



2021 3Q Rest In Christ: Lesson 11 Longing for More

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

We are living in perilous times and I have been inundated with emails and phone calls of all kinds since our last class, listeners, nurses, doctors who are under threat of losing their jobs if they don't comply with mandates. Others who express frustration at me for not just talking about the SS lesson and instead taking time to talk about COVID.

Friends—is it not the two antagonistic principles entering into every phase of human experience that EGW wrote about in *Education*? I want Jesus to come. I want people to be ready to meet Him. I want the final message of mercy to go to the world and this issue has the attention of every person on the planet and calls every person on the planet to decide what methods they will use in how they live and treat others. Has there been any other issue in our lifetime that reached a far and wide as this?

I received this email this week:

Dear Come and Reason Ministries:

If possible could you give some encouragement?

It seems during Sabbath Lesson Time, there is presentation of End Time Fear. Now that I am thinking Evil is more Powerful than God, that you don't really believe what you're saying as you are expanding your ministry, now that evil is to fall on us at any second. Before I am so fearful to come out of my home because the Government is about to come get me.

I realize Adventists have heard this end of the world stuff all their lives; and are used to it and mostly ignore it, and still go on living life; not all of us have the courage to just keep living life even now the End Is Near.

I do understand your need to get the end time message out, however if you could also offer, hope, also teaching God is more powerful than evil, that too is a message. God's word continually says: Fear Not. Do Not be afraid: I am with you until the end. We need to work on our relationship with God.

Because it doesn't matter if it is the end of the world or just the end of a human life; a relationship with God is most important.



Thank you for your recommendation—it is helpful and I will work on this. For many of us, when we see these events, we understand them in the context of the metaphor that Jesus used of a pregnant woman going into labor. When the labor pains begin most pregnant women and their families, even though they know it will be painful, also are excited and happy because they know that “delivery” is at hand. Thus, the hope is inherent in the pains that come because we know what the result is—delivery from sin and being taken to heaven in new immortal bodies to be with Jesus! But if a pregnant woman went into labor not realizing she was pregnant, then only fear and terror. So too, those who don’t understand the what is happening, the times in which we live and don’t have a saving relationship with Jesus will be very fearful.

Luke’s record of Jesus’s description of the end time events Jesus says, “When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Lk 21:28).

So, our hope is not in ourselves, our bank accounts, our church institutions, and our hope is not in our governments. Our hope is in Jesus Christ. He will never leave us or forsake us.

A couple of historic quotes that give encouragement:

In the hour of greatest need when discouragement overwhelms the soul, then it is that Jesus comes very near. The hour of man's necessity is God's opportunity. He sees our danger and provides help for us. Unseen by us, he saves us from the foe. RH April 18, 1907, par. 4

None need abandon themselves to discouragement and despair... There is hope for you in Christ. God does not bid us overcome in our own strength. **He asks us to come close to His side. Whatever difficulties we labor under, which weigh down soul and body, He waits to make us free.** MH 249

But as a means to spread the gospel, the good news, to bring the light of heaven to all people, Jesus needs people who trust Him and can lean upon Him for strength **in the face of trials**, difficulties and stresses. He necessarily allows events to unfold so that the people of God, who refuse to conform to the methods of the beast, the methods of imperialism, coercion, control, will give witness to truth, love and liberty. These witnesses will be called before counsels and leaders to say NO! to the coercion of their consciences and reveal a higher understanding of reality. We are living in that time in history and God is calling for His saints to stand up and lift up our heads, to keep our focus upon Him because He is drawing near to empower us to give the true witness about His design laws of truth, love and liberty so that the good news about Him will go to the world and Jesus will come soon!

SUNDAY

The lesson points us 1Corinthians 10:1-11, which recounts the children of Israel going through the Red Sea and their time in the wilderness:



“These things happened to them as **examples and were written down as warnings for us**, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! **No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.** (1 Co 10:11–13 NIV84).

Do you find hope in this passage?

