



## 2021 2Q The Promise: Lesson 12 Covenant Faith

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

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Special thanks to Tom Price, Steve Morris, and Kent Johnson. We just finished 322 orders of CIBTS and misc orders.

Read memory text: “But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith” Galatians 3:11 NKJV).

What does this mean?

The just are those whose hearts have been set right with God, those who have had love for God and others written into their hearts so that they are no longer governed by fear and selfishness. The just are the right or the righteous and they choose in governance of themselves to do what they know is right and trust God with the outcomes—they have faith in God for how things turn out.

Example, Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego on the plain of Dura. They had to decide in governance of themselves what they would do, bow or not bow to the idol—the just, or right—whose hearts have been healed and who love God more than self, choose to do what is right and they did not bow and they trusted God with how things turned out. They didn’t know God would save them, but they trusted God with their lives because their hearts were restored to atonement with God.

This is the state of those who are ready for translation, Revelation describes them in “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and **they did not love their lives to the death**” (Re 12:11 NKJV).

The blood is metaphor for the life of Christ. These individuals have died to self and been reborn with the righteousness of Christ, His life, His character, within them, as Paul wrote “it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me.” Because of this their testimony is the truth about God and His character of love. They embrace God as Creator and promote the truth about His design law and government—the word of their testimony refutes the imperial lies about God and they have hearts that do not operate on the survival drives of me-first.

This is genuine righteousness by faith.

If you haven’t read the three-part blog series *Who Created Whom: An Exploration of the Origin of our Favorite God* written by a guest author, I encourage you to read it.



You will discover how our sin condition, the condition of fear and selfishness, with the chaos and the fight for survival has resulted in the development of the law-and-order method of imposed rules and inflicted punishments. How this way of governing only exists in sinful spaces, in places with beings operating out of harmony with God, that in heaven, in holiness there is no such thing as law and order as we know it. And that humanity merged the idea of law-and-order with belief in God making the god-king concept and projected Satan's false view of God onto God and has taught God runs His universe like sinful beings run nation states. It is a lie.

I encourage you to read it—it is so well done.

The lesson reflects on Homer's *Odyssey* and how Odysseus had many obstacles on a long struggle home that were inflicted by the gods to cause an appropriate amount of suffering before the gods decided it was enough and let him reach home.

Then the lesson states, "In one sense, we are like Odysseus, on a long journey home. The crucial difference, however, is that unlike Odysseus, we can never 'suffer enough' to earn our way back. The distance between heaven and earth is too great for us to atone for our mistakes. If we get home, it will have to be only by the grace of God."

It is true that our suffering will not do anything to fix the sin problem, save us, or return us to oneness with God. Suffering does NOT remove sin.

But, the way this is worded is incredibly sad, because it fosters misunderstanding and perpetuates falsehoods about God.

What problems do you hear in this?

Is our problem that needs fixing "our mistakes" that we need to atone for? Or, are we born in sin conceived in iniquity? Is our problem the mistakes of life, or is our problem a condition into which we were born *that we did NOT choose*, yet if unremedied will result in our eternal death?

So the biggest problem with this paragraph is that it misdiagnoses the sin problem as a problem of our making mistakes. In other words, the sin problem is behavioral, bad acts, choices we make. This is how human governments function. But God's government is about reality, about the condition and attitude of the heart. And our problem is the condition of sin into which we are born that without remedy does indeed result in mistakes, bad acts, sins. But the sins are the symptoms of that condition, not the cause of our sin condition, which do worsen the condition, and if persisted in will destroy the very faculties capable of responding to God for salvation.

Adam and Eve are the ones who chose to infect themselves with sinfulness, with fear and selfishness, and every other human being since has been born with this terminal condition.

So, the lesson authors, and all those who hold the penal legal lie, always misdiagnose the sin problem as acts, deeds, behaviors, and therefore, always promote a false remedy that has no power to save. As



Paul wrote, they have “a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them” (2 Timothy 3:5 NIV84).

What do you hear with phrases like, “We can never suffer enough to earn our way back”?

Are they suggesting that suffering is a requirement to salvation? That while we couldn’t suffer enough, Jesus could and it was His suffering that saves us by paying the appropriate price of pain and death?

