



2021 2Q The Promise: Lesson 7 Covenant at Sinai

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SUNDAY

Read first two paragraphs, “As a people...” The lesson asks: “How could the Lord win them back to Himself?”

How does God win them back? What are the obstacles God has in bringing the people back into loving fellowship with Him?

Does their being slaves, being uneducated, abused, oppressed, mistreated, having human life devalued, being immersed in pagan culture and practices have any impact on their minds and their ability to process truth, trust others, trust God, believe in God, believe God is good, and to love?

In other words, does God have to take into account where their mindset and understand of things are and meet them there? And does God have to speak a language that they will understand?

So, where does God start with people who have lived as slaves?

What will be the most important factor for slaves to win them to believe in Him and follow Him above all the other gods they have heard about?

Would the most important factor for these slaves be—God is love, gentle, kind and meek and God loves you? Why or why not?

When we consider the seven levels of moral development do we see exactly why God did what He did, why He acted as we read and how God slowly led them from infancy to maturity, at least for those who would learn?

What are the seven levels and do we see God speaking to the people at each level?

1. **Reward and punishment:** The most basic level of understanding whether something is right is if we receive reward and wrong if we are punished.

This level of functioning is normal for small children and a necessary starting point in our learning. But for an adult to operate at this level something is terrible wrong. This is a slave mentality, don't think, don't understand—just do what the master says to avoid the whip. This is the level of the Nazi soldiers who put people in the gas chamber. Why did they do it? They



would be punished if they didn't, so it was right to do as they were ordered. This is ancient Israel as slaves in Egypt, doing what the master said to avoid punishment.

Are we seeing society moving toward level one thinking—fear of deplatforming, fear of censoring, fear of riots, fear of mobs, fear of governmental sanction, fear of economic ruin, travel restriction, don't ask questions, don't think, shut up and do what you are told?

At stage one, a ruler establishes his right to rule by displays of power and vengeance upon his enemies. He rules by threat of punishment and hope of reward. Mercy, or failure to punish, is seen as evidence of weakness, not morality, by stage one mentality. People at this level see a God of mercy as a marshmallow God and insist God must use his power to torture and kill his enemies.

God meets people where they are, so with ancient Israel and the people of Egypt he first established his credentials to rule by acts of punishment upon the Egyptian gods, and by mighty, spectacular miracles demonstrating the Egyptians gods were not gods at all. "I did this so that you might know that I am the Lord your God." (DT 29:6)

Level one decision-making is so primitive it doesn't even require a brain; the mind is completely sidelined. Animals, plants, and bacteria avoid painful stimuli and grow toward rewarding stimuli. This level of functioning is not worthy of human beings created in the image of God. In fact, it is Satan's goal to reduce us to "brute beasts creatures of instinct" operating at level one. (2Pet 2:12)

2. **Marketplace exchange:** Level two morality is the quid pro quo system of right and wrong; you do something for me in exchange for something of agreed value in return. You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours, the let's make a deal mindset.

This is ancient Israel at Sinai, with "an eye for an eye and tooth for tooth" mentality and saying when the law was first read, "All the Lord has said, we will do." (Ex 19:8, 21:24)

At level two vengeance is a moral duty. People who do evil must be paid back with an equal amount of pain and suffering. This is the level of retributive justice. The idea that justice means paying back proper amounts of pain and suffering upon the perpetrator. To not return pain and suffering is considered immoral. Sadly, far too many people still make decisions at this level.

This level of understanding of right and wrong also manifests itself in the health-wellness gospel. If you do the right rituals, attend the right church, or say the right prayer every day for thirty days then God fulfills the bargain by giving you better health, wealth or expanding your territory. At this level it is a simple business transaction with God: If you do right, you are blessed by God, if you don't do right you are not blessed by God.

Level two development requires only the most minimal amount of mental awareness. Monkeys, dolphins, dogs can operate on this level seeking to make a deal—to get a treat for



doing a trick. Again, okay for small children, but not worthy of mature beings created in God's image.

3. **Social conformity:** At this stage right and wrong is determined by community consensus. This is the child who says, "Everyone else is doing it." Right is determined by the approval of peers. Individual vengeance not allowed, forgiveness is preferred, but group punishment is deemed just. If group punishment doesn't happen, then social order is undermined.

This was ancient Israel when they wanted kings. All the other nations had kings, so it must be right and Israel demanded to have kings. This was also manifested by ancient Israel collectively punishing those who didn't conform to the agreed norm.

Level three decision-making also doesn't require thinking, reasoning or significant engagement in higher cortical activity. Many herd animals function just like this, determining the right way to go is the way the herd goes, even if it's right over the cliff.

