



2021 3Q Rest In Christ: Lesson 7 Rest, Relationships, and Healing

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

I received this email this week:

I just want to thank God for your ministry. I recently discovered it as I was searching online for more 'meat' to the sabbath school lesson study discussions. I was weary of the humdrum and prayed about something more substantive. And! Come and Reason appeared in the search. It has been less than 6 months. I am learning about God in a better view than before. I like this God better! This way of thinking about what God has revealed in His word is more consistent with who He is. May God continue to make your ministry fruitful to the building up of His kingdom!

And I also received this email this week:

Dear Dr. Jennings and C&R Team,

Our family has been so blessed by your ministry, books, seminars, and weekly Bible studies. We were particularly touched by the latest study which focused on today's events and your loving response to a troubling email you received.

I write to you today with a heavy heart requesting prayer for my current situation at work. You see, I am a Federal employee at a medical clinic, and have just received notice of the National mandate that we must receive the COVID vaccine within 8 weeks or face unemployment. I knew this day may come, but am still concerned nonetheless as I have a health condition that I feel would worsen if I were to take this experimental shot. I had hoped to use my talents in this job and retire with benefits, but it looks like that may not be an option. Pray for me and my family as we seek His wisdom and guidance in these uncertain times. Thank you and



God bless you and your team for what God is doing through you at this critical time in earth's history!

What is your reaction to this?

Do you only hear a medical problem, an employment problem, a political problem, or do you see the issues of the Great Controversy at play?

Two weeks ago I read this quote from the book *Education*:

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

Do you see that the two antagonistic principles are front and center over this issue? Do you see how right now, how we handling this situation we are deciding our characters, our methods, the principles we prefer and align with?

We are entering into the very final movements before Christ returns. The battle is heating up, and I want to be prepared, and I want you to be prepared.

We are being placed into positions in which we are being asked to make a decision—to decide what we will do in governance of ourselves—take an experimental injection or not, wear mask or not, attend church or not, visit family or not—and how we will treat others, what principles will we practice?

But upon what are we to base our decision? Each of us are trying to decide, what is best, what is right, what is truth. But which rationale, ideas, beliefs, conclusions, options are we ourselves able to directly validate or confirm? In



other words, isn't it the case that we are being asked to make a decision based on who we trust?

- Do you trust the government? The CDC, the NIH, the health department?
- Do you trust politicians either left or right?
- Do you trust media personalities either left or right?
- Do you trust popular opinion?
- Do you trust your doctor? How many doctors do you know that have personally done research on viruses, and then specifically on COVID 19 and have themselves confirmed what they are reading in the various medical outlets? I have not.
- Are doctors ever wrong—even when the majority agree?
 - What about on the majority view when Pasteur presented germ theory?
 - What 100 years ago when doctors prescribed tobacco as a treatment for lung disease?

How did doctors come to leave the wrong idea behind?

What method was used to lead out of wrong conclusions into right ones?

And this takes us to the heart of the Great Controversy, the war between Christ and Satan that began in heaven.

In heaven when Lucifer started his rebellion were the angels able to do primary research and uncover evidence to confirm who was telling the truth, Lucifer or God? Did the angels have to decide who they would trust?

And we face the same battle for our minds today, a question of who we can trust.

But what decision do you make when you can't do primary research and uncover the evidence for yourself?

If you have time, you wait and see, allow things to unfold and the truth eventually reveals itself. But if you don't have time, if you are forced to make a decision then...



Examine the methods—if people genuinely want the truth and are pursuing truth what attitude do they have and what method do they employ when questions arise, when data come up that question the accepted narrative?

Historically in medicine products get approval for use in America by doing double blind placebo-controlled studies that demonstrate effectiveness and reveal various side effects, risks or negative outcomes. But it is understood that the study population is always a narrow population, it doesn't represent the wide range of genetic and physiological differences found in the population as a whole, and thus it is understood that once a product enters the larger population new side effects or problems may emerge that were not seen in the studies.

Historically, medical standards encouraged reporting of complications or harm suspected to be caused by various treatments. Standard medical practice has been scientific, loving and pursuing truth, evidence, facts and when such reports were made they were recorded and actively investigated to confirm or refute, by evidence, the concern. This is a healthy and mature approach to any question—truth loses nothing by investigation.

There have been multiple products over the years that have come to market only later to be either removed because of unknown serious problems emerged, like death, or they receive a new black box warning about risks not initially understood.

Doesn't the approach of being open to the evidence and following it where it leads sound reasonable? Doesn't it give you greater confidence when concerns are met with a willingness to investigate and uncover what is true?

Who would not be willing to do this? Wouldn't it be a those who know their position is false, that their product has a problem, and the truth will expose them?

There have been products like this that have come to market; Zyprexa is one of them. A very effective antipsychotic, but known by the company to increase DMII and obesity, the company purposely misrepresented the data and worked to obstruct investigation and lied about the signals doctors were seeing in their patient populations and resisted research to determine the facts because they already knew the facts.



When you either know there is a problem, or suspect there is a problem, or have it good now and believe any investigation will only expose problems, then you really don't want the truth and facts to come to light, then you don't encourage investigation and inquiry. The manufacturer plead guilty to a criminal charge and paid a \$1.42 billion dollar settlement.

We see the same methods of refusal to investigate evidence when it comes to the COVID vaccine.

