement models and demonstrate how they correlate with the different moral developmental levels and that what we teach is level 7—healing substitution. Yet this pastor failed to acknowledge this and instead presented only a portion of our position to make it appear we teach something we don't teach. He is publicly lying to people about what I teach. Did this pastor contact me first before going forward with his presentations? No.

Finally, this is a public accusation against me personally—it is an attempt to malign me and our ministry with his false view or understanding of me, rather than following God's principle of first coming to me to clarify and truly understanding what I teach and then if he disagrees do so honestly. He quote EGW many times in his attack on me, so here is a quote from her that I would like to share with him:



Those who cannot impartially examine the evidences of a position that differs from theirs, are not fit to teach in any department of God's cause.  
1SM 411.2

Why does this pastor, and others in church leadership, do this? Because their views are false and they know their views cannot stand up to truth. Thus they fear actually discussing their positions openly. I have, on multiple occasions, offered to have public discussions with those who think like this pastor, allowing each person to present their views, ask questions, answer questions, in front of a live audience and broadcast live, but these individuals won't do it. The truth can afford to be fair, it loses nothing by close investigation so I don't fear such discussions, in fact I want it because I want my views corrected in any place they are inaccurate. But, those who hold the imposed law model, don't want such a discussion because it would expose their errors and so they create straw men, false representations, about me and what I teach and attack those false representations and then feel good that they don't believe those false views. This is exactly how the Pharisees treated Christ, alleging He didn't obey the law or support what Moses taught.

So, if you have friends around the circle who hear some of these people doing this, be prepared to call them on it. First ask either your friend who heard the program, or the speaker, if the speaker has called me, talked to me, given me an opportunity to clear up any questions they have? If not, why is your friend listening to them? Why is the speaker presenting such things without talking to me first? Second, ask them how they understand God's law functions—if they claim it is both design and imposed, ask them to explain how they see any aspect of God's law being imposed, what laws are imposed? How are they imposed? And then explore this with evidence. And if you have a chance to talk with the speaker ask them if they would be willing to have a public discussion with Dr. Jennings live, to present the two views and answer questions.

## **TUESDAY**

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In the first paragraph the lesson quotes Augustine commenting on the human condition, "This life of ours—if a life so full of such great ills can properly be



called a life—bears witness to the fact that, from its very start, the race of mortal men has been a race condemned.”

He goes on to describe many corruptions, struggles, woes of sinful humanity—but what do you think is meant by “a race condemned?”

When you hear condemned what comes to mind? Doesn't this term typically connote the idea of judicial condemnation?

I don't know if that is what Augustine meant or not, but the first definition in the dictionary is:

- pronounced guilty; sentenced to punishment, especially capital punishment

Is this how you hear condemned? This is the condemnation of imposed law, a ruling authority passing a sentence.

There is another definition in the dictionary that is closer to what we understand God's reality to be, but could be misunderstood if not thought through:

- deemed or declared unfit for use or service: One of the condemned buildings is going to be demolished to make room for luxury apartments.
  - Why is the building deemed or declared condemned—because its actual condition is deteriorated, decayed, run down, unfit. The declaration doesn't make it so, the declaration acknowledges what actually is.
  - This is how it is in God's reality. This is why the wicked, unrepentant, are condemned in the end because they are corrupt in character and beyond healing. God's pronouncement, or judgment, is simply the accurate diagnosis of what is. God's judgment doesn't determine their condemnation, it merely confirms the reality of their terminal state.
  - Some will focus on the human legal aspects of local government and say that regardless of the actual condition of the building it isn't condemned until the building inspector declares it condemned. As if a building is safe until the inspector gets there, or it is the inspectors



declaration that makes it so. No, the condemnation is inherent in the condition, the inspector merely acknowledges what is.

## WEDNESDAY

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The lesson focuses on the promise to Abraham that his descendants would form a great and mighty nation and in the second paragraph, the lesson states: “God repeated to Jacob, with the added information that the promise would be fulfilled in Egypt (Gen 46:3), though Jacob did not see it.”

What is the significance of this? What does it mean? How do you understand it?

First is it an evidence of God’s foreknowledge? Yes, here is another example that God does actually know the future, including the future choices of people. Some who hold to open theism and teach God doesn’t know the future choices of people, fail to acknowledge that events like this cannot occur without people making choices:

- Joseph’s brothers choosing to sell him into slavery
- the traveling slavers choosing to go to Egypt
- Potiphar choosing to buy Joseph and then choosing not to kill Joseph when his wife made false allegations against him, but instead to imprison him.
- Pharaoh’s decision to imprison the baker and cup bearer.
- Then God intervenes with dreams for the baker, cup bearer and later for Pharaoh, but God’s interventions are happening around all the freewill choices of people that God foreknew and thus God told Jacob they would grow in Egypt.
- Then Pharaoh chooses to give land to Joseph’s family, Jacob and the family decided to move to Egypt and accept Pharaoh’s offer.