Hebrews 13:3-5 encourages us with this words:

“God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’” (Heb 13:5–6 NIV84).

We are not abandoned, we are not cast off. But Satan is like a roaring lion, inciting fear to get us to choose to run away, to doubt, to let go of God. It is then, when the fear gets the most intense that we are to cling to Jesus, spend more time in prayer, more time in the Word, less time focused on the threats and more time focused on our Savior.

Remember Hezekiah when the Assyrian army surrounded Jerusalem—he had the singers sing praises to God and God delivered them. We must keep our eyes focused on Christ and praise the beauty of His character of love. This praise goes beyond song, though. We are to give this praise by glorifying God in our lives, by living out His methods in our character, this is the praise we are to give.

So Paul reminds us that ancient Israel is an example to us that God will not forsake us or allow temptations to be more than we can bear, but always provide a way for us if we trust Him!

Then Paul goes on to say the following in chapter 11:

If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. But if anyone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” **then do not eat it, both for the sake of the man who told you and for conscience’ sake—the other man’s conscience**, I mean, not yours. **For why should my freedom be judged by another’s conscience?** If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for? **So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.** (1 Co 10:27–31 NIV84).

What is being described here? Consider this—was Paul giving them an Old Testament Bible study or was Paul using the Old Testament to bring out God’s principles and truths that were to be applied to the problems they were dealing with in their day?

If Paul were transported by God through time and stood here among us today and was able to teach us—would he primarily do an Old Testament Bible study, telling us about how God dealt with things in the past, or would he be using those truths from history as examples to teach us how to apply God’s



methods and principles in our lives today? In other words, would he focus on the realities of our current situations and apply God's principles to them?

We are to live out God's principles in our lives—our first loyalty is to God, to present ourselves to God in the best condition, for the greatest usefulness in His cause, which means we live in harmony with His methods to maintain our greatest health.

We cannot win God's cause or fulfill God's purposes by practicing Satan's methods.

Paul is talking about foods offered to idols here. Saying that in his spiritual understanding an idol is nothing but inanimate stone, wood, or metal and can do nothing to the quality of the food and therefore, he can eat it without any problems. But, if he was with someone who *believed* in the idol and told him the food was offered to an idol and eating it would cause the other person to now believe Paul's health, wisdom, strength, vitality, energy, were coming from the blessings of the idol, that this would introduce falsehood into the mind of the other person and Paul, in good conscience, could not participate in colluding with this lie. So while the idol can do nothing to the quality of the food, **the belief in the idol** can do something to a person's mind and character.

For Paul this issue wasn't about the quality of the food itself, but the spiritual impact the belief about idols has on hearts and minds. That doesn't mean there are not fact-based discussions of nutrition and health to be had, it just wasn't the point of this Bible passage.

Paul is focused on a higher principle than physical nutrition—**whatever we do, wherever we do it, we do it to glorify God**. Each one of us must decide, under the dictates of our own consciences, what is best in how we govern ourselves and how we honor God with our lives. And we must leave others free to decide for themselves—persuade with evidence—absolutely, but we never compel others to comply with our beliefs.

In this case the focus was on food, but it was not about nutrition or physical health, it was about worship—pagan worship, allowing false ideas into the mind. Standing up for the truth about God in the context of eating—not allowing our food to introduce false beliefs that obstruct the gospel, is one action in governance of self that each person must decide for themselves..

Does this mean that Paul takes no position on the physical aspects of our health and the use of our bodies?

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship**. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed **by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Ro 12:1–2 NIV84).

Presenting our bodies to God is an act of worship and is connected with the renewing of our minds. Anything that undermines our physical health necessarily diminishes our ability to carry out the Lord's



duties. Physical illness also makes it harder to think, focus, and undermines resolve. So maintaining our physical health puts us in the best physical position to cooperate with God for the healing of our minds.

What does it mean to present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice? Does this have anything to do with the health message? Who is to decide for whom what someone puts in their body?