## SUNDAY

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Read the first paragraph, “The Old Testament...” This is so poorly understood and again confuses and obstructs the truth about the plan of salvation—it is so sad.

Let’s highlight the truth here first—it is true that people were saved in Old Testament times in the exact same way as they are in New Testament times—by grace through faith in the Messiah, the promised Seed to crush the serpent’s head. It is through Jesus that all humans throughout all history experience salvation.

The lesson says it is by faith alone, but it is not by faith alone—it is by grace through faith.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Eph 2:8–9 NIV84).

Grace is God’s work—it is God’s initiative and actions that provide the remedy, the means and resources to heal us, to save us, to restore us, to recreate us, to transform us, to fix us—and Jesus is the individual through whom God provides all of this. Faith is our trust in God by which we partake of what God has provided through Jesus.

The next point the lesson misrepresents is about works, as if we have no role to play in our salvation. For those who continue to see the problem through human imposed law, they always misunderstand and always will. It is impossible for them to see the truth while believing a lie, thus their view of salvation and what Christ has done is always false, distorted, perverted.

What is the truth? That God, in the person of Jesus, saved the species human and simultaneously procured, produced, achieved, the remedy that will save any individual human who trusts God and participates in God’s healing plan.

So, no human contributes in any way to the saving remedy or the saving of the species, that was 100% done by God through Christ. But every human that is saved works with God for their own salvation. Thus the Bible says:

“continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose” (Php 2:12–13 NIV84).



And James wrote:

But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.”

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. You see that **a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.** (Jas 2:18–24 NIV84).

What does this mean? Our individual salvation is a cooperative effort—it requires the work of God in Jesus to reveal the truth that wins us to trust, and also it requires a real remedy that fixes the sin condition, that restores in us godliness, righteousness, a new heart and right spirit etc. Jesus revealed the truth and in His person restored God’s living law into the species human destroying the death causing principle of fear and selfishness.

So, everything we need for salvation is provided through Christ, but our individual salvation **requires** our willful participation, we trust God and we choose to follow His directions. Our works do NOT produce the remedy, they receive and live out the remedy. This is the only means whereby God can heal our hearts and minds while retaining our individuality.

The penal legal lie claims that we are righteous by a legal declaration while we remain unrighteous in heart and mind—such a teaching is fantasy. It is a fraud, it is like saying a person with terminal metastatic cancer who has a doctor remove the pathology report from their medical record and write into the record a report saying they don’t have cancer is now cancer free and healthy. They are not and they continue to get worse. Likewise, the penal lie teaches that people are declared righteous in heaven, while they remain unrighteous on earth. This means they continue to live unrighteously, which means they continually add more damage to their hearts and minds, their consciences get seared, their hearts harden, they become more like Satan in character, like the Pharisees who crucified Christ, but all the while presenting themselves as religiously loyal to God.

So, EG White, who embraced the truth righteousness by faith message of 1888, in which we become righteous wrote, in harmony with what Paul and James wrote as quoted above:

We are laborers together with God. This is the Lord's own wise arrangement. **The cooperation of the human will and endeavor with divine energy is the link that binds men up with one another and with God.** The apostle says, "We are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:9). **Man is to work with the facilities God has given him.** "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," He says. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12, 13).--MS 113, 1898. {2MCP 694.3}



**There are two grand forces at work in the salvation of the human soul. It requires the cooperation of man with the divine agencies-- divine influences, and a strong, living, working faith. It is in this way only that the human agent can become a laborer together with God. The Lord does not sanction in any one of us a blind, stupid credulity. He does not dishonor the human understanding, but, far from this, He calls for the human will to be brought into connection with the divine will. He calls for the ingenuity of the human mind, the tact, the skill, to be strenuously exercised in searching out the truth as it is in Jesus... Ye are labourers together with God. {OHC 310.5}**

The third point is what we owe the law—the penal law teaches that we owe the law a death penalty to be paid. But what does the law actually require? Does it require death, or does it require perfect harmony with it in order to have life?

Here are some historic quotes that are beautiful and with which I agree completely—they are all evidences of design law, how reality works, and understanding design law, like the laws of health, what do the laws of health require if you break them? They require simply that an individual be restored to harmony with them. If a person breaks the laws of health and drinks poison, their salvation, their healing, does NOT require someone be killed in their place, saving them requires the toxin be eliminated and the damage be fixed so the person is restored to harmony with the laws of health.