Following the herd, the group, what's popular in culture can bring an emotional sense of security, but doesn't develop the person into a son or daughter of God.

4. **Law and order:** At level four right and wrong is determined by a codified system of rules, impartial judges and imposed proscribed punishments. At this level individuals defer judgment to properly elected or otherwise constituted authority. Right is getting a proper pay or reward for good work, and proscribed infliction of punishment for breaking the rules. Authority figures are rarely questioned, "He must be right he is the president, the judge, the pastor, the pope."

Elementary school children operate at this level and find security, predictability, and peace in the rules. At this level "tattletales" abound as children are intolerant of "rule-breakers" and demand "fairness," which is typically some imposed punishment. The black and white thinking of this level of operation leads to fragmenting into divergent groups or cliques who share a common core set of group rules and who will demean and criticize those who don't share their rules.

This was ancient Israel at the time of Christ – "we have a law!" they proclaimed, as they sought to stone Jesus for healing on the Sabbath. The Jews in Christ's day were also separatists who were intolerant of those who didn't keep their rules and obey their rituals.

This is much of our modern world, with its codified laws, courts, prosecutors, judges, juries and imposed punishments. Authority at this level rests in the coercive pressure of the state to bring punishment upon those who deviate from the established laws. At this level police agencies and law enforcers are required to monitor the populace, search for breaches in the law and inflict codified penalties.



5. **Love for others:** Level five morality understands right is determined by doing what is in the best interest of others, realizing people have value in who they are irrespective of the rules. Wrong is when our actions are objectively harmful to others.

Jesus demonstrated this level of functioning when he touched lepers, spoke to women, socialized with tax collectors, healed on the Sabbath, and turned over money tables in the Temple. All of these acts were acts of love but violated the laws of the Jewish authorities. The Pharisees, operating at level four and below wanted to stone Him for breaking their rules.

6. **Principle based living:** Level six decision-making understands the design protocols or principles upon which life is constructed to operate and intelligently chooses to live in harmony with them. It is not doing something because a rule says to do so, but because it is understood to actually work that way.

Mature individuals recognize governments can pass laws to make substances, such as tobacco, “legal” but they can never pass laws to make them healthy. Thus, level six thinkers don’t use such substances, not because of its legal status but because they violate the laws of health and damage body and brain.

Jesus lived in harmony with God’s principles, revealing God’s character of love in all He did. And all His parables taught design laws not imposed laws.

7. **Understanding Friend of God:** At level seven a person not only has love for God and others, not only understand God’s design protocols for life, but also understands God’s purposes and intelligently chooses to cooperate in fulfilling their role in his purposes.

Jesus said to his disciples in John 15:15 “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

Persons functioning at level seven understand the truth about God’s character of love, his nature and design for life, the origin of evil, the nature of sin, the weapons of Satan, the original purpose for the creation of humanity, the fall of humanity into sin, God’s working through human history, the purpose of the Cross, and the ultimate cleansing of the universe from sin.

The history of Israel is the history of reality—how God works, truth, presented in love, leaving people free. God cannot heal hearts and minds without the active free-will participation of that person why? Because God cannot “create” or miraculously give certain things such as:

- maturity cannot be instantly given, it must be developed.
- Trust
- Reciprocal love –God can and does love us with infinite love, but our love for God must be given freely, it cannot be programmed like a computer, it cannot be forced
- Loyalty



- Friendship

The lesson asks us to read Exodus 19:4: “You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt and how I lifted you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself” (NET).

What is the imagery of lifting on eagles wings supposed to teach?

Read fourth paragraph, “These illustrations...” What is the lesson?

- Can an eaglet fly when it is hatched?
- Can an infant walk?
- Why can’t a newly hatched eaglet fly? Why can’t an infant walk?

What is the lesson?

- Does the eaglet and infant have to be fed by the parent, and ingest the nurturing food so their body can grow?
 - Do newborn Christians have to be fed the bread of life, the truth of God and ingest that food—those truths and principles into their heart and minds—in order to grow?
- Do eaglets and infants need the protection of their parents in order to not be ravaged by predators?
 - Do babes in Christ need protection from God and others mature Christians in order to not be ravaged by the wolves in sheep’s clothing?
- Do eaglets and infants need parents to teach them how to fly or walk and to help them grow?
 - Do babes in Christ need mature Christians to help mentor them and teach them God’s methods and principles for living, how to reason, how to discern and problem solve, how to handle powerful emotions, how to stand on their own two feet?
- Do eaglets and infants need to actual develop the abilities within themselves before they can fly or walk on their own?
 - Do babes in Christ need to actually grow up, mature before they can actually walk the Christian walk—be responsible for Christian duties?

