



2021 3Q Rest In Christ: Lesson 5 Come To Me

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

Before we get into the lesson for this week, some of my recent comments have stimulated some concerns that I feel I need to be address publicly. I am going to read an email I received this week that is representative of some of the concerns and then address those concerns. But before I do, this topic is a hard topic, it is often emotional, visceral and can lead to division rather than unity. The only way we can successfully explore the concerns is with humble hearts filled by the Holy Spirit with a willingness to follow truth wherever it leads.

Our goal at Come and Reason Ministries is first and foremost to glorify God, to speak well of our Creator, to reveal His character and methods of love in the most winsome and accurate way possible, to apply His methods to our lives and in doing so to help people learn to discern, to develop their God given reasoning powers to think for themselves, to grow up into the full stature of sons and daughters of God. To this end, we frequently seek to not only reveal God's character, methods and principles warring against the prince of darkness throughout Scripture and history, but to explore how this battle enters into every phase of human experience.

Many years ago, I read the following paragraph from the book *Education* and it became a philosophy for me, something that I have strived to achieve and a method that we at Come and Reason Ministries apply:

The student should learn to view the word as a whole, and to see the relation of its parts. **He should gain a knowledge of its grand central theme**, of God's original purpose for the world, of the rise of the great controversy, and of the work of redemption. **He should understand the nature of the two principles** that are contending for supremacy, and should learn to **trace their working through the records of history and prophecy, to the great consummation**. He should see how this controversy **enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the one or the other of the two antagonistic motives**; and how, whether he will or not, he is even now deciding upon which side of the controversy he will be found. Ed 190.2

This is why I consistently teach from Scripture focusing upon God's design laws, providing examples from Scripture and history, but I also frequently seek to apply these principles to what is happening in our world today—because the conflict enters into every phase of our lives.

But, unfortunately, speaking about events in our own hearts, our own churches, our own cities and countries, can sometimes be misunderstood, can sometimes allow people to believe that I have stopped teaching the gospel and become a political activist. To the degree that my comments lend themselves



to being viewed as advocating for some political interpretation I regret this and I will seek to do better to be clear that I do not advocate for political parties, that my comments are intended to demonstrate the two antagonistic principles active in every phase of human experience.

So let me say this clearly and plainly. I do not now, nor have I in the past advocated for any political party or politician. I do advocate for principles of God's kingdom and have written about how God's principles and Satan's principles of government are interacting in every phase of our experience, as the quote above said we should do. I explored this my blog [Why Satan Hates the US Constitution](#).

The same author who wrote the book *Education* wrote the following in the book *The Great Controversy*, she applies God's principles to history, demonstrating how the two antagonistic principles really do enter into human governments and where the USA fits into this:

“And he had two horns like a lamb.” The lamblike horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of the United States when presented to the prophet as “coming up” in 1798. Among the **Christian exiles** who first fled to America and sought an asylum from **royal oppression and priestly intolerance** were many who determined to establish a government upon the **broad foundation of civil and religious liberty**. Their views found place in the Declaration of Independence, which sets forth the great truth that “**all men are created equal**” and **endowed with the inalienable right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”** [Notice the difference here between equality and equity. Equality is equality of moral worth, endowed by God with the same value as human beings, the same rights of life, liberty of person to pursue happiness. The design laws of God apply equally to all. But none are promised equal outcomes, equal talents, equal abilities, equal roles, equal income, equal happiness—no. Outcomes cannot be given, only liberty, opportunity, governments can seek to restrain the abusive powers from encroaching upon our individual liberties. Equity turns this upside down, it seeks to undermine liberty and encroach upon opportunity by forcing outcomes upon people based on some factor that is irrelevant to the position—such as skin color, or gender rather than merit, talent, ability, achievement.] And the Constitution guarantees to the people the right of self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws. **Freedom of religious faith was also granted**, every man being permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. **Republicanism and Protestantism became the fundamental principles of the nation. These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity.** [These are the outworking of God's law of liberty. The secret to the USAs power and prosperity. So if you are an enemy of the US, an enemy of individual development, what would you need to attack and undermine? Republicanism and Protestantism, which is religious and civil liberty.] The oppressed and downtrodden throughout Christendom have turned to this land with interest and hope. **Millions have sought its shores**, and the United States has risen to a place among the most powerful nations of the earth (*The Great Controversy*, p. 441). [Why do millions seek to come to the US, still today, this week a milestone in illegal immigrant arrests was made over 1 million arrests at the southern border in the first six months of this new administration—but why are so many flocking here if the USA is the most racist, abusive, intolerant country in the world? Why are they not flocking to China, or Venezuela? This is the



difference between evidenced based thinking and declarations and claims. Those who don't know how to think for themselves believe what others tell them, but those who understand evidence realize that the reason people do flock here is because of the principles of liberty established as foundational to our government and which are under attack.]