- Research has come out with evidence that the COVID-19 spike protein, which the injections stimulate the body to produce, have been demonstrated to bind to heparin binding proteins, which in the brain increases the accumulation of beta-amyloid proteins (Alzheimer's disease), Tau proteins (Alzheimer's disease), alpha-synuclein (Parkinson's and Lewy Body disease), prions (spongiform disease).
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0006291X2100499>
[X](#)

This research suggests that the vaccines could lead to neurodegenerative changes and dementias. What would be the godlike, ethical, moral, response? Would it be to actively investigate? Would it be to inform the public and give them the option of waiting for more information on this or is the godlike response to suppress this information and not inform people before they get an experimental injection? Perhaps this will turn out to be a false signal and the vaccines don't contribute to increased neurodegenerative changes, but until we know shouldn't people be informed and given the option? Why withhold the evidence and push the vaccine?

- Over 12,000 deaths from the vaccine have been reported in the VAERS database in 7 months, which calculates into approximately 1 in 13,000 risk of dying from the vaccine—assuming those numbers are not depressed. Should people be informed of these numbers and given the option to take it or not? What is the godlike approach? What about for children who have essentially no risk from the disease, should they be required to take the shot where 1 in 13,000 may die?
- When pathologists who have spent the last 16 months examining blood samples of COVID recovered people report that:



- *“A natural infection induces hundreds upon hundreds of antibodies against all proteins of the virus, including the envelope, the membrane, the nucleocapsid, and the spike. Dozens upon dozens of these antibodies neutralize the virus when encountered again. Additionally, because of the immune system exposure to these numerous proteins (epitomes), our T cells mount a robust memory, as well... T cell memory to those infected with SARSCOV1 is at 17 years and running still.”* Whereas the vaccine triggers the body to make the spike protein and the immune system to only create antibodies to the spike protein.
 - What would be an honest, ethical, and truth-loving response? Should we actively investigate? If this is true wouldn't this be easily verifiable? And if it is verified and true would it give millions of recovered individuals comfort, reassurance and reduce fear? And would recovered individuals need to worry about re-exposure and mask wearing or getting vaccinated? Why the refusal to verify or refute this? Why coerce recovered individuals who have antibodies to get the experimental injection? <https://www.dailyveracity.com/2021/07/19/cdc-vaccine-deaths-pass-10000-as-efficacy-of-the-jab-plummets-data-suggests-those-naturally-infected-do-better-than-the-vaccinated/>
- Other physicians, who have seen increased vascular problems in their vaccinated patients became concerned that the spike protein produced from the mRNA vaccines were binding to the body's smallest blood vessels and triggering micro-clots with subsequent vascular and cardiac problems, one physician began doing d-dimer blood studies and found that 62% of his patients who had had the vaccines had this micro clotting problem. <https://principia-scientific.com/doctor-heart-failure-from-mrna-jabs-will-kill-most-people/>
 - What is the healthy, godlike approach? Is it reasonable to investigate, to determine if this is real or some false signal, some other non associated problem this doctor is finding?
- July 25, 2021 the New South Wales, Australia, health department released figures on the COVID hospitalizations:
 - 141 in hospital
 - 43 in ICU



- 18 on ventilators
- 60 under the age of 55
- 28 under the age of 35
- of the 43 in ICU 1 in their teens, 7 in their 20, 3 in their 30
- **all but one has been vaccinated**
- <https://rumble.com/vkba8x-update-from-sydney-all-new-covid-hospitalizations-involve-vaccinated-indivi.html>
- Do you remember warnings that the vaccine might cause anti-body enhancement that makes one more susceptible to bad outcomes if infected? This happened in previous corona virus vaccines in the animal studies. Is this happening in humans? Should we investigate?
- Should people be warned of the possibility and given liberty to decide whether they take the injection or not?

What is the ethical, truth-seeking, approach to these and many other problems that doctors are finding? Wouldn't it be to actively investigate, see if this is real, reproducible, documentable, or some artifact, something unrelated? Why isn't it being investigated? Why aren't people being told the potential risks? What does it mean that officials suppress such medical data and don't actively investigate it and instead attack those who present these concerns?

And why the hard push to force the injection on everyone right now? Is there a crisis? Are hospitals overwhelmed right now? 164 million Americans have been vaccinated, estimates of up to 100 million people have recovered from COVID—meaning together the vast majority of the population is protected. Why the push, the mandates, the coercion, even on people who have recovered and have documented antibodies?

Why the persistent slanted and fear magnifying media coverage—like telling people only how contagious the delta variant is over and over again, but always leaving out that it is much less virulent than the original virus—meaning mild disease and very little chance of a bad outcome.

I am not saying any of these concerns are proven, what I am demonstrating is that normal medical ethics and godly principles of investigation and truth-seeking are not being followed by the pro-vaccinators. Why?



Why did the director of the CDC get on national news and tell people that children are dying at a higher rate from COVID than from seasonal flu, when the CDCs own data, published on their website, is exactly the opposite, children die at a much higher rate from seasonal flu than from COVID. And the government has never recommended mask mandates for seasonal flu, or forced vaccination for seasonal flu, which is more lethal to children than COVID.

So, while I can't do primary research myself. I can spot the methods being employed by the pro-COVID vaccinators. And the method of the pro-vaccinators are not the methods of standard medical ethics, nor the methods of truth and liberty.

This is part of the Great Controversy, impacting our minds, setting us up for the great final deception.

Satan has no truth on his side, so he cannot appeal to evidence and truth. He must use other methods. Of course he uses lies. But more than just falsehood, he depends on the authority of office, position, proclamations, claims, declarations, and trust in someone else to tell you're the answer to get others to believe and follow without investigation or evidence.

In religion this manifests with ideas like "just believe" "have faith" "If you have faith you don't need evidence" "feelings are reliable and you can trust them" "the Bible said it I believe it that settles it" and "he's the pastor, priest, rabbi, mullah, or pope—who are you to question?"

In society today it is, "the CDC says, Dr. so and so says, the NIH says, the New England Journal says."