This is exactly what God's law requires—note what these quotes describe:

**The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character;** and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and **developed a perfect character.** [This is the remedy. This is the work of God, the grace of God, independent of any other human work or action. This is what we can never achieve, or work out on our own.] These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. [This is the remedy, the new heart, the mind of Christ, the character of Christ that we receive by faith.] His life stands for the life of men. [This is the corporate salvation, the saving of the species. Jesus is now the second Adam, the representative head of the human race.] Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. [No legal penalty, just like a doctor that cures a patient doesn't require something be done for the various symptoms the patient had while sick.] More than this, Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rom. 3:26. {DA 762.2} [This is the truth of salvation, that through faith we become the righteousness of God!]

**But the law requires that the soul itself be pure and the mind holy, that the thoughts and feelings may be in accordance with the standard of love and righteousness.--RH, Apr 5, 1898. (2SM 211.)**



**The divine law requires us to love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves.** Without the exercise of this love, the highest profession of faith is mere hypocrisy. . . . {A New Life NL 32.1}

**God's law requires that justice and right be exercised between man and his fellow man; it requires that we shall not injure our neighbor in his property, his feelings, his health, or his good name.** [Is this what you see in the actions of those in our society today who claim to be advocating for social justice? Do you see them protecting their neighbors property, feelings, health and good name?] **It requires compassion for the afflicted, even if he be our enemy, that in all our associations with our fellow beings we shall show the same love and care that we would wish to have exercised toward ourselves.** Who can stand before this great moral standard, and plead not guilty? {ST, January 7, 1897 par. 3} [Understanding design law enables us to do this. We don't have to hate the smoker, we have compassion on him for we know what he is doing to his own health. Likewise we don't have to hate the liar, the cheat, the bigot, the racist, they are all searing their own consciences, hardening their own hearts—it is sad!]

While the law is holy, the Jews could not attain righteousness by their own efforts to keep the law. The disciples of Christ must obtain righteousness of a different character from that of the Pharisees, if they would enter the kingdom of heaven. **God offered them, in His Son, the perfect righteousness of the law. If they would open their hearts fully to receive Christ, then the very life of God, His love, would dwell in them, transforming them into His own likeness; and thus through God's free gift they would possess the righteousness which the law requires.** [What is described here? Actual healing and transformation of heart and mind. But what does the penal legal lie teach? That we are declared righteous even though we are not.] {MB 54.2}

**Obedience to the law is essential, not only to our salvation, but to our own happiness and the happiness of all with whom we are connected.** [Why? What law? If a person dying with alcoholic liver failure gets a liver transplant and thus a new lease on life, are they now free from the laws of health, are they free to drink more alcohol without damaging the new liver that will result in their death? Life, health, and happiness are only possible in harmony with God's law for God's law is the protocol life is built upon.] "Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them" (Ps. 119:165), says the Inspired Word. Yet finite man will present to the people this holy, just, and good law, this law of liberty, which the Creator Himself has adapted to the wants of man, as a yoke of bondage, a yoke which no man can bear. But it is the sinner who regards the law as a grievous yoke; it is the transgressor that can see no beauty in its precepts. For the carnal mind "is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7). . . . {NL 32.2}

**That which God required of Adam before his fall was perfect obedience to His law. God requires now what He required of Adam, perfect obedience,**





**righteousness without a flaw, without shortcoming in His sight. God help us to render to Him all His law requires.** We cannot do this without that faith that brings Christ's righteousness into daily practice. {2SM 380.4} **[Why does God require this? For the same reason that we are required to breathe—it is how life is built to operate!]**

But in TUESDAY's lesson, the last paragraph, we read:

“the righteousness that saves us is a righteousness that is credited to us, a righteousness that is (to use a fancy theological term) *imputed* to us. This means that we are declared righteous in the sight of God, despite our faults; it means that the God of heaven views us as righteous even if we are not. This is how He saw Abram, and this is how He will see all who come to Him in ‘the faith of Abraham’” (Rom 4:16).

Oh, how incredibly sad, that these people, who I believe sincerely want to follow God, are so deeply immersed into the imposed law lie that they are just like the Pharisees in Christ day who devoted themselves to their religion, but ended up rejecting Christ.