If you are an SDA leader who won't give a religious exemption to your parishioners who have a conscientious objection to getting the COVID vaccine—let me ask you this:

Would you give your members a religious exemption if they were required either by government or employer to do any of the following:

- Eat a piece of pork?
- Drink one glass of alcohol containing wine?
- Smoke one cigarette?

Now, of the following, which has the *potential* to do more harm to one's body, the spirit temple?

- Eating a piece of pork?
- Drinking one glass of wine?
- Smoking one cigarette?
- Or getting the COVID vaccine?

And if a person has a conscientious objection to each of them, what happens to their minds if they are coerced to do comply with an action that violates their conscience? Why would you support such an action?

Why would you give letter of conscientious objection for the first three that pose no risk of health harm at all, but you wouldn't for the one action that has the potential to kill them? Why wouldn't you support them in their decision as to which risks they want to take, how they honor God with their bodies? Why won't you stand by them as they decide what the Holy Spirit convicts them to do?

Certainly, someone will suggest it is because the first three actions impact only themselves, while the COVID vaccine is designed to benefit others. So even though the vaccine has risks, one might argue, that because it may benefit others it is righteous to compel compliance for the sake of stopping disease and benefiting others. Keep this in mind as we explore further this question—we will come back to it and expose that this reasoning is a trap of Satan.

Consider this historic quote from *The Desire of Ages*:

In matters of conscience the soul must be left untrammelled. No one is to control another's mind, to judge for another, or **to prescribe his duty. God gives to every soul freedom to think, and to follow his own convictions.** "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God." No one has a right to merge his own individuality in that of another. In all matters



where principle is involved, “let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.” Romans 14:12, 5. **In Christ's kingdom there is no lordly oppression, no compulsion of manner.** The angels of heaven do not come to the earth to rule, and to exact homage, but as messengers of mercy, to co-operate with men in uplifting humanity. DA 550.6

Class have you been confused with all the data around COVID? Let's be gracious to our church leaders, our community leaders, our local health officials, those who are willing to compel others. For the vast majority, I believe they really want to do what is right, and I am sure most are making the decisions they truly believe are the right or best, and many are confused by the debate and plethora of data. I know doctors who are confused by all of this so it is a virtual certainty that non-medical people—our church leaders will be confused. There are several reasons for all this confusion.

1. There is an **active misinformation campaign** going on; purposeful falsehoods have been put out by government agencies and professional medical outlets including peer review journals; active censoring of information is obstructing a free, honest and open debate which is critical for good decision making and for truth to be win the day. Suppression of evidence allows for lies, misunderstanding and confusion to persist. But, this alone would not be sufficient for the church leadership to be confused as they are. The misinformation campaign is occurring in conjunction with several other practices that the church should be protected from, but instead the church is complicit in promoting.
2. **Authority-based decision-making.** Too many people have practiced authority-based decision making—meaning they have learned to trust some person with a higher degree or education or training to tell them the answer, rather than developing by practice the ability to discern the right from the wrong (Heb 5:14).

Remember this historic quote—consider it in light of what is happening today:

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 [like COVID]** 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.** 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

This surrendering our thinking to some authority is a longstanding problem in religions. Jesus was criticized for not having been educated by the rabbis. Our ministry has been criticized by the penal/legal theologians because I don't have a degree in theology. The idea being, we must defer our thinking to the theologians to know what is theologically right or not. This is false. This type of thinking is part of Romanism, or popery, that a person in authority can decide what is right and make a mandate that others must adhere to. The principle of Protestantism is that we are the priesthood of believers, we have been given by God our own unique individualities, with minds capable of development and learning. We are to reason things out for ourselves and Paul explicitly states in Romans 14:5 that **every person is to be fully persuaded in their own mind**. We don't get persuaded by authoritarian claims and threats, but by convincing evidence. But when truth does not support the one in charge, they must resort to coercion.