Is this author of the *Great Controversy* being too political or is this author describing two antagonistic principles and how they are battling through human history? Do we see these principles under attack in our society today? We will unpack this more in a moment.

In another blog, [The Law of Liberty and Society Today](#) I describe one of God's design laws, the law of liberty. I describe how love requires freedom, that whenever freedoms are taken away love is damaged, rebellion is instilled and if freedom isn't reestablished over time the constant domination of others results in the slow erosion of individuality, the ability to think and reason and people become shadows of those who wield power.

In another blog, [BEWARE: THE CURRENT CLAIM OF "INSTITUTIONAL RACISM" IS REALLY AN ATTACK ON CHRISTIANITY](#) I document God's principles as described from Scripture, His design for humanity that 1) God created us with individuality, our own identity and ability to think and reason that we are to develop by exercise and this requires liberty, freedom of conscience and choice 2) God created families with fathers and mothers and that love for each other starts in the family and is how God built life to operate 3) God created nature and His laws are the protocols upon which nature operates thus God created science, the true investigation of evidence that is testable and reproducible and reveals truth and 4) God designed humans for useful labor and gave Adam and Eve work in a sinless world, that we only gain strength through exercise, and that failure to engage in useful labor is damaging to human character.

After describing these Bible principles, I quote word for word from a chart from the National Museum of African American History and Culture, posted in the Smithsonian Institute. It states: "White dominate culture, or whiteness, refers to the ways white people and their traditions, attitudes and ways of life have been normalized over time and are now considered standard practices in the United States." And then goes on to describe what it perceives to be the standard practices of whiteness: 1) Rugged Individualism 2) Two parent family structure 3) Emphasis on Scientific Method 4) History [European-centered] and 5) Protestant Work Ethic.

What this reveals is that what is happening in America today is an attempt to attack the principles of God, the principles of the Bible, by labeling these very principles as racist, as whiteness.

So, putting together what we have read so far, there are two antagonistic principles at war in human history. God's principles of truth, love, freedom, the equality of all people as children of God warring against Satan's principles of lies, selfishness and coercion, people are merely animals evolved from lower life forms. We war against Satan's lies about God, including those that try and reframe the principles of Republicanism and Protestantism as whiteness. They are not.



The same author who wrote the book *Education* and *The Great Controversy* described the dangers of letting others do our thinking for us, when we believe based on authority rather than discerning the truth for ourselves; when we believe base upon who said it rather than the evidence, whether it be the pastor, the conference president, the pope, the governor, a CNN or FoxNews anchor, the CDC, the NIH, or whomever; when we believe based on authority, rather than being able to evaluate evidence for ourselves, we damage our minds and she says we become unfit for heaven.

It is like a person who takes math a class but instead of learning how to work problems, they simply memorize the answers given by the teacher. Even if they have the right answers, they still have no ability to solve problems. This is happening in society today, people don't know how to solve problems, how to differentiate between proclamations, claims, declarations and actual evidence. Listen to what this author says from 2T 129:

If we mistake the wisdom of man for the wisdom of God we are led astray by the foolishness of man's wisdom. Here is the great danger of many in ----. **They have not an experience for themselves.** They have not been in the habit of prayerfully considering for themselves, **with unprejudiced, unbiased judgment, questions and subjects that are new and that are ever liable to arise. They wait to see what others will think.** If these dissent, that is all that is needed to convince them that the subject under consideration is of no account whatever. Although this class is large, it does not change the fact that **they are inexperienced and weak-minded** through long yielding to the enemy, and **will always be as sickly as babes, walking by others' light, living on others' experience, feeling as others feel, and acting as others act. They act as though they had not an individuality. Their identity is submerged in others; they are merely shadows of those whom they think [are] right. Unless these become sensible of their wavering character and correct it, they will all fail of everlasting life; they will be unable to cope with the perils of the last days. [We are in the perils of the last days. The lies and propaganda are intense. Millions are demonstrating how they have not developed the ability to discern and believe based on authority of the office rather than truth and evidence and millions are being deceived] They will possess no stamina to resist the devil, for they do not know that it is he.** Someone must be at their side to inform them whether a foe or a friend is approaching. **They are not spiritual, therefore spiritual things are not discerned. They are not wise in those things which relate to the kingdom of God.** Neither young nor old are excusable in **trusting to another to have an experience for them.** Said the angel: "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm." A noble self-reliance is needed in the Christian experience and warfare. 2T 129.2

Do we see this in society today? Do we see millions believing what they are told, rather than differentiating evidence from the spin, the interpretation of evidence given by others? Just a week ago I posted a blog, [Your Mind and Media Manipulation—How to Protect Yourself](#) in which I unpacked the difference between facts and interpretation of facts and how the media often presents things just the opposite of what the facts actually reveal.