And this approach, appealing to the authority of office, is not creating a new lie, a new deception. Believing the experts is now the definition of "following the science." When many news outlets and politicians say follow the science or we follow the science, they don't mean actual scientific evidence, they mean expert opinion. And those who don't believe the so-called experts are called science deniers. Yesterday in *Psychiatric News*, which is a professional medical newspaper, there was an article entitled *Anti-Vaxxers and Water Witches: Mistrust of Science and the Limits of Reason*. The article stated the following about those who don't want the vaccine:



The common thread in these personal vignettes is, of course, a deep-seated denial of science and a mistrust of scientific *experts*—a word that is nowadays pronounced with a kind of dismissive hiss. Indeed, experts in epidemiology and infectious disease, such as Anthony Fauci, MD, are not merely doubted by a substantial proportion of the public—they are threatened with bodily harm for advocating vaccination against COVID-19. **It is easy to explain away such science denial** as the result of mistaken information and biased reasoning...

https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/view/anti-vaxxers-water-witches-mistrust-of-science-limits-of-reason?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=07302021_PT_BIO-21-PSD0303_eNL_BioXcel&eKey=dHJqNzc3QHlhaG9vLmNvbQ==

Don't accept the person in authority and you are a science denier.

But you can tell whether the person in authority is advancing truth or not, is a lover of truth or not, because if they are not on the side of truth they will use Satan's next method when anyone challenges them with evidence or presents truth that exposes their position as false.

They will seek to silence the voices of opposition—shout them down, label them heretic, fire them, retract their articles (not rebut the article with evidence-based scholastic evidence), cancel their engagements, de-platform them, imprison them and even kill them. This is what happened to God's Bible prophets, the Reformers and is what is happening today to any who seek to merely bring the truth to light.

If the vaccines are really safe and effective, asking questions and pursuing evidence will only confirm that. But the fact that these methods are employed by the pro-vaccinators suggests they have something to hide.

Satan also uses the methods inducement, bribes, payoffs, giving you some reward for doing wrong, but if you don't take the payoff then you are threatened with something painful. The classic *Godfather* approach, take the bribe or have your legs broken.



Satan used all these methods on Christ:

- He tempted Jesus by lying; presenting himself as an angel from heaven when he was not, and by misquoting Scripture to try and deceive
- He offered Jesus a bribe—all the kingdoms of the world
- He inspired the religious authorities to denounce him and allege His miracles were done by Satan's power—seeking to “deplatform” Him
- and ultimately he used coercion and threat, violence, at the crucifixion

God's methods are truth, presented in love, leaving free. These are the methods of God's people.

Listen to this historic quote—do you agree?

"Christ seldom attempted to prove that truth is truth. He illustrated truth in all its bearings, and then left His hearers free to accept or reject it, as they might choose. He did not force anyone to believe."
Evangelism, 171.1

Should we also practice this method? Only in religion or in all avenues of life?

What methods do you see being practiced by the proponents of the experimental injection?

- Do they want honest and open investigation of the evidence?
- Do they want to leave people free?
- Do they seek to censor people, to restrict information, to silence?
- Do they use incentives to bribe people to get the injection—gift cards, free meals, bonuses etc.?
- Do they use threats, lose your job, can't go to school, can't travel, can't shop, can't worship, can't visit family, lose your license, lose your business, arrest?

But, some will email me and protest. They will say the government simply wants to save lives. They will ask how can I be so insensitive, they will ask if I want to kill people!

But this is a false argument. Doctors who asked questions about Zyprexa or any other treatment, voicing concern that it may be causing harm are not



seeking to harm, but to protect their patients. My questions are not designed to kill people, just the opposite, my questions are designed to save people—and this includes saving people from both temporal illness and death, but even more importantly save them eternally, save their minds from being corrupted by destructive practices.

The methods being employed by the pro-vaccinators are not the methods of God. They are not actively pursuing the truth.

And to be clear, you can be pro-vaccine and still be godly, because you use godly methods to advance it. You present your understanding, rationale, and reasons in love but leave others free. You don't coerce or bribe others to do what you want them to do. The specific action isn't the primary concern; it is the methods. And I am warning against the prevailing mainstream culture, which is not grounded in the scientific method or the principles of the Bible. How many Christians are falling into this Satanic spirit—and are willing to practice beastly methods to get people injected?

I am neither for nor against the vaccine—you must make that decision for yourself. But I am for truth, love, and freedom, for applying the methods of God in every activity of life, including how we address the COVID crisis.

The methods being employed—notice again, I'm not saying the experimental injection itself; I'm saying the methods being employed—the deceit, authority, bribery, coercion, and threats to get people to take this treatment are beastly. **If you go along with these methods now and support them being used on others, you are embracing the methods of the beast and are actively preparing your mind to accept them again when the next issue comes along that is presented as necessary to save lives.**

Jesus does not work this way.

Only those who have developed the ability to discern, to think for themselves, to examine evidence, to practice God's methods, and have not surrendered their minds and thinking to others will be able to handle the final deception soon coming upon the world.



There is a well-known process to get good people to do evil. Psychologist Philip G. Zimbardo, PhD, describes the steps necessary in order to get good people to do evil. This comes from an article written back in 2004—long before COVID:

1. Provide people with an ideology to justify beliefs for actions.
 - We will die if we don't take this action
 - The only way to stay safe is to do this
 - We must do this to save lives
2. Make people take a small first step toward a harmful act with a minor, trivial action and then gradually increase those small actions.
 - Socially distance
 - Limit visits with friends and family
 - Wear masks
 - Stop going to church
 - Close businesses
 - Get an experimental injection
 - Punish people who won't get the injection
3. Make those in charge seem like a "just authority."
 - The CDC, Dr. Fauci, the NIH, health department are to be trusted, they are the just authority
4. Transform a once compassionate leader into a dictatorial figure.
 - Anyone, including your compassionate doctor, who doesn't want to get the injection wants to kill people
5. Provide people with vague and ever-changing rules.
 - Wear masks don't wear masks
 - Fully vaccinated don't need masks/fully vaccinated need masks
 - Vaccines are effective; being vaccinated doesn't prevent reinfection
6. Relabel the situation's actors and their actions to legitimize the ideology.
 - There are the vaccinated and the unvaccinated—the vaccinated are those who love others and want to protect life, the unvaccinated are selfish, don't care for others, and are willing to kill people
7. Provide people with social models of compliance.
 - Look if you get the shot you can travel, go to work, don't need to mask everywhere, can go out to eat, compliance makes life easier, you can keep others safe, you will be good and righteous
8. Allow dissent, but only if people continue to comply with orders.