Is it true that Jesus works in heaven to pull the wool over His Father's eyes?  
Is it true that God, the source of all truth, all perfection, all knowledge, declares things to be something it is not? Does God lie, commit fraud, deceive? Or does God declare us righteous, because we are actually set right in heart and mind with God again? What is the natural state of the sinful heart—trust or distrust of God? Enmity, and Abram trusted God first and after Abram's heart was changed from distrust to trust God reckoned him as righteous or right because he was!

What is imputed righteousness? Which righteousness transforms us? The legal liars tell us imputed is what God legally accounts to us, while the imparted is what transforms us.

I say these distinctions are not significant in practice—both are operational in us and both transform.

He would have us comprehend something of His love in giving His Son to die that He might counteract evil, **remove the defiling stains of sin from the workmanship of God, and reinstate the lost, elevating and ennobling the soul to its original purity through Christ's imputed righteousness.** TMK 206

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18). **[What law is this? The law of worship, by beholding we are changed, it is a design law, how reality works]** Beholding Christ means studying His life as given in His Word. We are to dig for truth as for hidden treasure. We are to fix our eyes upon Christ. When we take Him as our personal Saviour, this gives us boldness to approach the throne of grace. **By beholding we become changed, morally assimilated to the One who is perfect in character. By receiving His imputed righteousness, through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, we become like Him.** The image of Christ is cherished, and it captivates the whole being. {AG 96.4}



In ourselves we are sinners; but in Christ we are righteous. **Having made us righteous through the imputed righteousness of Christ, God pronounces us just, and treats us as just.** He looks upon us as His dear children. Christ works against the power of sin, and where sin abounded, grace much more abounds. {AG 181.4} [God pronounces us just and treats us as just when? When we have been *made* righteous—through what? Through the imputed righteousness of Christ. The entire penal legal theological construct is false. It is based on the wrong diagnosis of the problem and thus constructs an entirely fraudulent treatment model that functions to keep people trapped in unrighteousness, sinfulness, while adhering to the church's religious behavioral requirements and claiming legal status change in some heavenly courtroom. It is so sad.]

We aim too low. The mark is much higher. Our minds need expansion, that we may comprehend the significance of the provision of God. We are to reflect the highest attributes of the character of God. . . . **The law of God is the exalted standard to which we are to attain through the imputed righteousness of Christ.** {OHC 364.2}

Back to SUNDAY, read third paragraph,

Christ has shown that His **love was stronger than death.** [What is the basis of life? God, from whom all life is derived, and what is the law upon which life is built? The law of love. So His love is stronger than death. What does it mean? Christ “destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light” 2Tim 1:10, and “by his death he destroyed him who holds the power of death that is the devil” Heb 2:14. What does this mean? Death comes from violating God's design law of love. The law of love is the law of life. Fear and selfishness, which result from believing lies, causes separation from the law of love and results in death. Adam and Eve, choosing to believe lies had love fractured and fear and selfishness instilled, thus they became terminal. We are born with this survival drive, this terminal condition. Christ, through Mary became human, partook of our nature, and was tempted in all points like us. He was tempted with fear and selfishness and strong human emotions to act to save self. But, Christ chose to love others instead and gave His life freely. Thus at the cross love overcame fear and selfishness, the cause of death. Christ destroyed the death causing principle operating in the humanity He assumed and restored the law of love, the law of life into the humanity He assumed by choosing, with His human brain to love perfectly. This is why He rose again and could predict He would arise again, because He knew what God's law does.] He was accomplishing man's salvation; and although He had the most fearful conflict with the powers of darkness, yet, amid it all, His love grew stronger and stronger. **He endured the hiding of His Father's countenance,** until He was led to exclaim in the bitterness of His soul: “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” [Why? Could Christ eliminate the infection of fear and selfness without facing and overcoming death? And could Christ die if His Father remained connected to Him? So the only way for Christ to accomplish His mission was for the Father to surrender Christ to what Jesus chose to accomplish. Thus, the Father was NOT punishing Jesus, but the two together were carrying out their joint plan for the salvation of humanity and this was only possible through the death of Christ] His arm brought salvation. **The price was**