But this reliance on expert opinion is exactly how medicine is working today and how COVID decisions are being made. The policies are based on expert opinions masquerading as science, not actual reproducible science that is persuasive. This is why they must use mandates and threats. Typically mandates and coercion is only needed when one doesn't have persuasive evidence—like the Dark Ages church, like those who teach a penal/legal model of salvation and like those who are mandating the COVID vaccines, the lockdowns, mandated masks—none of these positions are based on reliable reproducible evidence of long term safety or efficacy and thus they must rely on coercion and force.

3. Third reason is **selective evidence**. Historic problems in theology arise when people use proof texts, here a little and there a little, rather than integrating all the inspired record into a cohesive whole. Likewise, with the COVID situation much confusion exists because people will take one study, or one piece of data and make a policy or position on it without balancing it with the rest of the record and with godly principles and common sense. For instance, not counting the cost of injury to children to close schools and focusing only on avoiding children being infected with a disease that causes them essentially zero risk.
4. Fourth **forgetting principles because of focusing on facts**. If our church leaders would recognize and prioritize the principles of God, the design laws of God, truth, love and liberty, recognizing that God never compels, never coerces, but leaves people free to decide, then they would be protected from making decisions that violate conscience. But when they focus on medical facts only, they can be led to embrace methods contrary to God's methods to advance a good medical goal.



5. Fifth reason **failure to use the integrative evidence-based approach**. The fifth reason people are having problems in deciding what is right on the COVID issue, in addition to misinformation, trusting others to tell them what to think, using limited pieces of the evidence, and unprincipled decision-making, is that they have not embraced and integrated God's truths and principles from the inspired record to the COVID question.
- a. The Bible teaches us that truth is revealed in three threads harmonized—Scripture, Science and nature, and life's experiences
 - b. EGW wrote:
 - i. **The great storehouse of truth is the word of God—the written word, the book of nature, and the book of experience in God's dealing with human life.** {COL 125.2}
 - ii. Rightly understood, both the **revelations of science and the experiences of life are in harmony with the testimony of Scripture to the constant working of God in nature.** {Ed 130.3}
 - c. When we separate the three threads we have problems—science alone historically leads to godlessness, experience alone to mysticism or nihilism, and Scripture alone to a lot of bad theology and division in the body of Christ.
 - d. COVID has revealed a new problem when we use science divorced from Scripture—and that is we develop practices that are imbalanced, unethical, and coercive. In other words, if we use science without Scripture we can pursue a good goal by using Satan's methods and ultimately cause more harm. Here is wisdom the SDA church should be advancing, but it is not:
 - i. **“The truth for this time** embraces the whole gospel. **Rightly presented,** it will work in man the very changes that will make evident the power of God's grace upon the heart. **It will do a complete work and develop a complete man. Then let no line be drawn between the genuine medical missionary work and the gospel ministry. Let these two blend** in giving the invitation, “Come, for all things are now ready.” **Let them be joined in an inseparable union, even as the arm is joined to the body.** Counsels on Health 516
 - e. The SDA message was to be a message built on design law that integrates the reality of our total person, physical, mental, spiritual all aspects operating upon design laws and only in harmony with God and His methods is life and health found. Instead, the church rejected design law at the 1888 GC and embraced the imposed law lie and not only has taught a fraudulent legal salvation in which God is the source of inflicted death who must be paid the blood of a sinless human sacrifice not to kill us, but has also divorced the gospel from the medical work. Because of the law of worship—we become like the God we worship—when an authoritarian god, who imposes laws and imposes punishments for law-breaking is worshipped, people become more authoritarian. Thus, it is not surprising that many SDA leaders think it is righteous to use authoritarian measures on others—mandates, coercion—as long as it is for a good cause—like saving lives.

Thus, the church, in addition to teaching a fraudulent legal plan of salvation rather than the healing reality that restores people to godlikeness, is vulnerable to being



coopted by false-medicine and false-science and practicing the methods of the world upon its employees, students and members as leadership joins with the systems of the world to coerce consciences of people and advance **practices that are not needed by the vast majority of those who honor God with their entire beings.**

I am going to unpack for you the integrative evidence of protection and health benefits that the SDA church has been blessed with and could be taking to the world but isn't, and demonstrate how in rejecting these principles and joining with the governments to enforce mandates they are not only injuring their own characters but advancing the kingdom of God's enemy.