Why did God not only foreknow this, but actively worked to bring this about?

What is the context in which these events are playing out?

- The working out of the plan of salvation—the coming Messiah
- Satan is working to stop God’s plan to save humanity, God is working to bring Jesus to save us.





- God has told Abraham that it is through his descendants that the Messiah will come. What does Satan do? Does he go on vacation to seek to destroy this branch of the human family?
- What actions can you see that are works of God's enemy and if not countered would have resulted in interfering and obstructing God's plan to be realized through Abraham's descendants?
  - Sarah's temptation to take Hagar and fulfill the promise
  - Sodom, Gomorrah and the other cities—their perversity and corrupt cultural influence if not removed would be a seducing and destructive influence on Abraham's descendants and thus God excised them
  - Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, dishonest dealing with the Shechemites, which would incite hostility in the various nations around them to seek to destroy them
  - Joseph's brother's jealousy—where did that originate, who was the inspiring source?
  - The famine—without God's intervention, what would have likely happened to Jacob's family? Who would have wanted that outcome? Is there evidence from Scripture that Satan can affect weather?
  - Then their captivity in Egypt—who inspired Pharaoh with jealousy to turn on the Hebrews and enslave them? And what was the goal of the enslavement? To degrade them, to destroy the image of God in them, to corrupt them and harden their hearts and thus close the avenue for Messiah.
  - Why did God allow the captivity? Why didn't God intervene sooner, send someone like Moses at the very beginning of the enslavement to lead them out? Because Satan had other human agents, states, nations, groups, that would have attacked and destroyed them and the children of Israel needed to grow their numbers large enough to be a sustainable population and group. Thus, while in Egypt they were protected by the Egyptian government from all the other nations and could increase and grow until the time was right to leave Egypt. This view of why God permitted them to be slaves in Egypt is held by many Jews.





The lesson asks why God wanted to make a nation, a special people, out of Abraham's descendants? What was God's purpose?

Read the last paragraph, which is a quote from *Christ's Object Lessons*:

"The children of Israel were to occupy all the territory which God appointed them. Those nations that rejected the worship and service of the true God were to be dispossessed. But it was God's purpose that by the **revelation of His character through Israel** men should be drawn unto Him. To **all the world the gospel invitation was to be given**. Through the teaching of the **sacrificial service Christ was to be uplifted** before the nations, and all who would look unto Him should live." COL 290.1

What do you hear in this quotation? What was God's purpose for Israel?

Reveal His character—which is what? Love, truth, liberty.

To whom is the gospel given—all humanity and Israel was to be God's representatives, helpers, agents, spokespersons to take the truth about God, the good news about God, to the world.

What was the sacrificial system supposed to do? Teach people about Jesus—meaning it was all symbolic, educational, theatrical, metaphorical, none of that system was actual. Jesus is the actual, Jesus is the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.

The other nations were to be dispossessed what does this mean in regard to God's desire to save all the people of the world?

In the very process of dispossessing God was saving those who were savable—consider Rahab, she is not only saved from mortal death, saved from being driven out of Canaan, she is saved from eternal death and becomes one of the progenitors of Jesus. This is incredible, a non-Jew becomes an ancestor to Jesus by being incorporated into Israel through faith. This is another revelation that salvation isn't about genetic descent, but about character—about trusting God and having the heart changed. Later Ruth, the Moabitess, is also grafted into Israel through faith and becomes another ancestor of Jesus.



What does this tell us about the others non-Hebrews who were either killed or drive out of the region?

Why did this happen?

## THURSDAY

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Read the first paragraph, “However much the plan of salvation...” Do we have a role to play in our own salvation? What is it?

Can we be saved without Jesus? Can Jesus save a sinner without their cooperation?

This is the core difference between Arminianism and Calvinism.

Arminianism is named after Jacobus Arminius who opposed John Calvin’s view of unconditional election.

Historic Calvinism has 5 main points and uses the acronym T.U.L.I.P to remember them:

- T—Total depravity of humankind. We are born corrupt, at enmity to God, with a carnal nature that naturally wars and rebels against God and we can do nothing to change this situation.
  - In this view total depravity includes our inability to choose to respond to God and accept His offer of salvation. It fails to recognize that God in Genesis 3 immediately interceded in the human condition to put enmity between Satan and sinful humans, putting in a desire for something better, convicting and wooing us and thus giving us the power to choose God, to open the heart to God and receive the indwelling Spirit, which provides the power to resist sin. In other words, while we cannot overcome sin, we do have the power to choose to trust Jesus.
- U—Unconditional Election. This means that God *chooses* to give some people eternal life because God wills it regardless of what that person



wants, chooses or does. God's election is sovereign and overrules any choice on the part of the sinner—and is an evidence of God's love.