And what does maturity look like according to Scripture?

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain **because you are slow to learn**. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, **you need someone to teach you the elementary truths** of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being **still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness**. But solid food is for the **mature**, who by constant use have **trained themselves to distinguish good from evil**. Therefore let us **leave the elementary teachings** about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again **the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death**, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment” (Heb 5:11–6:2 NIV84).



What is immaturity? It is levels four and below functioning that we just reviewed, which focuses on self, on:

- Reward or punishment
- Getting a good deal
- Being accepted by the crowd
- Getting one's legal debt paid or avoiding legal trouble

But we are to move beyond Sinai, beyond the childish immature things and grow up into maturity, because if we don't we **are not acquainted with righteousness**—true maturity is level five and above who:

- Love God and others more than self
- Live in harmony with God's design laws or methods
- Intelligently cooperate with God to fulfill His purposes

And we see this in the various atonement models people teach and believe:

Atonement through the 7 levels:

Level 1 reward and punishment:

Because God said don't do something, but they did and God got offended and responded with angry vengeance, taking the life of Jesus in our place.

This is the **Satisfaction Theory of Atonement**

Level 2 marketplace exchange:

Because Satan now had rights to this earth and claimed the lives of the sons of Adam and daughters of Eve, and God struck a bargain with the devil to exchange the life of Christ for the life of humans. Or Aslan had to give his life to the White Witch to free the son of Adam.

This is the **Ransom Theory of Atonement**

Level 3 social conformity:

So that all will agree that God's government is fair in dealing with sin.

This is the **Governmental Theory of Atonement**



Level 4 law and order:

To pay the legal penalty the law demanded and the heavenly judge imposed. The Law must be kept. Man broke the Law. Someone had to pay the penalty. Jesus paid that penalty. The integrity of the Law was maintained.

This is the **Penal Substitution Theory**

Level 5 love for others:

Because He loved us too much to let us go and His death was the means to reach us with His love and restore us to trust in Him.

This is **Moral Influence Theory**

Level 6 principle based:

It was the only means to fix what sin had done to God's creation. When mankind sinned, they deviated from God's design for life and their condition was terminal. Christ came to fix what sin did to this creation. Thus "he who knew no sin became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God." 2Corinthians 5:21

This is the **Christus Victor and Recapitulation Theories**

Level 7 understanding friend of God:

Christ died to reveal truth to win us to trust (John 8:32), destroy death (2Timothy 1:10), destroy sin and Satan (Hebrews 2:14), restore humanity back to God's original ideal (1John 3:8), and secure the universe unfallen in its innocence. "All things in heaven and in earth are reconciled to Christ at the cross." (Colossians 1:20)

This is the **The Healing Reality**

The Mature Ways to Understand the Bible Metaphors of Salvation:

Satisfaction Theory

- Creation is out of harmony with God and in a terminal condition
- God is like a parent whose child is dying of leukemia—what is the only thing that will satisfy?
- A Remedy that heals and saves!
- "He will see the result of the suffering of his soul and be satisfied" Isa 53:11

Ransom Theory

- Ransom is the price required to free from bondage



- What holds us in bondage?
- Lies about God and our own carnal nature
- What is the price to free?
- Truth and a new nature (bread and wine)

Governmental Theory

- God rules on design law—love, truth, & liberty
- God can only heal minds, i.e. win to love and trust in harmony with His methods
- Thus God’s government, design laws, are sustained as the only method upon which life, health and peace operate

Penal Substitution Theory

- This metaphor is not found in Scripture but is a lie based upon accepting false human imposed law and obstructs God healing plan
- Added law (10 Commandments, ceremonial law etc.) is rightly understood as setting healthy boundaries for the immature to protect, diagnose, teach and lead to Christ for healing

Moral Influence Theory

- Accepted as part of the reality needed to heal
- But understood as being incomplete—in addition to winning us to trust, a real remedy to fix the damage of sin and to restore God’s original design for human character was needed

Christus Victor and Recapitulation

- Understood as Christ’s victory over all opposition to His methods here on earth:
- Truth overcomes lies; Love overcomes selfishness
- Jesus took up humanity broken and damaged by sin and perfected it!

Healing Reality

- Accepts Moral Influence of truth to destroy lies and win to trust
- Accepts the Victory of Christ over Satan directly and over the carnal nature to destroy the infection of fear and selfishness and restore love within
- And realizes All things in heaven and earth are reconciled to Christ at the cross. (Col 1:18-20)

MONDAY

The lesson quotes Exodus 6:6: “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment’” (Ex 6:6 NIV84).