This is critical because our decisions are only as good as the information upon which they are based. If you want to control people then you prevent them from having accurate information, you keep them



ignorant. This is what all communist and totalitarian governments do. This is what the church of the Dark Ages did by locking away Scripture. But God is the God of truth, truth always heals and frees—which is what happened when the Bible was translated into the language of the people and they started reading it—the Reformation which led to the US Constitution and the principles of liberty, equality and justice for all.

Those who operate upon God's methods don't seek to silence opposition voices, they want the opposition because lovers of truth will become more efficient and presenting the truth. But liars will be exposed. And liars will seek to silence and to misinform.

Thomas Jefferson wrote:

"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be." (as cited in Padover, 1939, p. 89) ". . . whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government; that, whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them right." (as cited in Padover, 1939, p. 88) <https://www.varsitytutors.com/earlyamerica/jefferson-primer/jefferson-education-franchise>

Consider the education of the populace and what is happening in our schools. It is not surprising that those who seek to destroy Republicanism and Protestantism want to tear down history and replace it with a false narrative. It is not surprising that they insist on graduating from one grade to the next individuals who cannot read or do basic math, and those who cannot reason. And why they attack those who suggest that we require competence to advance students to the next grade with slurs of racism and whittism.

In the 2T quote above, the author talks about people not having an experience for themselves, or relying on others to give them an experience. I frequently get the argument about personal experience from people of color. Some will cite their experiences with racism and suggest that I don't have their experience therefore I am not able to speak on this issue.

Consider from the same author another quote about experience:

As I have before stated, you, my sister, rely upon experience. Your experience decides you to pursue a certain course. **But that which many term experience is not experience at all;** it is simply habit, or mere indulgence, blindly and frequently ignorantly followed, with a firm, set determination, and without intelligent thought or inquiry relative to the laws at work in the accomplishment of the result. 3T 68.3

Real experience is a variety of careful experiments made with the mind freed from prejudice and uncontrolled by previously established opinions and habits. [What is real experience? It is careful experiments, problems solved in a variety of ways, with a mind free from prejudice, bias, opinion, habits, preconceived ideas in order to observe what is actually happening—how reality works. It is the outworking of God's design laws in reality in contrast



to Satan's imposed laws] The results are marked with careful solicitude and an anxious desire to learn, to improve, and to reform on every habit that is not in harmony with physical and moral laws. The idea of others' gainsaying what you have learned by experience seems to you to be folly and even cruelty itself. **But there are more errors received and firmly retained from false ideas of experience than from any other cause, for the reason that what is generally termed experience is not experience at all; because there has never been a fair trial by actual experiment and thorough investigation, with a knowledge of the principle involved in the action.** 3T 69.1

This perspective is based upon design law, testing how reality works. And we have a recent example from society of false experience, of setting aside reality and design law. Those of us who know design law predicted something and sure enough the evidence supports our predictions. We predicted that the BLM movement to defund the police would result in worsening crime and harm to communities. But the BLM group claimed that their experience taught them that police are bad, abusive, white supremacist and the source of violence upon people of color, that if we only get rid of these enforcers of white power then communities of color would thrive, would improve, and abuses and exploitation would stop.

But, those of us who understand Scripture, who understand God's design laws, understand that crime isn't a racial issue, it is a sin issue and sin is in the heart of all human beings, and that when restraining powers are removed from the wicked then crime surges, that the malevolent will seize the opportunity and the powerless and innocent will suffer.

And what has happened in communities where police have been reduced? Soaring crimes of all kinds, not just violent crimes, but destruction of property, rampant stealing and shoplifting resulting in stores closing in communities, which injures the residents who now have to travel farther for basic needs. And what people have suffered the most? People of color. This is reality, it is completely predictable for those who understand God's design laws. The so-called experience that police are the problem isn't reality, police, in general, make communities better, despite the occasional officer who betrays their trust and commits crime themselves and needs to be removed. It is now so obvious that even the current president has come out for more police. Understand reality—if black lives really mattered to BLM, they would never have advanced the defund police movement. BLM doesn't care about black lives, they care about power and about undermining the principles of Republicanism and Protestantism. But because they have titled themselves with “Black Lives Matter” those who have never trained themselves to look at evidence, those who have no individuality, those who rely on someone in authority to tell them the answer, hear the label “Black Lives Matter” and believe the organization is actually beneficial to people of color—what a grand deception.