- Of course you can voice your complaint as long as you get your shot and wear your mask
9. Make exiting the situation difficult.
- If you don't get your shot you can't travel, you can't go to college, you will lose your job, you will be a danger to others and thus you must be punished.
 - <https://www.apa.org/monitor/oct04/goodbad>

These steps are well documented to lead people to join groups that will do harm to others. Do we see these methods being employed today?

But that is not all. Have you heard of deindividuation? It is the process of a person losing their individual identity and surrendering their mind and actions to the group—it is part of the process that leads to mob mentality and groupthink. It is described by social psychologists in classic lynch mobs and genocide.

Social psychologists have researched factors that lead to deindividuation, the loss of identity. When this happens people feel less personal responsibility; they surrender responsibility to the group and are less compassionate, will exploit and hurt others more easily, will more readily break rules and act in anti-social ways. And what is one factor that has been demonstrated to consistently contribute to deindividuation? Anything that hides your identity—so online avatars lead to people more willing to verbally act in unkind ways online, to join online mobs to bully and hurt others.

But in person, anything that hides the face—so mirrored sunglasses lead to more willingness to hurt others, but wearing masks has an even bigger effect. This is why the KKK used masks, it is why antifa uses masks, it is also why mask wearing by the populace is counterproductive to good social order and leads to more conflict, breakdown of compassion, decrease in love and increased willingness to hurt others as well as increased anxiety and mental health problems.

Studies of groups find that when we identify with a group, dress similarly, march together, chant together, sing together, that physical and athletic performance is improved shortly after the group experience. This is why military units train



together, dress alike, march together, sing cadence together. They become a more effective force together than just a group of individuals.

However, when military units have to function in chemical or biological warfare zones where they have to wear masks, their effectiveness is severely compromised and the wearing of masks contributes to the highest level of psychiatric casualties.

Then why didn't KKK mobs or antifa mobs become ineffective when they wore masks? Because their mob became a group identity *without any significant opposition or threat*. Had an unmasked, organized and trained military unit shown up to combat any KKK or antifa mob you would see that group disintegrate and flee the field almost immediately.

This also goes to team sports, unified and cohesive they perform better, divided and fractured they fall apart. It goes to national resolve, the spirit of the nation.

What impact do you think it will have on children in schools for another year? Will they lose their sense of self, become more programmable, less capable of developing their own identity, more willing to surrender to the group? This is the overt and stated goal of those pushing woke policies—they want to break down individual identity and enhance group think.

The biblical, godly method is to present the truth in love and leave others free. We do NOT coerce, compel, force or seek to override a person's individuality. We seek to enhance and develop individuality and self-governance.

We are lovers of truth, we want to have truth, facts, evidences presented to correct us and lead us into ever-increasing reality based understandings of life. So we don't seek to silence dissenting voices, we are willing to engage in conversation with those who disagree with us. But those who either don't have truth, don't love truth, or don't have the ability to discuss the truth, instead will resist advancing truth and seek to silence dissenting voices.

Read memory text: "And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you" (Genesis 45:5 NIV84).



What does this text say to you?

Why was Joseph not angry with his brothers?

Did Joseph forgive his brothers?

When did Joseph forgive his brothers, before they arrived in Egypt or only after he tested them?

Was Joseph's testing of his brothers to determine whether Joseph would forgive them or not?

What was the purpose of the testing of the brothers?

Did Joseph hold any attitudes, beliefs, choices, that led or enabled him to forgive his brothers? What were those?

Did Joseph's belief and trust in God enable him to forgive?

Did Joseph's belief in God give him a worldview, a perspective on events that helped him let go of resentment, bitterness and hate?

Did believing in God and the promises made to Abraham, help Joseph embrace a larger purpose than just himself?

Did Joseph still see himself as part of Abraham's family, as part of the of Israel, as a member of the group that God had called to fulfill His purpose?

Does it make a difference in conflict resolution if we see the other side as being within the same group as us or whether we see them as outside of our group?

Does this impact us today as well? What happens if we stop seeing ourselves as part of the same group as others, but see others as outside our group?

Let's look at history:



- Protestants and Catholics—when they viewed each other as heretic, evil, apostate, as an enemy of God what was the result? When they see each other as fellow human beings and part of the Christian family how do they treat each other?
- Same question for Christians and Jews or Jews and Muslims?
- What about historic tribal divisions in Africa, in Europe, in the Americas?
- This is why a common enemy unites previous opponents—because the new common enemy puts the previous opponents into the same group.
- Group identity can form on many levels—tribe, race, language, religion, etc. Historic nation states formed along tribal, racial and language lines, with religion used by the leaders to control the people—the shamans, witch doctors, priests, popes etc. The USA was different, it was formed on a common set of values—a belief in a Creator who endowed all human beings with inalienable rights and the purpose of government was to restrain the abusive powers of the government, religion and aristocracies from violating individual liberties. Thus group identity was not on race, or religion, or tribe, but upon the principles of civil and religious liberty—one nation under God with liberty and justice for all—the group united on shared values!