God has put it in our power to obtain a knowledge of the laws of life. This knowledge has been placed within our reach for use. We should employ every facility for the restoration of health, taking every advantage possible, **working in harmony with natural laws.** Counsels to the Church 306

You are all familiar with the 8 natural remedies:

What does science reveal regarding the natural remedies in relation to COVID and prevention of hospitalization and death?

- [Plant-based or Pescatarian diet reduces hospitalization by 73%](#)
- Sunshine raises vitamin D levels and [vitamin D levels between 50-100 reduce COVID infections by 80%](#)
- Fresh air—even the governments [EPA website states](#): “Ensuring proper ventilation with outside air can help reduce indoor airborne contaminants, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and other viruses. However, by itself, increasing ventilation is not enough to protect people from exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.”
 - One [doctor estimates](#) that fresh air reduces transmission of COVID 70-80%
- Temperance—avoiding harmful substances—like alcohol, which the government deemed an essential business during lockdowns.
 - Even the [WHO states](#) “Alcohol has a deleterious effect on your immune system and will not stimulate immunity and virus resistance.”
 - In a comprehensive article entitle “[COVID-19 pandemic and alcohol consumption: Impacts and interconnections](#)” researcher write: “In recent years, conclusive evidence has been gathered that alcohol increases the risk of infectious diseases, especially HIV infection, tuberculosis, pneumonia with germs resistant to treatment and difficult to eradicate... The association between bacterial and viral lung infections and ethanol dependence is supported by multiple pathophysiological mechanisms:

- reducing the number of T lymphocytes - by preventing proliferation and by altering cell turnover;



- favoring a pro-inflammatory status through an increased level of proinflammatory cytokines, such as tumor necrosis factor alfa (TNF α) and interleukins 1 and 6 (IL-1, IL-6);
 - decreases the function and number of NK (Natural Killers) cells responsible for removing infected or malignant cells;
 - disturbance of macrophage functions in the lung alveoli;
 - damage to the respiratory ciliated cells which plays an essential role in filtering pathogenic microorganisms.
- [Other research](#) documents that acute alcohol consumption impairs lymphocyte response for the next 24 hours after consumption.

Now, what is the risk of harm from eating a plant-based or pescatarian diet, getting consistent fresh air, sunshine to keep your vitamin D levels up and avoiding alcohol? ZERO risk of harm and several of these factors alone reduce risk of infection, hospitalization and death by more than the vaccines—who knows the benefit of doing them all, I couldn't find this measured.

What is the benefit of the vaccine? Pfizer reduces risk of COVID, hospitalization and death by around 42% and Moderna and Johnson/Johnson by around 67%. But these benefits of the vaccines are waning with every mutation. And what are the long-term health risks of the vaccines? Unknown, but there are short term health risks from these that are well documented.

So here we have lifestyle measures that studies indicate have greater protection than the vaccines while the vaccines add risks that the lifestyle measures do not. Why is the church silent on this? Consider the opportunity the church has if it were to advance the principles of God at this time?

But this research focuses only on the physiological benefits. As Christians, we are interested in more than just the body, we are interested in the soul the spirit, eternal life, restoring people to unity to God. Thus, we are interested in the methods practiced and the character one develops.

I have provided the links to the documents demonstrating the efficacy in the natural remedies in preventing COVID transmission, hospitalizations and death. Let's assume for a moment that all if this is verified and all agree such actions do provide these benefits—why then are we NOT advocating for governmental or employer mandates that require:

- every person to eat a plant-based or pescatarian diet?
- raising health insurance premiums on all who do not have their vegetarian diet passport?
- ban on all alcohol products until COVID is resolved?
- all people must open their windows and ventilate every building 3 times per day
- all people must walk outdoors in the sunshine 15 minutes a day and get vitamin D levels checked and levels up to 50-100 range?