**paid to purchase the redemption of man**, when, in the last soul struggle, the blessed words were uttered which seemed to resound through creation: “It is finished.” EG White 2T 212 [What was the price and to whom was it paid? If you child is dying of renal failure and you donate a kidney to save them, have you paid a price to save them? Is it a legal price? So, our salvation did require a price—that price is metaphorically taught in the flesh/blood or bread/wine analogy—what do they represent? The Word became flesh, the flesh represents the truth, Jesus is the truth in living flesh and what does truth do to lies? It destroys them. Thus, the truth sets free. What holds us in bondage of sin? The lies we believe and our own carnal nature. So, the first price to be paid was the truth which destroys lies and win us to trust. But we also are held in bondage by fear and selfishness, we need a perfect and righteous human character and this we cannot produce or provide. So Jesus did this for us and this is represented in the blood, “the life is in the blood” thus, when we first partake the Word, the flesh, the bread (remember Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.” Jn 6:53–55 NIV84). So we partake the truth and are won to trust and then we open the heart and receive the life of Christ which is symbolically represented by the blood. So, the price of salvation is truth and a new human character that is paid to us to heal and restore us to perfect righteousness.]

## MONDAY

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The lesson quotes 1Peter 1:18,19 about how we were ransomed—we just described the ransom price and to whom it was paid—the price was truth to destroy lies and win us to trust and a new sinless human character, but paid to us that results in our healing and restoration.

Read last paragraph, “We have this promise...” Notice how they have us owing the law a debt—what are your thoughts on this?

What does the law require? What law, what law lens are we seeing this through?

When we accept the lie that God’s law functions like human law, then it is falsely taught that the law requires punishment, and the minimum punishment is death, thus it is taught that only Jesus, the infinite one, could pay the debt to the law to cancel the demands of inflicted death. This is pagan pure and simple—a deity that will kill us unless we offer that deity the right sacrifice, in this case the blood of an innocent infinite being.

But, some of the legal people will object to what I just said, they will say “you are misrepresenting us. God doesn’t demand the life of His Son—God’s law does. We wrote the paragraph precisely and it says the debt was owed to God’s law, not to God. You have done us an injustice.”

Well, ask these same people from where does God’s law originate and they will say God. And ask them whose character does the law represent and they will say God, that it is a transcript of His



character. So, if the law originates in God and it is a transcript of His character to suggest the law requires the death of an innocent be paid to it, but God doesn't is another lie that the legal people tell. They must lie because the system is built on lies. If they told the truth no one would believe them and they would lose their followers.

Read the bottom pink section, "Imagine that in an art museum..." Do you think this is an accurate analogy? What is the problem with this analogy and how could it be presented more accurately?

They describe the crime or sin being done to the painting, but then they shift the focus away from the painting to the monetary value of the painting. Money is an artificial construct made by man, just like imposed laws. They have created a false monetary debt beyond the ability of the parents to pay, just like they create a false legal debt.

The analogy would be more accurate to say, that neither the child nor the parents have the ability to restore the painting to its original beauty. But Rembrandt is alive and he smiles at the child, and removes the ink and restores the painting to its original beauty. God, through Christ, removes the damage of sin, of fear, of selfishness, and restores God's original law and design of love back into humanity, first in His own humanity that He assumed, and then in all who trust Him.

## WEDNESDAY

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Read the second paragraph, "The same term is employed in other..." What is the lesson doing here? They are attempting to make the case that because the same term "reckoned" or "regarded" is used by people in the Bible to reckon or regard things to be other than what they actually are, that means God does this with our righteousness. What is the problem with this argument?

- People are sinners and God is holy, sinless and perfect. Does God conduct Himself as sinners?
- Just because the term *can* be used in this way does it mean it is always used in this way. In other words, can the term reckoned or regarded be used to reckon or regard what actually is? So just because a couple of places people use it this way does NOT mean God uses it this way.
- The example of Rachel using this word in regard to her father is an allegation she makes against her father, it does not mean it is true. In other words, the Pharisees in Christ's day regarded Jesus as having a demon—does that mean because Jesus didn't have a demon that the work regarded is rightfully used to reckon was doesn't exist, or that the person reckoning is wrong about what they are reckoning? Well when God reckons us as righteous it is because He has actually made us righteous.
- The example counting the offerings and tithes as if it was corn from the threshing floor of wine from their winepress. The lesson wants you to believe that God is setting up a system where He counts something that isn't as something else. This is a result of several cognitive distortions—first, failure to diagnose the sin problem accurately—again thinking it is legal and then going to the text with the wrong legal lens. Second, failure to understand the metaphorical nature of the sanctuary service. Third, failure to be able to abstract symbols to their true meaning. When