I am reading a very interesting book recommended by one of our online listeners Dr. Terry Utt, entitled *The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure* by Greg Lukianoff, Jonathan Haidt.

- Lukianoff is a graduate of American University and Stanford Law School. He has described himself as a "pro-choice liberal" and an atheist.
- Jonathan Haidt is an American social psychologist, Professor of Ethical Leadership at New York University Stern School of Business, and author. His main areas of study are the psychology of morality and moral emotions.

I share their backgrounds because I want you all to understand, this is not political, these writers are not right-wing conservatives. What I teach in this class are God's design laws and methods, these are eternal truths that transcend denominations, nations, races, political parties.



In their book these two political liberals do an excellent job of describing three lies, they call them untruths, that are ravaging college campuses and society in general and have become dominant with the igen or generation Z, which is the group that began college in 2013. The three big lies or untruths are:

- What doesn't kill you makes you weaker
- Always trust your feelings
- Life is a battle between good people and evil people

They identify from ancient wisdom writings—Confucius, Buddha, Socrates, Plato etc. common truths that all the great sages agree upon and then demonstrate that the three core untruths popular and taught on campuses today are opposite ancient wisdom.

- What doesn't kill you makes you weaker
 - Truth—what doesn't kill you makes you stronger—the idea being that we only grow through challenges, through overcoming obstacles, through the painful and difficult experiences in life. This is an outworking of one of God's design laws—which one? The law of exertion. Can you think of a Bible text that supports this idea?
 - “we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character” (Ro 5:3–4 NIV84).
 - So accepting the lie has led to concepts of avoiding things that are difficult, trials, obstacles, emotionally upsetting things. We must be safe, we need safe spaces, places where our ideas won't be challenged, where our concepts won't be exposed as flawed, where words won't upset us. We must remove names from buildings, or statues, or books, we must change names of teams because these are insensitive and hurt us and it isn't safe to be in a society that would injure us in this way. And what happens to minds and characters when the lie is accepted? Destruction of minds and characters, people get weaker, they don't get stronger.



- Always trust your feelings
 - All the great sages have taught that emotions energize but are not to be trusted as emotions can lie. Can you think of a Bible text that supports this?
 - When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire” (Jas 1:13–14 NIV84).
 - When people accept this lie then if they feel hurt the other person has assaulted them. And anything that hurts is aggression, words are violence and it is okay to use physical violence to stop the speech of others because their words hurt us and are violence. Facts, evidences and truths don’t matter, only our feelings matter.
 - They create falsehoods like this: Words that offend cause stress; stress increases inflammatory factors in the body which causes physical harm; thus offending words are acts of violence. What is wrong with this thinking? Replace words causing stress with anything else—such as your boyfriend or girlfriend break up with you causes stress, stress causes physical harm, therefore a breakup is an act of violence. Or, making a poor grade on an exam causes stress, stress harms the body, therefore if a teacher gives a bad grade it is an act of violence against you. Or being held accountable for sin, being brought to conviction, this causes stress and stress harms the body therefore the Holy Spirit convicting of sin is an act of violence.
- Life is a battle between good people and evil people
 - Throughout human history the sages have described that there is a battle between good and evil occurring *in every human heart*. But the new view is there isn’t a battle between good and evil as principles, methods, motives of our hearts—there are only good and evil people. Thus, if someone disagrees with your view, challenges your beliefs and hurts your feelings, they are evil and evil must be destroyed.

They cite several studies on how humans divide into groups, and that it doesn’t matter how people get divided into groups, once they are divided into groups



they begin thinking of “us versus them” and they treat people in the “us” category better than the “them” category. Studies have demonstrated that it doesn’t matter if people are divided by a coin toss, or by guessing the number of dots on a page full of dots, once they are divided into groups, people that are not in their group are treated worse than those in their group.

Other research using fMRI scans evaluated brains of people who were watching videos of other people having their hands touched either by a Q-tip cotton swab or pricked by a needle. When the hand being pricked by the needle was labeled as belonging to a person who had the same religion as the one watching, the area of the watcher’s brain that handles pain showed larger spike of activity than when the hand being pricked was labeled as belonging to a person of another religion.

But what is interesting is that when groups were arbitrarily assigned, like by a coin toss, the same differences in response occurred in the brains of the watchers when a hand being pricked was from someone in other group.

I find the book quite compelling in its description of what has been happening in society the last 8 years or so. They do a good job of documenting the seeds for this going back to at least the 1960s and how its roots are in Marxist philosophy but shifting the focus from money to power. It creates two groups, the evil are those with power and the righteous are those without power.

And, in what is being taught in colleges today, power isn’t about actual power such as being in office, controlling assets, being wealthy or even being physically strong—no having power in this new philosophy is defined as being of the same identity as the historic powerholders—heterosexual, white male, which immediately equates with being evil. Being virtuous, or righteous is defined as having identity of the historic disenfranchised—specifically non-binary sexual orientation, black, and female.

It doesn’t matter whether you are a former black president of the United States living in a \$14 million dollar mansion in an exclusive neighborhood—you are disadvantaged and powerless and therefore righteous. And if you are a heterosexual white male, working as a day laborer living in a trailer and on Medicaid and food stamps to provide for your family, you are empowered, privileged and therefore evil.



This is the philosophy of BLM and CRT and it divides society and undermines the principles of Christianity. This is the exact opposite of what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. did.

Reverend King appealed to common-humanity principles in his appeal for change in society. He appealed to the great principles of Protestantism established in the Declaration of Independence in order to overcome racism and bring unity to society.