Would you support mandating these behaviors because we could save lives if we did? Why not? And these intervention have no risks associated with them.

Then why are Christians supporting vaccine mandates that have less benefit than the natural remedies and carry more risk and more cost? **Again, this isn't about the vaccines—it is about the methods.**

I received another email this week.

Dear Dr. Jennings: I am so thankful for your ministry and have become increasingly distressed over the increasing mandates and loss of our liberties since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020. I am a Public Health Nurse in my 49th year of nursing practice, but I have known since day 1 of this pandemic that we were being indoctrinated with lies, misinformation, and distortions over a virus with a 99% or greater recovery rate. I realized very quickly that this is not about public health, but instead is a real-life battle between good and evil over hearts and minds. Sadly, many have decided that the government knows best and have given up their freedoms to breathe clean fresh air, spend time with friends and family, and have control of their own bodily autonomy.

I retired from CA State service as a Nurse Consultant in 2013. I then decided to go to work for Placer County as a Public Health Nurse on a part-time basis. When Covid hit, all public health nurses were mandated away from their regular jobs to do case investigations and contact tracing for Covid + patients. I did this probably a month when I came to realize that what I was doing by locking down people in quarantine or isolation was pure evil. I told my boss I was going to stay home unless they had a need for me to do my regular duties in California Children's Services (CCS). Of course they called me back right away and told me that I wouldn't have to do Covid duties any longer, and to please come back to my regular CCS job. So I did, and I continued to watch them abuse full-time PHNs mandating them to do full-time case investigations, and Covid testing in facilities, hotels, homes, and testing sites, in addition to their regular duties. I kept waiting for the restrictions to ease, but they only ramped up. Some people worked from home, but when they came to the office, it was staggered so there were fewer workers on site. Masking was mandated while indoors, and if people shared an office, they were split apart, sometimes at great distance from others in their own program. I finally quit this job in Jan, 2021 when they put me on quarantine, saying I had been exposed to a person who had tested + for Covid.

The insanity at _____ SDA Church, as you can imagine, has been to close the doors for many months since the beginning of the pandemic, then open with masks and social distancing, along with temperature checks at the door, then close doors and hold services in a tent outside this summer with masks and distancing, to now open church with mask mandates that will probably never end. This, I understand, is coming from the Northern CA Conference, who will not deviate from government mandates. I have been attending a Sunday Church in Rocklin for nearly a year now, as they were the only church in the area to open their doors since Spring of 2020, in defiance of the governor's mandate to stay closed. I will never return to the SDA Church where I have been a member for nearly 50 years. I didn't leave my church. My church



left me. Now Adventist Health is mandating the Covid-19 Vax for all of their healthcare workers. Some of their staff had a protest in front of Rideout Adventist Hospital in Marysville on Aug. 13, so my son-in-law, Abel and I joined them.

I really appreciated your last Sabbath School Lesson on Sabbath Rest, along with your blog on loss of the independent physician. I fully agree with you and I cannot understand Adventists, or anyone else who is willing to wear masks, take experimental vaccines, or be subject to any other government mandates, because compliance means giving up your God-given freedoms. We know the persecution will continue and prophesy is being fulfilled. I look forward to your SS lessons each week, as I need that support, assurance, and the truths and guidance applicable to these challenging times we live in.

May God continue to bless you and your ministry.

This is an email from Australia:

*Dear Dr Tim, staff and Bible class members
Thank you so much for your incredible ministry.*

We have been following you for about 3 or 4 years and we love your Bible study class , Dr Tim and its members. Previously I've written to you saying this class 'feels like home'. You don't dodge the elephants in the room so to speak.

Dr Tim thank you for speaking out about the vaccine. We pray for your protection daily.