Let me say it this way, BLM is like the Marlboro Man—the Marlboro Man was a depiction that was purposely designed by tobacco executives to suggest that you can have better health, vitality, strength, and manliness if you smoke Marlboros but the reality is that cigarette smoking destroys health. Likewise, BLM is designed to suggest better lives for black people, while the principles advanced by BLM destroy the lives of all people but especially people of color.



Now, having said all of this, I want to read an email I received this week and unpack it. It is a disturbing email, but a serious email that expresses a real problem we, God's children, are confronted with and I believe that we must take these concerns seriously and answer the questions. This email is one of a several correspondences I have received over the last month or two expressing similar ideas.

Dr. Jennings, you often laud the principles the U.S. was founded upon. Yet you fail to acknowledge the continual pervasive presence of principles of white supremacy embedded in the U.S. constitution. There is no greater evidence of satanic influence (lies and selfishness) than white supremacy. It is clearly why Donald Trump was elected. It is why Mr. Trump correctly asserted that he could shoot someone on 5th Avenue and not lose supporters, and it clearly continues to be the dominant controlling influence in the Republican Party. Your unwillingness or inability to address this is as telling as Adventism's unwillingness or inability to address the truths you clearly articulate about God's principles and design laws. All of the kingdoms of this world, including the United States, are the kingdoms of Satan. You have been dog whistling and tacitly supporting this ideology. Are you capable of objectively acknowledging this self evident truth? How can asking America to live up to the principles she espouses be racist? Are you capable of repudiating white supremacy without equivocation?

I can't tell you the sadness I feel when I read or hear feedback like this; it breaks my heart.

To the writer—as a Christian—I love you. I am sorry for any injustice, racial or otherwise, you have experienced in your life. I was born in sin and conceived in iniquity, I have nothing in myself to commend myself to you or anyone else. It is only by God's grace, by Jesus in me that there is anything of value in me. I cannot right any wrongs you have suffered, but I can point you to Jesus who can.

I don't know the person who wrote this—Is the writer black or white, I don't know, but I want us to be united in Christ. Can we be? Only if we both have Christ in our hearts, only if we both die to the methods and ways of this world, only if we both embrace and practice the methods of God.

Let me address his concerns specifically.

First, I have been saying for a long time, and have written in multiple places, that ALL the kingdoms of this world are Satan's and all of them operate upon the principles of imposed law and therefore do injustice. So thank you for reminding us of this. I have written that the lamblike principles of religious and civil liberties established in our Constitution are going to be repudiated and that, just as the Bible teaches, the beast with lamblike horns will speak like a dragon. I describe this in my blog series [The Six Powers of Satan and How to Overcome Them Part 2](#) and [Babylon the Mother of Harlots: It's Time to Come Out](#). I am citing all of these blogs as evidence that I have been teaching these truths for a long time, because the author of the email seems to be unaware that we hold this position. So I am not merely claiming that I do, I am providing historic evidence of doing so.

In my blog [King of the North versus King of the South and Today's End time Events](#) I describe how Satan has two grand forces at work throughout history, the forces of the King of the South which is godlessness represented by Egypt and includes paganism, evolutionism, humanism, secularism,



communism opposed by the King of the North which is religious imperialism represented by both Babylon and Rome, and are those who believe in God but use the power of the state, might and force, to coerce people to comply with their religious views. And how the beautiful land, God's people, are in neither of these two group. Satan pits these two forces against each other, but God's people are caught in the middle and Satan tries to get God's people to pick one of these two sides when both are his. We see this battle in society today. Wokeism, leftism, socialism, greenism, BLM, transgenderism, all of this is part of the godless king of the south movement and it is pushing its agenda strongly, attacking the forces of the king of the north and, if we understand Daniel 11 correctly, the king of the north, religious imperialism, is going to storm out against the king of the south and destroy him. And God's people are in neither of these two groups. I have been saying this all along.

So I have not been dog whistling for the GOP or the political right. I have been advocating for the principles of liberty, for truth, for individuals to think for themselves, to learn to discern, to be able to tell the difference between actual evidence and interpretations, to apply God's design laws to the problem and come to godly solutions.