Dr. King appealed to shared morals and identities. He constantly referred to the family and its value. He called all human beings brothers and sisters, recognizing we are all members of God's family. He advanced the unifying principles of love and truth. He said:

- "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."
- "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
- "When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note...Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of the creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

Do you see how Dr. King, in seeking equality, did so by advancing the principles of Christianity, of the common values of children of God? Do you see that Dr. King recognized that the founding of the United States was based upon the principles of God and that they needed to be supported and advanced not denied and overturned?

What is happening in society today is an assault on truth, it is an assault on love, it is an assault on health, wellness, development, individuality. It is an assault on hearts and minds designed to divide and destroy.

Joseph had suffered real injustice at the hands of his brothers and Potiphar, but he remained true to God; he embraced God's principles; he practices God's law



of truth and love; he did not seek revenge; he remained part of the group, part of Abraham's descendants and sought to heal and reconcile with his brothers. Thus Joseph forgave his brothers.

If Joseph rejected God would he have been as likely to forgive?

Who was the primary beneficiary of Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers?

Who would have been the first person injured if Joseph had refused to forgive? And how would Joseph have been injured?

What about today? Are the lessons we are learning about injustice and forgiveness only applicable to ancient people, or do those same principles hold true today?

Christ divided people into two groups—the wheat and tares, sheep and goat, righteous and unrighteous—how is that different that the corruption we are seeing today?

Here is the difference:

Righteous

Uses methods of God
Are honest
Loves all people including enemies
Gives to help all humans
Divides based on character
Is healthy/lives in harmony with life
Uses power to heal and restrain
Leaves others free

Unrighteous

Uses methods of Satan
Are dishonest
Loves only those in one's group
Gives to self and one's group
Divides based on externals/race sex
Is unhealthy and causes death
Uses power to coerce, kill, harm
Takes freedom from others

SUNDAY

The lesson points out that Joseph had real power and could have taken revenge upon those who wronged him—why didn't he?



Would Joseph have been wrong to punish his brothers? Why or why not?

What would have happened in the heart and mind of Joseph had Joseph refused to forgive his brothers? What about had Joseph take the path “I will forgive once they have been punished appropriately” and then he inflicted some punishment upon them?

Does forgiving people mean we let them get away with abuse and exploitation?

The lesson rightly points out, “Practicing biblical principles in our relationships will not mean that we ever can or should accept abuse.” Why not?

If we accept abuse who gets injured? Everyone—we get injured, those who witness (like children in the home) get injured, and the abuser gets injured.

Who has the most serious injuries when abuse is inflicted?

- Who has the most serious injuries when Jesus was beaten and crucified—Jesus or those who abused Him?
- What about when Stephen was stoned, Stephen or those who stoned him?
- What about when we are mistreated?

Why is it that the abuser never gets away with it?

When we fail to understand the nature of sin—that it injures and damages the sinner, when we instead falsely think that sin is a legal problem, then we can falsely believe the sinner will get away with their abuse unless caught and punished. Some unload this to God holding out for the day when the future legal judgment happens and God punishes them as much as they deserve, but that view creates a barrier between the victim and God and prevents true healing of the heart of the victim. It leads to more intolerance and sets people up to pursue social justice through more human laws and human governments—i.e. joining with the beast of Revelation.

Read fourth paragraph, “We have all been bought through Jesus’ blood, and legally we are all His. Anyone who is abusive is attacking Jesus’ property.”



Does this comfort you?

How do you hear this idea? What is the implication? If Jesus didn't die for us, are we not His? We are only His because of the price He paid?

And what is that price? To whom is it paid? Why is a price necessary? Is it a legal price, the lesson seems to suggest it is, what kind of law is that?

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, "Joseph had forgiven..." This is an excellent insight.

When we are wronged by others, we have to decide, will we apply God's methods to our own lives in order to heal, or will we infect our hearts with lies, Satan's methods of hate, anger, revenge, bitterness and only get worse?

Read third paragraph "All communications..." Why didn't the brothers find rest, peace, more happiness, joy?

What if they asked Jesus to pay their legal sin-debt to the Father for selling Joseph into slavery—would they have peace then? Why or why not?

What happens to people who try to deal with their sins through legal means? Did the Pharisees in Jesus' day try to deal with their sins through legal means? And what happened to them?

Do you see how the legal penal model cheats people from salvation and obstructs healing of heart and mind?

What about the idea of "paralyzing fear of God's retribution"? What is this about?

- Is the problem with sin what God will do to you for it or what sin does to you?
- If God were simply to get some anger management classes and refuse to use His infinite power to exact retribution upon sinners—what would happen to unrepentant sinners? Would they live forever? Would they



have health and happiness? Is Satan right that sin doesn't harm, only God harms for sin?

Jesus said to Nicodemus that only those who are born again can see the kingdom of heaven. But, the Bible says that when Jesus returns that every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him—how is it that only the born again see the kingdom of heaven, but the unrepentant see Jesus coming in glory?

When Jesus comes again, some see a loving Savior, but others see a fearful punisher—and are terrified and beg the mountains to fall on them and hide them. Is what people see different because Jesus uses miraculous powers to present Himself differently to the two groups—or is what people see different because of their own minds, hearts, attitudes, characters, beliefs?

In other words, those who know Jesus for who He is rejoice and see a loving Savior, but those who have believed Satan's lies about God don't see the truth, the kingdom of God, which is the kingdom of love. What they see is an imperial dictator who makes up rules and punishes rule breakers and they fear retribution.

So what about retribution? What law lens do you see it through?