I have just learnt that vaccination will be mandatory for all teachers come October. I have been ill with Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (CIRS) and Lyme but was hoping to return to high school teaching in some capacity as I love teaching and the comradery/community. So I am very saddened and concerned. Both Covid and the vaccines have made people with these diseases very sick.

One of our friends just resigned from his nursing job after ten years of faithful service because of mandatory vaccination. He is no longer able to provide an income for his young family.

*This is happening around the world in many places. Could you guys please pray we would stand strong in Jesus strength, and in His endurance and His faithfulness. Lord have mercy
Thank you and God bless you all xxx*

How many of you heard that the government approved with full approval the Pfizer COVID vaccine this week? How many believe this is true and if you get the Pfizer vaccine you are now getting an FDA fully approved vaccine and no longer an experimental injection?

On August 26, 2021 the President of Loma Linda University, whom I have great respect for and whom I view as a very godly man seeking to promote healthy principles, put out a public letter advocating for



the COVID vaccines in which he wrote that the “Pfizer’s vaccine is now approved by the FDA for general use.” This statement reveals why we must not let others do our thinking for us. Many of us would hold great confidence in the recommendations of the president of such a prestigious institution and who has impeccable medical and public health degrees. Yet, our decisions are only as good as the information upon which they are based. And by writing this statement, he reveals he is basing his opinion on misinformation. If we have misinformation, then even with good motives and intentions we can make unhealthy decisions.

I had a patient call me Wednesday because her GI doctor told her that now that the FDA has fully approved the Pfizer vaccine she needs to get it. But it is a big con, a fraud, a deception, a trick purposely crafted to make it appear that the Pfizer injection available in the USA is approved when **you will still be getting an experimental injection**. Let me explain and then I will read from the FDA documents themselves.

- The FDA issued an approval to Pfizer’s subsidiary’s BioNTech’s product branded *Comirnaty*.
- The original Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine that received emergency use authorization had its emergency use authorization extended or continued.
- The approved product *Comirnaty* was approved without any new studies, but relied on the same studies as the EUA injection.
- Further, with all previous vaccines, the process to get full approval the FDA required an external advisory committee to review all the data, risks, benefits and confirm the FDA’s position that the product was safe, effective, and with reasonable risks. In this case, the FDA decided that because there were no concerns about risks with the experimental injections there would be no need for an external advisory committee review, so they waived it.
- There were no efficacy studies of the approved product against the delta variant.
- But most egregious of all, the FDA made a slight of hand ruling, stating that the approved vaccine **can be used interchangeably** with the original experimental emergency use Pfizer product.

So, they approve a product with no new data by bypassing the normal external advisory review and no testing against delta. Fully approved vaccines, by US law, can be mandated. And fully approved vaccines have certain liability protections for the consumer. Meaning if you get the approved vaccine and are injured you can sue and have access to the vaccine compensation funds.

Now comes the evil part, the deceit, the trick, the purposeful crafted manipulation to exploit you and protect the big pharmaceutical corporations.

This approved product *Comirnaty* is not available in the US, so the FDA—here comes the slight of hand watch for it—wrote an internal note that the approved version and the emergency use version can be used interchangeably, **but with different legal status**. Meaning, with the FDA approval of the new product employers can now mandate you to take the vaccine because it has been approved, but because it isn’t available they can substitute the unapproved experimental UEA version. And if you take the EUA version and have a bad outcome you cannot sue, you cannot file worker’s comp, you



cannot get reimbursed for damages. You take all the risks with no liability for the manufacturer, the government, the employer, the doctor, the pharmacy etc.

Here is the FDA language:

The licensed vaccine has the same formulation as the EUA-authorized vaccine and the products can be used interchangeably to provide the vaccination series without presenting any safety or effectiveness concerns. The products are legally distinct with certain differences that do not impact safety or effectiveness.