But I understand why some feel like am advocating for the right—when you stand on the left and someone calls you to the middle—you are necessarily being pulled to the right. And when you stand on the right and someone calls you to the middle you are necessarily being pulled to the left. When I have written and advocated for equality for gay people, to treat them equally under the law and to love them like Christ, I have been accused of advocating for the left. But I am not. I am advocating for the living application of the design laws of God in how we live.

Now let's talk directly about racism. It is a real problem, but before we can talk about it, we must define it. If we use the same word but assign different meanings to the word then we are no longer talking about the same thing and we misunderstand each other.

In other areas I have given concise definitions to help clarify confusing issues:

- Spiritualism—the pursuit of knowledge without the investigation of evidence or the use of reason
 - We can see spiritualism in any form, astrology, voodoo, Tarot cards, palm reading—it is all the same, seeking knowledge without evidence and without reason
- Legalism—a preoccupation with law and legal standing
 - whether legalism of works, or sacrifices, or indulgences, or vicarious legalism of legal records getting expunged in courtrooms in heaven. It is still all legalism.
- Racism is a preoccupation with race. It is using race as a factor in decision-making instead of ability, character, talent, achievement, merit, accomplishment etc.
 - With this definition we can identify racism wherever it manifests, whether white supremacy, Japanese/Chinese racism, German/Slavic racism, or white inferiority/black supremacy—the false guilt that drives race-based decision-making today. At its root racism is all the same, using race as a factor to demarcate and differentiate rather than objective measures of character, ability, talent, achievement, merit.



If we take a Biblical worldview then we understand that there is one race—the human race and that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, that there is no one righteous, no not one; and we are all suffering from the same condition of sinfulness and in need of the same Savior. What matters is not ethnicity, but character. In a Biblical worldview there are only two groups, the sheep and the goats, the wheat and the tears, the saved and the lost. So, as Paul wrote,

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Ga 3:26–28 NIV84).

We are either in Christ or we are not. Those who are in Christ the outward appearances don't separate us. But if we remain worldly, then outward appearance is supremely important. **It is the ungodly who look at the outward appearances**, just as Scripture says:

“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1Sam 16:7 NIV84)

So, to the emailer—I am sorry for your hurt, for whatever wrong you have experienced in this world—but Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33 NIV84).

In this world we will experience injustice, because all the kingdoms of this world are Satan's. It is only in Christ that we find health, life, peace, joy, and unity. I want to be united with Christ, One with Him in love for God and others. In order for us to overcome the world, to overcome fear, selfishness and racism, we must have God living in us. It requires we become united in God's methods, principles and ways.

What is it that separates people? What is it that causes the greatest division? What is the most significant obstacle between people being united? Is it our skin color, or is it our hearts and minds?

If we both have Jesus in our hearts and love others more than self, will our skin color be a problem? But if we have hurt feelings, jealousy, a sense of life being unfair, a feeling of being disadvantaged, a sense of being taken advantage of, of not being valued, of being misjudged, of being diminished based on our race, and we look to the kingdoms of this world to make it right, to fix the problem, to get the right laws, right judges, right enforcement will we ever be united? **Never—this is Satan's grand trick, incite real injustice and then trick people into pursuing justice through Satan's laws, Satan's kingdoms, Satan's methods which only incite more injustice and cause more division.**

We at Come and Reason Ministries stand for equality of all people as children of God. We want to see all things in heaven and earth reconciled together under one head, Jesus Christ. We seek to advance the good news of God's kingdom that, when brought into hearts, unites all of us into one family, the family of God. We are one people—children of God—who have the same principles or laws of God written into our hearts and thus we mature in character to be like Jesus. And this unity cannot be accomplished through legislation and imposed human laws.



Anything that undermines God’s design of love, unity in Christ, equality of all people as children of God is evil and we oppose it.

Thus we oppose racism in every and all of its forms, because racism divides. And of course we oppose white supremacy—but saying this in society today is like saying we oppose cigarette smoking—which we do. There was a time when people didn’t know the dangers of cigarette smoking—worse when doctors prescribed it for lung disease, as a treatment to make one healthy. But today, only people with impairments in thinking, mentally deranged individuals, think cigarette smoking is healthy. Likewise, there isn’t anyone in society that I know, who actually thinks white supremacy is okay, or advances white supremacy. This is why I don’t often say it, because it simply is understood, like smoking, to be wrong—it is common knowledge.

- What are the principles of the Bible in regard to race and how we treat each other?
- What are the principles of BLM, CRT and wokeism—are they the same as Bible principles?
- Racism is a preoccupation with race, of using race as a criteria for decision-making instead of ability, competence, character, achievement etc. do we find the principles of racism being practiced, endorsed, institutionalized, and advanced in society today? Where?