Upon the slothful servant the sentence was, "Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents." **Here, as in the reward of the faithful worker, is indicated not merely the reward at the final judgment but the gradual process of retribution in this life. As in the natural, so in the spiritual world: every power unused will weaken and decay. Activity is the law of life; idleness is death. [What law is being described? What kind of law is this? Is it design or imposed? And according to this author it is the same in the spiritual as the natural world. And she describes this reaping of destruction from violating God's design laws as retribution.]** "The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." 1 Corinthians 12:7. Employed to bless others, his gifts increase. **Shut up to self-serving they diminish, and are finally withdrawn.** He who refuses to impart that which he has received will at last find that he has nothing to give. **He is consenting to a process that surely dwarfs and finally destroys the faculties of the**



soul. COL 364.1 [What is destroying the soul? Is it an outside infliction or the natural result of sinfulness?]

Let none suppose that they can live a life of selfishness, and then, having served their own interests, enter into the joy of their Lord. In the joy of unselfish love they could not participate. **They would not be fitted for the heavenly courts.** [Why? What unfits them? Is it that they didn't get the right legal price applied to their account? Or is it they didn't have selfishness replaced with God's law of love in their hearts and minds?] They could not appreciate the pure atmosphere of love that pervades heaven. The voices of the angels and the music of their harps would not satisfy them. To their minds the science of heaven would be as an enigma. COL 364.2

And then consider this quote from *The Great Controversy*:

God has given to men a declaration of His character and of His method of dealing with sin. [which is what? In harmony with His character of love and methods as Creator, which means design law] "The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty." Exodus 34:6, 7. "All the wicked will He destroy." "The transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off." Psalm 145:20; 37:38. **The power and authority of the divine government will be employed to put down rebellion; yet all the manifestations of retributive justice will be perfectly consistent with the character of God as a merciful, long-suffering, benevolent being.** {GC 541.2} [What do you hear? Is this an infliction of external punishment, or the application of design law? What power, it says the power and authority of the divine government—what power do you think power like human governments or like the Creator God of love? Does you keep in mind while reading things like this other quotes like this one from *The Desire of Ages*: "God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. **Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love;** and the presentation of these principles is



the means to be used. **God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power.**" {DA 759.1} So what power? The power of love and truth! But how can love and truth punish? Keep reading...]

God does not force the will or judgment of any. He takes no pleasure in a slavish obedience. He desires that the creatures of His hands shall love Him because He is worthy of love. [Can God get this by threatening and then inflicting external punishment on people who would otherwise not reap it? No! Imperial/imposed law violates the law of liberty and coerces and forces and thus destroys love. He can only get this by leaving people free!] He would have them obey Him because they have an intelligent appreciation of His wisdom, justice, and benevolence. **And all who have a just conception of these qualities will love Him because they are drawn toward Him in admiration of His attributes.** [What does God want? Our love and trust—and how is that achieved? So, you see Satan's power of lies to get us to conceive of God as a being other than love, a dictator who inflicts pain and suffering, which undermines our ability to love and trust God. This is what penal substitution theology does.] {GC 541.3}

The principles of kindness, mercy, and love, taught and exemplified by our Saviour, are a transcript of the will and character of God. Christ declared that He taught nothing except that which He had received from His Father. **The principles of the divine government are in perfect harmony with the Saviour's precept, "Love your enemies."** [Wait, love your enemies is the principles upon which God executes justice and punishes sin? How does that work? Only by design law!] **God executes justice upon the wicked, for the good of the universe, and even for the good of those upon whom His judgments are visited.** [What does this mean? Executes justice—what is justice, doing what is right, and what is right? Is it right to give people the freedom to choose? Is it right to let people reap what they have chosen after repeated attempts to win them to love and trust? And when does God let them go to reap what they have chosen, when they are still healable/savable or when they have destroyed within themselves the faculties that respond to truth and love? And how is it good for the wicked for God to do this? Because, if God did not let the wicked go, did not let the wicked who are hardened in sin die, then God would create, by His power, a place of torment and God



would never do this. Thus, for mercy, for love, for the best for the wicked, He executes justice, the right thing for them and sets them free from Him the only source of life.] **He would make them happy if He could do so in accordance with the laws of His government and the justice of His character.** [What are the laws of His government? Design laws and you can't force people to love you, or enjoy goodness and purity] He surrounds them with the tokens of His love, He grants them a knowledge of His law, and follows them with the offers of His mercy; but they despise His love, make void His law, and reject His mercy. While constantly receiving His gifts, they dishonor the Giver; they hate God because they know that He abhors their sins. The Lord bears long with their perversity; **but the decisive hour will come at last, when their destiny is to be decided.** [decided by who? a judge in heaven or each person decides their own destiny?] **Will He then chain these rebels to His side? Will He force them to do His will?** {GC 541.4}

Those who have chosen Satan as their leader and have been controlled by his power are not prepared to enter the presence of God. [Why can't they enter God's presence? Is it because God doesn't want them there, God is angry and wrathful and hasn't had the price paid to Him for that unrepentant sinner? No, it is because of their condition!] Pride, deception, licentiousness, cruelty, have become **fixed in their characters.** [Fixed by who? How did it become fixed? What law caused it to become fixed?] Can they enter heaven to dwell forever with those whom they despised and hated on earth? **Truth will never be agreeable to a liar; meekness will not satisfy self-esteem and pride; purity is not acceptable to the corrupt; disinterested love does not appear attractive to the selfish.** What source of enjoyment could heaven offer to those who are wholly absorbed in earthly and selfish interests? {GC 542.1}