- This is a gross perversity as it is a violation of the law of love and the law of liberty, and teaches that love is authoritarian, domineering and forces it way and doesn't grant real freedom. It is impossible to get genuine love without freedom. Further, if God were to do this, it would erase the individuality of the sinner and make a programmed robot.
- L—Limited Atonement. Calvinism teaches that the atonement was made only for the elect, not for all humans. That Jesus death did not make it possible for all human beings to come to salvation, but only those who God chose to save.
  - They make this argument for several reasons, but all of them are based in multiple layers of false assumptions. Calvinists believe the lie that God's law functions like human law and Jesus' death was necessary to pay our legal sin debt.
  - This distortion of God's law as imperial, God making up rules and then enforcing His way, leads to a distorted view of the atonement. They ask questions, "If Christ's death was for all men, then why are all men not saved?" "Couldn't a sovereign God save all men if He wanted to?" etc. Thus, because they misunderstand God's law, they misunderstand God's sovereignty and think that whatever happens, like some being lost, is because God wants them lost, worse, God chooses for them to be lost.
    - Understanding God's law as design law fixes this because we understand His sovereignty correctly—God is Creator, who built reality to operate upon design protocols, the supreme one being love, and love requires real freedom. Robots, computers, cannot love. Thus God sustains and maintains His laws, including liberty, which means that some freely choose to reject the love and life that God offers.
- I—Irresistible Grace. This means what it says, to whomever God decides to hit with His grace they are unable to resist it and will be saved. According to this teaching God's grace *cannot* be resisted. Thus, only those who God *chooses* are saved. The lost are lost because God didn't choose them and hit them with irresistible grace.



- Again this teaching violates the law or liberty, would erase individuality, destroy personhood, created robots and make human beings devoid of the image of God.
- Who wants to destroy the image of God in man? This doctrine teaches ideas that if they were true would result in the destruction of individuality, identity, capacity to think and do, and ability to love, creating instead robots controlled by the supreme power.
- And what kind of God would God be if He actually operated this way? This is exactly Satan's view of God—a being who arbitrarily chooses to do things—just like make up laws and enforce them.
- P—Preservation of the Saints. Essentially means that if God has chosen you and hit you with irresistible grace, then He preserves you so you can never be lost.
  - It is a form of once saved always saved, but even more corrupt because in the Calvinist view you don't even have to initially choose. You are a passive pawn in the hands of a controlling god. And such a view again destroys individuality and the ability to love because we have no freedom and are merely puppets directed at the whims of God.

Arminianism—advances the principles of freewill, that God provides what is necessary for salvation for all human beings, but each person must choose to accept what God offers. This view retains our individuality and is in harmony with the law of liberty thus advances the restoration of the images of God within and retains our ability to love.

So John Wesley was Armenian and so is the Methodist tradition as well as the Baptist and Adventist traditions and many others.

## FRIDAY

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Read third paragraph, “Now read Hebrews...” What about us today, do we realize that we are just passing through, that this current Earth is not our home? Do we get too attached to our houses, communities, nations or other earthly possessions or groups and forget this earth is not our home?



What difference does it make for you to keep your mind focused on our eternal home?

Read first paragraph,

“It was no light test that was thus brought upon Abraham, no small sacrifice that was required of him. There were strong ties to bind him to his country, his kindred, and his home. But he did not hesitate to obey the call. He had no question to ask concerning the land of promise—whether the soil was fertile and the climate healthful; whether the country afforded agreeable surroundings and would afford opportunities for amassing wealth. God has spoken, and His servant must obey; **the happiest place on earth for him was the place where God would have him to be.**” PP 126.3

From where does happiness come?

Read and discuss questions.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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**Vision for Come and Reason:** In February Come and Reason Ministries board met and prayerfully considered our vision, how to reach more people with this life changing message. We decided that our ability to do more is limited by our lack of space and facilities and we have decided to begin looking for a permanent facility for our Ministry—whether renovating a property or building on. The goal will be to build a professional recording studio with auditorium for our weekly class and other events, where we can begin producing more materials—possibly more live programming and live call in or interactive programming.

It is not our way to do fundraisers and we will not do a fundraiser or send out donation requests, however, several people have recently approached us and asked if our ministry has any needs and recommended that we make our vision and plan to have our own facility public so that anyone who want to support us in this endeavor can do so. We also are resistant to going into debt, so we are quite cautious and have already turned down a couple of options because the cost would have required significant debt.

So, please keep us in your prayers that the Lord will lead us to find the right property and bless the process that any resources we use will be spent wisely and most economically.

**SHARING campaign:** April 2021 *The Remedy of the Lord in Song: The Psalms* **BE SURE TO USE OUR WEBSITE STORE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER—DON'T SEND AN EMAIL.**

**Website:** Our website is filled with free resources:

- Our weekly Bible Study Video, Audio, and notes
- Healing the Mind in a Broken World Seminar
- The Power of Love Training and Equipping Course
- Weekly Blogs
- The Remedy
- Useful search engine