Martin Luther King Jr. said,

Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that (*Strength to Love*, 1963)

Understand reality—we cannot get rid of racism by practicing racism. If we make race a criteria in our decision-making, our policy making, or admissions to schools, our priorities in awarding government contracts, our practice for corporate advancement then we are only perpetuating racism, not eliminating it.

We cannot drive out racism from hearts, minds and society by screaming racism or by practicing race-based hiring practices as a means of correcting historic racism—that only perpetuates racism. The only way to eradicate racism is to love people in Jesus, to practice God’s methods in our lives, and to create equal opportunity for individual ability, hard work, merit, talent and achievement to differentiate. **No matter how well-intentioned, corrective race-based practices are by definition racist and perpetuate racism.**

Jesus said,

How can Satan enter into a person, and by entering, get rid of Satan? Think about it: It would be like using water to get rid of wetness (Mark 3:23 *The Remedy*).

Martin Luther King Jr. knew this and famously said,



I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

In God's kingdom, it is about the quality of each person's heart, mind, and character. This is what really matters: Is a person like Jesus in his or her heart—or not? The color of one's skin is irrelevant.

Understand this reality: Human governments can *never* resolve racism, because at its core, racism is a heart problem, not a behavior problem, and no laws imposed by governments can instill love in the heart.

Yes—governments *can* and *should* remove laws that are racist (Jim Crow Laws, for instance) and ensure that the laws that are passed treat all people equally. **But as soon as the government moves from treating all people equally under the law to advancing policies that favor one racial or ethnic or gender group over another then the government has institutionalized racism.**

And those who are godless will always do this because the godless don't care about uplifting people, the godless want power and they purposely craft policies to exploit the masses for their own empowerment.

So we, as Christians, must not be duped into joining any of these political forces, we must stand on the principles of God, which are His design laws, which are freedom for all, because love only grows in an atmosphere of freedom.

From the Remedy of the Lord in Song: The Psalms chapter 19:7-13:

The design law of God is perfect,
restoring one's life.
The principles of the Lord are constant,
imparting wisdom to those without it.
The prescriptions of the Lord are right,
bringing happiness to the life.
The protocols of God are brilliant,
enlightening the mind.
Worship of the Lord heals
and is everlasting.
The decisions of the Lord are always correct
and completely righteous.
They are more valuable than gold,
even much refined gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
even from the honeycomb.
They teach those who serve you how reality works —
in living in harmony with them there is great benefit.
Who can identify every defect in their heart?



Heal everything — even what I cannot see.
Change my heart — refrain me from selfish choices;
don't let selfishness control me.
Then I will be spiritually healthy,
free from deviations from your great design.

SUNDAY

Read Matthew 11:28-30:

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30 NIV84).

The lesson asks us what rest? How does Christ give us this rest?

Is this physical rest? Is it rest for our souls, for our internal struggles, rest from fighting to survive—not just survive on earth, food and shelter, but to survive the weight of shame and guilt that sin brings? Is it that we need rest from our own fears, insecurities, and selfishness?

How do we get this rest?

The lesson states in the first paragraph that “Jesus does not curry favors; He puts the finger where it hurts...” What do you understand this to mean?

What law lens do you understand it through?

When a person has appendicitis and goes to the ER, does the doctor put their fingers on the abdomen? Does the doctor put their finger where it hurts? Why?

Is Jesus speaking in ways to draw attention to where the problem is? Why?

What is the first step in saving a sinner? Isn't it that the sinner must recognize their condition, be convicted of their sinful state, be convinced that they have a problem and that they cannot fix it themselves? And then, that there is a Savior who can remedy the problem for them?

So, is Jesus trying to harm or seeking to heal?

But what will patients often do when the doctor probes a wound? They will instinctively push the doctor's hand away—why?



Do we do this with the Holy Spirit, with Truth, with godly people in our lives?

With this in mind, Jesus seeking to awaken them to their need, their problem, the lesson points out that Jesus tells them it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for Sodom than for these people. Why?

Notice Jesus' words, "But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you" (Matthew 11:24 NKJV).

What does this mean? What law lens are you hearing this through? More tolerable, what does tolerable mean? Other versions use the word bearable. What does bearable mean? Is it inflicted or is it something that naturally occurs?

What would cause these people to have more to bear in the judgment than Sodom a city so wicked that God destroyed it?

What causes the suffering? It is unremedied sin in the heart, mind and character—and those who have had the greatest opportunity to repent, who have had the greatest truth that they have refused will have the greatest guilt to bear.