God says that when they bring their tithes and offerings they will be counted as corn from the threshing floor or wine from the winepress—what do those symbols mean? The winepress and threshing floor is where impurities are pressed out or blown away to get the pure wine or corn. And the metaphor of the winepress or threshing floor was to teach the healing of hearts and minds from sin, the pressing out of our fear, guilt, selfishness and producing good fruit of character. So, the metaphor is saying, when they gave tithes and offerings it will be accepted because it is coming from hearts that have been purified. So the lesson creates another fraud in its attempt to support the lie that God reckons us as righteous when we remain unrighteous.

## THURSDAY

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Read second paragraph, “As they near...” Where do we need the righteousness of Christ? Consider this quote from the book *Christ’s Object Lessons*, which was written after the 1888 General Conference in which the delegates rejected the righteousness by faith message.

Is this description in harmony with the lesson or presenting something different?

This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. **Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us.** “All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.” Isaiah 64:6. Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God “was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.” Sin is defined to be “the transgression of the law.” 1 John 3:5, 4. But Christ was obedient to every requirement of the law. He said of Himself, “I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart.” Psalm 40:8. When on earth, He said to His disciples, “I have kept My Father’s commandments.” John 15:10. By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments. **When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah.** COL 311.4

Turn to **FRIDAY’s** lesson and read first paragraph, keep the COL quote above in mind as we read and consider answer how we bring the merits of Christ to God. I am going to start the quote two sentences before the lesson does, see if it sets a different tone:

Righteousness is obedience to the law. **The law demands righteousness, and this the sinner owes to the law;** [What does the law demand? But the lesson has been teaching the law demands the death of a sinless substitute to pay the debt payment. This author says the law demands righteousness and this is what we owe the law. Why? Because the law is design law and we owe harmony to it if we want to live] **but he is incapable of rendering it.** [Why? Because we were born with a condition of fear and selfishness that makes it impossible on our



own for us to live in harmony with the law of life. It isn't our fault, we can't fix it, so God provides the remedy.] The only way in which he can attain to righteousness is through faith. **By faith he can bring to God the merits of Christ, and the Lord places the obedience of His Son to the sinner's account.** [How do we bring the merits or achievements of Christ to God? Where are the merits or achievements of Christ placed? Where does God write His law of life? So, when, by faith, we surrender to Christ we receive the life of Christ in us, our thoughts are brought into harmony with His, we live His life. It is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me. We become partakers of the divine nature. So that when we come to the Father we bring the merits, achievements, character of Christ to the Father **because His character is reproduced in us through faith.** Thus, our account, our life receives the obedience, the perfection, the victory of Christ in us.] **Christ's righteousness is accepted in place of man's failure, and God receives, pardons, justifies, the repentant, believing soul, treats him as though he were righteous, and loves him as He loves His Son.** [Christ is first accepted as the second Adam and the species is restored to righteousness in the person of Jesus, and then individuals who have faith or trust receive the righteousness of Christ reproduced within them and God recognizes this change of heart and receives them, pardons, justifies or fixes or puts right all that is wrong in those who respond in faith by repentance.] **This is how faith is accounted righteousness;** [How, by actually healing the heart of people and restoring them to righteousness.] and the pardoned soul goes on from grace to grace, from light to a greater light. He can say with rejoicing, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:5-7). 1SM 367.1



## 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.

- **New Member's Section is now open:** This is FREE but will require a sign in and will contain member's only content. **A new Discussion Forum is now available to members.**
- *The Remedy* and *Could It Be This Simple?* audio books are both available in the members section to stream or download and listen.
- **SHARING campaign June:** *Could It Be This Simple? A Biblical Model for Healing the Mind*  
**BE SURE TO USE OUR WEBSITE STORE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER—DON'T SEND AN EMAIL.**