Could those whose lives have been spent in rebellion against God be suddenly transported to heaven and witness the high, the holy state of perfection that ever exists there,-- every soul filled with love, every countenance beaming with joy, enrapturing music in melodious strains rising in honor of God and the Lamb, and ceaseless **streams of light flowing** upon the redeemed from the face of Him who sitteth upon the throne,--[what does that light look like? From where does it come? Do you



integrate texts like these: “the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.” (Dan 7:9-10 NIV84) “for our ‘God is a consuming fire.’” (Heb 12:29 NIV84)? Is this fire harmful? Do the righteous get injured by it? Why not? What about the wicked, why do they experience pain in this fire? From where does the pain come, from the fire or from unremedied sin?] could those whose hearts are filled with hatred of God, of truth and holiness, mingle with the heavenly throng and join their songs of praise? **Could they endure the glory of God and the Lamb? No, no;** years of probation were granted them, that they might form characters for heaven; but they have never trained the mind to love purity; they have never learned the language of heaven, and now it is too late. **A life of rebellion against God has unfitted them for heaven. Its purity, holiness, and peace would be torture to them; the glory of God would be a consuming fire. They would long to flee from that holy place. They would welcome destruction,** that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. [What is being described? Do you integrate texts like “They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!” (Rev 6:16 NIV84)? What kind of law? What is the reason? Is God acting justly? He is executing justice?] **The destiny of the wicked is fixed by their own choice. Their exclusion from heaven is voluntary with themselves, and just and merciful on the part of God.** [Who decides the fate of the wicked? What does it mean voluntary with themselves? It is what they want, is it right and just on God’s part to grant them exclusion from heaven? What kind of law?] {GC 542.2}

Like the waters of the Flood the fires of the great day declare God's verdict that the wicked are incurable. [Why are they lost? Who made them incurable? Is this just on God’s part? Is it an infliction that their condition does not bring upon them?]{GC 543.1}



TUESDAY

The title is forgive and forget—what do you think about this?

Does forgiveness mean forgetting?

"I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more." Isa 43:25

"For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more." Heb 8:12

What do these texts mean? Is this talking about memory erasure or something else?

- Can our angels read our Bibles? Do they know about David's sin with Bathsheba? How can they if it has been forgotten in heaven?
- What about in the new heaven and Earth, will we know each other? Will we know our mothers and fathers and spouses and children?
 - So consider when David, Bathsheba and Uriah are talking and up walks Solomon and says "Hi Mom!" What happens then?
- Misunderstand the judgment –
 - Under imposed law the judgment is judicial and sin are bad deeds that we do and the record of the deeds must be erased and memory must be purged so no one knows because if people knew they wouldn't trust us, or wouldn't like us and we would live in fear and insecurity so the penal lie teaches that the texts mean memory erasure.
 - Under design law though we realize that the deeds are the symptoms of sinfulness in the heart and mind and that sin is erased from the character, selfishness is purged from the heart, evil is eradicated from the mind, but we all remember the history of how we suffered in our own lives from sin before Jesus healed us and we are thankful for this.
 - It is like having a child with cancer—while they are sick we must focus on the cancer and make all the interventions



- necessary to put the cancer into remission. But once they are well, permanently well, we don't have to think about the cancer any more. But do we forget the doctor who cured her?
- Mary Magdalene anoints Jesus feet
 - “those forgiven much love much”
 - Imagine being nominated to serve in children's department and someone says....
 - So how do we understand those texts about not remembering?
 - Analogy of child who fibbed coming home “here comes that little liar...”
 - One can safely “forget” ONLY when reconciliation has occurred

Consider this historic quote:

Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy has now been made plain. The results of rebellion, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, have been laid open to the view of all created intelligences. The working out of Satan's rule in contrast with the government of God has been presented to the whole universe. **Satan's own works have condemned him. God's wisdom, His justice, and His goodness stand fully vindicated.** It is seen that all His dealings in the great controversy have been conducted with respect to the eternal good of His people and the good of all the worlds that He has created. . . . **The history of sin will stand to all eternity as a witness** that with the existence of God's law is bound up the happiness of all the beings He has created. With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: "Just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." {Mar 346.2}

WEDNESDAY

The lesson asks us to read Luke 23:34:

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

And then asks what we learn about forgiveness from Jesus' example?



Did Jesus forgive them? Did He have authority to forgive sins? Did Jesus have to get some of His blood presented to Himself so He would forgive?

Does the Father need Jesus' blood presented to Him for the Father to forgive?

The lesson states in the bottom paragraph, "The Cross is the best example of what it cost God Himself to forgive us."

What are your thoughts about this?

If we define forgiveness as the entire process of restoring a sinner to eternal life and healing the heart and mind—then this is true—we learn what it cost God to heal and save.

But if we mean by forgiveness the typical definition of the word today, either personal pardon, not holding a grudge, not seeking revenge, or legal pardon, either way, then this is not true. The cross was not necessary for God to pardon and the sin problem wasn't legal in nature so didn't need a human law court legal ruling.

What the cross demonstrates is the what it cost God to as the Bible says:

- destroy him who holds the power of death that is the devil
- destroy death and bring life and immortality to light, and,
- destroy the devil's work.

In other words, the Cross reveals the high cost to God to cure the sin problem, heal sinners, defeat Satan and eradicate sin from the universe and none of this was legal in nature.

God gave His personal pardon or forgiveness without price, without payment, but that personal pardon did not restore sinners or cure the problem, only Christ's life as a human could do that.



THURSDAY

The lesson states, “While it may not always be wise to restore relationships, this does not mean that we cannot forgive.”

Does forgiveness mean restored trust? Why or why not?



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Vision for Come and Reason: We are now the owner of the property at 4922 La Collina Way, Collegedale, TN



This property is two stories with over 14,000 square feet. We will occupy the first floor a little over 7000 square feet. But before we move in we need to do renovations to prepare for our classes and ministry production. We will have a theater studio so we can record and broadcast programs with a live audience. We will have a kitchen so we can have regular potlucks. We plan on a children's room so parents with younger children can come to our class while the children have a children's program.

The next step in the process is to get contractors to give us an official bid for the renovation, choose a contractor and get the space renovated.



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

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!