So, from *The Remedy NT* starting in verse 20:

Because the people in the cities where Jesus performed most of his miracles refused to turn away from selfishness and accept the Remedy, he pronounced the unavoidable result:²¹ "Korazin, your suffering will be great, and Bethsaida, your agony will be horrible! If the evidence and miracles that were presented to you would have been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have humbled themselves, rejected selfishness, accepted the Remedy, and been restored to love.²² On the day each person faces ultimate truth, Tyre and Sidon will have less guilt and agony to bear than you.²³ And you, people of Capernaum, will you soar into heaven? Oh no! You will shrivel up and decay into the depths. If the miracles performed in you were done in Sodom, that city would still be here today.²⁴ On the day each person faces ultimate truth, Sodom will have less guilt and agony to bear than you." (Matthew 11:20-24 REM)

In the fourth paragraph the lesson states, "Jesus' ability to give rest is based on His divinity and His oneness with the Father."

What do you think about this? What does it mean? The assumed part of the sentence needs to be recognized. Yes, Jesus' oneness with the Father is key—but so is His oneness with us. It was that Jesus was fully human AND fully divine. It was Jesus by restoring God's character, God's methods, God's design laws for life back into the species human while fully revealing the truth of God's character to us that He is able to give us rest.

Here is an historic quote:



The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God. This is to be our study. Christ was a real man; He gave proof of His humility in becoming a man. **Yet He was God in the flesh.** When we approach this subject, we would do well to heed the words spoken by Christ to Moses at the burning bush, “Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground” (Exodus 3:5). We should come to this study with the humility of a learner, with a contrite heart. And the study of the incarnation of Christ is a fruitful field, which will repay the searcher who digs deep for hidden truth. 1SM 244.1

Praise God that “Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
7 but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross! (Php 2:5–8 NIV84).

MONDAY

The lesson focuses on Christ saying to us, “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Mt 11:29–30 NIV84).

What is a yoke? What does it do?

A yoke is not a bridle, it is not a bit, it is not designed to compel or to force or to inflict pain. What is the function of a yoke? It shares the load!

Jesus is saying that we are to yoke up with Him, to join forces with Him, to be united with Him and He will help us carry the load and only with His yoke can we succeed!

What is the yoke that joins us to Christ, that relieves the burdens of life, that lifts the weight, that energizes us, invigorates us, gives us life and makes life easy? The law of love!

It is the yoke of love, love for God and love for others that joins our hearts and minds to Jesus and relieves us of fear, guilt, shame and the need to force our way. The duties of life become joys as we carry them out in love.

This is from the book *The Desire of Ages*:



The yoke that binds to service is the law of God. The great law of love revealed in Eden, proclaimed upon Sinai, and in the new covenant written in the heart, is that which binds the human worker to the will of God. If we were left to follow our own inclinations, to go just where our will would lead us, we should fall into Satan's ranks and become possessors of his attributes. Therefore God confines us to **His will, which is high, and noble, and elevating.** He desires that we shall patiently and wisely take up the duties of service. The yoke of service Christ Himself has borne in humanity. He said, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Psalm 40:8. "I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." John 6:38. Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity, brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. **This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He bids us adopt.** DA 329.3

This is design law—it is how God built life to operate. We cannot grow, develop, advance through being idle, through lack of exercise, through allowing others to solve our problems, fulfill our duties, do our work. It is for our health, wellness, development that we are each given burdens of life to fulfill and we are to unite with Christ in carrying out these responsibilities in life.

Practices and protocols that remove life's responsibilities from people destroy character, undermine health, wellness and inflame selfishness. People who are not united with Christ, working with the yoke of loving service in life, will be yoked with great burdens of this world that crush them.

From the same author who wrote *The Desire of Ages*:

But **instead of taking the yoke of Christ, [which is the yoke of God's law of love which motivates us to live lives of loving service]** how many bind **upon their souls a galling yoke, a grievous burden.** Many wear a load of care, worldly perplexities are accepted, worldly customs are followed, worldly fashions practiced, and their character is marred, their life made a weariness. **Jesus would have them lay aside this yoke of bondage, and take upon them his yoke of love,** that they may learn to be meek and lowly in heart. The weakest soul, wearing Christ's yoke, bearing his burden, may become strong in his grace, and he will find the yoke easy, the burden light. ST January 19, 1891, par. 5

In the middle of the second paragraph the lesson states, "Both the Father and the Son are working unitedly to save humanity."

This is well said—this is exactly right. The Father and Son are one, united in love and purpose to eradicate sin and save sinners.