What do you understand “might acts of judgment” to mean?



When you hear judgment what comes to mind? The Hebrew for judgment is *sapat*—but this word is not speaking of one branch of government, judicial

From the *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*:

The primary sense of *šāpaṭ* is to exercise the processes of government. Since, however, the ancients did not always divide the functions of government, as most modern governments do, between legislative, executive, and judicial functions (and departments) **the common translation, “to judge,” misleads us.** For, the word, judge, as *šāpaṭ* is usually translated, in modern English, means to exercise only the judicial function of government. Unless one wishes in a context of government—civil, religious, or otherwise—consistently to translate as “to govern or rule,” the interpreter must seek more specialized words to translate a word of such broad meaning in the modern world scene. For the participle NIV uses “leader.” Culver, R. D. (1999). 2443 שָׁפַט. R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 947). Chicago: Moody Press.

So God’s great acts of judgment are not judicial, legal, penal, they are God exercising His Sovereign authority in the running of His government to fulfill His covenant promise to Adam to bring the Messiah in order to heal His creation.

Read third paragraph, “The word *redeem*...” What does this mean?

How do you understand the ransom metaphor now?

What was the price that was paid? Why was it paid, to whom was it paid?

TUESDAY

Read third paragraph, “This covenant...” Is this a different covenant than the previous or merely the most recent iteration of the same covenant—God working to fulfill His promise to bring the Messiah?

In the last paragraph the lesson states, “Though the Lord had redeemed Israel from the bondage of Egypt, He wanted them to understand that redemption had a greater, more significant meaning than merely freedom from physical bondage. He wanted to redeem them from sin, the ultimate slavery, and this could happen only through the sacrifice of the Messiah, as taught in the types and symbols of the sanctuary service....”

God wants to give us freedom—Paul wrote to the Galatians:

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery” (Ga 5:1 NIV84).



What is Paul talking about?

What kind of slavery is this? What is the cruelest type of slavery—is it not the slavery that takes away your mind, your identity, your soul?

Jesus said, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul” (Mt 10:28 NIV84).

The cruelest slavery is the slavery that enslaves the mind, that destroys individuality, that crushes the spirit, that sears the conscience, that causes a person to be enslaved to destruction, sin, and prefer their slavery.

One time I was consulted to see a man who was in the ICU in liver failure from alcohol dependence. I was asked to get him into rehab, but he refused. He knew he was dying of liver failure, and that if he went home and drank again he would likely die, but he told me he would rather die than stop drinking. He didn't want to die, he would like a new liver so he could keep drinking.

His attitude was different from others I have seen die from alcoholic liver failure—others I have known didn't want to drink any more, they wanted freedom but for various reasons in their life kept relapsing, but they also kept trying, longed to be free. These were like the Apostles in Gethsemane—their spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

But the man in the ICU had no desire to be free, his slavery was beyond physical addiction, his mind was enslaved.

Today many are enslaved to various things:

- addictions
- fears
- debts

But the biggest enslavement I see in society today is the enslavement to worldly systems of imperialism. I won't say more, but look around and you will see the minds enslaved to all kinds of false ideas, false standards, false values that are contrary to God's design laws.

The sanctuary service given by God to ancient Israel is, as the lesson says, symbolic, object lesson, metaphor—it teaches a larger reality. It had no saving benefit in the acted-out system. It was all theater, a grand play, with great costumes, an immaculate stage, and a detailed script—we call Scripture.

But none of that acted-out theater had any saving value—it all taught the larger reality of Jesus. I want to remind everyone that we have a seminar series on website that unpacks the meaning behind the various symbols showing how it all taught the larger reality of Jesus and God's plan to save us from sin. The link is: <https://comeandreason.com/category/media/sanctuary-feast-days-seminar/>



WEDNESDAY

Read first two paragraphs, “In these verses the Lord...” Why doesn’t it work this way? Isn’t God Sovereign? Can’t He do whatever He wants? Doesn’t the Bible say:

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden (Ro 9:15–18 NIV84).

What does this mean? Does God just harden people?

What is the theme of this passage? Paul is writing to Jews who are not inclined to see Gentiles as part of the promises to Abraham. Paul is making the point that God’s mercy is up to God and He can be merciful to anyone and it doesn’t matter about genetics. What matters is the condition of hearts and minds and how we respond to God’s invitation.

Thus God has the right to be merciful to whomever He chooses, and who does God choose to be merciful to? Every single person—then why doesn’t everyone experience God’s mercy? Because not everyone responds to God’s mercy, just like not everyone accepts God’s forgiveness even though God personally forgives everyone.