TUESDAY



The lesson talks about meekness, which is the opposite of pride and arrogance. Meekness doesn't place confidence in self, but in God.

But the lesson rightly points out that the meek are not doormats, they are not pushovers, they don't compromise principle to be liked or to make others happy with them. They stand firm in the face of opposition because their focus is not on self, it is on God and on love and truth.

Those who are doormats, who allow others to bully them into compromising are not meek in the Biblical sense, they are fearful, and frequently needy of other's approval and give in to avoid being rejected. This is not selflessness, it is a form of selfishness, but the selfishness of self-doubt and fear of rejection rather than arrogance and pride. But self is still in the center.

The truly godly meek have Jesus in the center. They don't seek to gain attention for self, but seek to uplift God and Jesus to make them the focus.

Read the last two paragraphs, "Jesus' humanity and meekness... What is the problem with this description? What law lens is being advanced? Is this how God's government works, or this fallen human law and government projected onto God?"

What is a better way to describe the reality of what Jesus and the Father have done to save us and why they had to do it?

WEDNESDAY

Read second bold section near the bottom, "In Galatians 5:1..." What are the two yokes referred to here? How does Christ set us free?

One is the yoke of love, God's design law of love, the other is the yoke of the law of sin and death, the yoke of fear and selfishness.

How does Christ free us from the law of sin and death?

From *The Remedy*

Christ has set us free from selfishness, free from fear, free from ignorance about God — free to be his friends. So stand firm in the truth about God as revealed in Jesus, and don't let yourselves be duped back into a system of rituals and works motivated by fear and selfishness. (Galatians 5:1 REM)

THURSDAY

Read the last paragraph, "The immediate context..." How does love function?



To love others means that we seek to do what is in their best interest, even when they might want something else. In order to do this, we must not only have loving concern for the other person, but we also must understand God's design laws, how reality works, what the problem is—and then, when appropriate, use our ability to act in harmony with God's design laws to bring healing influence to others.

If you're hiking with your spouse and she falls and breaks a leg, and you need to splint her leg, but doing so will cause more pain, would it be an act of love to splint the leg? Would it be loving to have surgery even if that caused pain? And when it is time for physical therapy and your spouse cries from the pain, is it an act of love to do her exercises for her?

What if it is not a broken leg, but a broken heart—she has been traumatized in the past and is hurting—is it an act of love to focus on merely relieving her pain, or to focus on healing the emotional wound even if the work to heal it is painful? What if she gets angry and accuses you of attacking her—is it love to accept the accusation and apologize for trying to help?

Once there is brokenness, there are no pain-free options. The path of love is to bring healing, even though the healing interventions are painful. Unfortunately, many people focus merely on the immediate experience and instead of seeking to heal, seek to relieve the pain or discomfort and, thus, actually harm. Love understands design law and reality and acts to heal and restore even if it is painful.

So love doesn't act by doing what feels best, but what is best.

What happens when we love the organization more than the people?

Do we sacrifice people in order to protect the institution? Would organizations protect child molesters in order to protect the institution's name and reputation even if it means other innocents might get harmed?

Might individuals get disfellowshipped in order to protect the institution?

Might someone be crucified in order to protect the nation?



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW RESOURCE SOUTH AFRICA: *Could It Be This Simple?* is now available in Afrikaans. We want to give special thanks to Jacques van den Heever, who spent many hours proof reading and working with editors and translators to get this resource available. Thank you Jacques!

It is available as a FREE download on our website, but if you are in South Africa and would like one in print, then email Jacques at comeandreason.sa@gmail.com

There will be a small postage charge of R50 (around \$4) or you live near Somerset West you are welcome to pick one up in person.

South Africa also has some newly printed materials including tracts, meditation guides, and CIBTS. If you are interested in getting copies for yourself or to share, please email comeandreason.sa@gmail.com

Special Baker Books has made the digital version of *The God Shaped Heart* available for a short time for \$1.99 for either Kindle readers on Amazon or Nooks at Barnes and Noble.

God is Love Children's Book Available on Amazon! We are happy to announce that our children's book, *God is Love*, is now up on Amazon and is available for prime shipping! You might have trouble finding it at first because it's new and doesn't have any reviews yet. Reviews are paramount in helping others search for and find items on Amazon. If you search "God is Love Stephanie Land" you should be able to find it. For a limited time, we are offering it on Amazon for only \$10, which is cheaper than it is currently being sold on our ministry website. If you purchase it through Amazon, you can leave a "verified purchase" review which will help to get the book to populate when people do a search. The more reviews the better!