What about hardening of Pharaoh’s heart? Who did it?

The Bible describes the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart in three ways:

Description #1 – God hardening Pharaoh’s heart

- “The Lord said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.” Exodus 4:21
- “But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my miraculous signs and wonders in Egypt, he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites.” Ex 7:3,4
- “But the Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said to Moses.” Ex 9:12

Description #2 – Pharaoh’s heart became hard

- “Yet Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.” Ex 7:13
- “Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go.” Ex 7:14



- “But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh’s heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said.” Ex 7:22
- “The magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the Lord had said.” Ex 8:19

Description # 3 – Pharaoh hardened his own heart

- “But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the Lord had said.” Exodus 8:15
- “But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.” Ex 8:32
- “When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: He and his officials hardened their hearts. So Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the Lord had said through Moses.” Ex 9:34,35

Which of these descriptions is the inspired one? Which is true? All of them, but how? How are all three true?

It requires we understand design law, how reality works, how hearts actually become hardened—and how do they?

What happens to a person when they are convicted of some truth—don’t they have to make a decision—either to accept and apply it or resist it, ignore it, reject it?

And what happens to a heart that rejects truth? It hardens—that’s how it works. So, if a person is never presented with truth their heart doesn’t become as hard as the one who has rejected the truth.

God gave Pharaoh more evidence and truth than any other ancient leader and Pharaoh was convicted, and then in each instance hardened and rejected the truth.

Thus God hardened Pharaoh’s heart by bring truth to him over and over again, but Pharaoh hardened his own heart by choosing to reject it over and over again, and thus Pharaoh’s heart was hardened.

But the immature, the level four and below, read the Scripture about God hardening Pharaoh’s heart as God using divine power to turn Pharaoh into a puppet and destroy Pharaoh’s individuality. Such a teaching, whether they realize it or not, perverts the divine character and presents an arbitrary rule-maker who functions like a human dictator.

But the question remains, Why did God present truth to Pharaoh when He, in His foreknowledge, knew Pharaoh would reject it and experience a hardened heart?

Even though Pharaoh was going to reject the truth, God knew it is only by the presentation of truth that sinners can be set free (John 8:32). God would not deny Pharaoh the opportunity to be freed from sin. God would not deny Pharaoh the opportunity to be saved. Therefore God presented truth to Pharaoh in order to reach his heart and save him; God did not force Pharaoh’s will. Pharaoh freely chose to reject the truth and when Pharaoh hardened his heart, God used Pharaoh as a powerful



demonstration of the futility of worshipping false gods. The lessons of Egypt were publicized throughout the ancient world and awareness of the true God spread.

Therefore, God presents truth, which sets free all those who accept it, but God does not force the will of individuals to either accept or reject the truth. When we reject the truth our hearts harden in proportion to the truth rebuffed. The Bible record of all three descriptions of this event is accurate. God hardened Pharaoh's heart by presenting truth in such a way that Pharaoh was forced to make a decision upon it. But it was Pharaoh who hardened his own heart by rejecting the truth and refusing to repent.

THURSDAY

The lesson asks about the promises and why Israel failed to experience them in full? They point us to Romans 9:30-32:

What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone.... Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness." (Ro 9:30-32; 10:3 NIV84).

What does this mean?

What is the righteousness that comes by faith?

What if we change what Israel did, a righteousness that they work for, their own good deeds, into a legal accounting of vicarious righteousness that we claim in a legal way applied to our accounts in heaven by Jesus? Does this result in the righteousness of God in us?

And this is what Christianity has been tricked into doing, we have just exchanged one false legalism for another, the first was the legalism of our legal obedience earning, meriting or creating our own righteousness. The second is believing the lie that Jesus came to fulfill legal requirements and that we claim His perfection in some legalistic accounting scheme in books in heaven, rather than Jesus perfected humanity and offers to imbue His righteousness into our hearts and minds if we trust Him, making us right with Him, making us righteous.

The truth of Scripture though is that:

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).



The promises are the promises to heal hearts and minds, to restore us to righteousness, to write His design laws of life into our hearts and minds, our inmost being. This is the reality, of which the Sanctuary was designed to teach.

So what is a legalist? A legalist is someone who is preoccupied with their legal standing—whether through their own legal works or through the legal works of a vicarious substitute—both are legalists.

The true Christian is the one who is reborn in heart and mind to be like Christ in character, having God's design laws for life reproduced in their inmost being as the wellspring of action and motive, such that "it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me."

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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.

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The Remedy Audio and *Could It Be This Simple?* Audio are both available in the members section to stream or download and listen.

May's SHARING campaign: *Fundamental Focus: A Closer Look At God*

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