<https://www.fda.gov/media/150386/download>

This adds a new level of evil—not just mandating someone take a medical treatment for a condition they don't have, but deceiving them into believing the treatment has been approved, is proven safe, has minimal risk, and that they have some liability protection while actually giving them something that hasn't been approved, which isn't proven safe, and for which the company has no liability. This ruling allows for the legal forcing of people to take risks with no liability upon the manufacturer who is making billions of dollars or those who require it as part of employment.

Is Adventist Health Systems going along with this? It appears, from the information I have at this time, that they are—this is evil. And SDA leaders should know better, and would know better had they embraced the integrative evidenced-based approach which requires harmonizing science with Scripture and living out God's principles in how we live our lives.

God never coerces the conscience and as a people we need to stand up at this time in history for the kingdom of truth, love and liberty.

But even if you get the product that has received the FDA full approval, is it reliable? Can we trust it to be safe?

In a study published in the JAMA entitled [Postmarket Safety Events Among Novel Therapeutics Approved by the US Food and Drug Administration Between 2001 and 2010](#) researchers found

- 222 novel therapeutics were approved, and there were 123 postmarket safety events involving 71 products that required FDA action.
- Manufacturers needed to add 61 black box warnings to call attention to serious or life-threatening risks.
- Three products were withdrawn from the market.
- Drugs used to treat mental illness and drugs that **went through an accelerated approval process** had a higher number of “events,” the study found.

Another historic deception that Satan has used throughout human history is the idea of exchanging eternal life for temporal life.



- Daniel, the three worthies, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Jesus, the Apostles, the martyrs through history all had their temporal lives threatened—they could save their temporal lives if they gave up their eternal lives.
- In the Dark Ages this was also practiced, but consider, who was giving up their eternal lives—Jerome, Huss, Tyndale—who died as martyrs or those who killed them?
 - And from the perspective of the persecutors, why did they do it?
 - Were the persecutor’s mindset—“We know we are evil. We know we are wrong. We know we are on Satan’s side and we need to kill the righteous and lose our eternal souls”?
 - No, they thought they were doing right—and what were they thinking they were trying to do? Save lives, save people from apostasy, heresy etc.
- And today, we have this same theme—people are willing to use Satan’s methods of deceit, coercion, threat, control, in order to save temporal lives from COVID, **but in using these methods many are throwing away their eternal lives!**

These are real spiritual issues. Satan is seeking to deceive, if possible, the very elect. Only those who have developed by practice the ability to discern for themselves, who have internalized God’s design laws into their hearts, who integrate, as far as possible, all the evidences and truths God has provided and who trust God will be able to resist the deceptions being practiced.

So what are the spiritual elements at war during the COVID pandemic:

- Truth versus lies (it isn’t about COVID it is about the methods. If we lie in one place we develop the character of a liar. If we don’t reason, don’t think, don’t discern but trust others to tell us we atrophy or God-given individuality. Thus as EGW said in *Education* the two antagonistic principles enter every phase of human existence.)—and multitude of lies have been told here are a few:
 - The virus was a natural wild virus that mutated on its own
 - There was no gain of function research
 - It did not come from a lab in Wuhan
 - Dr. Fauci and the NIH was not involved with the gain of function research funding
 - Mask wearing diminishes viral transmission
 - Mask wearing decreases your risk of hospitalization and death
 - There are no effective therapeutics or treatments
 - The vaccines are proven safe
 - COVID is a virulent disease
 - Saving lives is the most important factor in decision making
 - Six feet of distance must be maintained to avoid transmission
 - Ivermectin doesn’t work and is dangerous
 - [Metanalysis of 15 studies](#) revealed evidence of an 86% reduction in COVID infection
 - FDA came out this week [warning against Ivermectin](#)—why? Because people were using veterinary doses and taking higher than human dosages and having side effects—thus they warn against using it for COVID, not because human meds at human doses don’t work, but because veterinary doses cause side



- effects. And why are people taking animal products? Because the FDA and its mindless minions obstruct people from getting safe human formulated dosages.
- Hydroxychloroquine doesn't work and is dangerous
 - Two studies were published earlier in Lancet and NEJM that claimed this were dangerous, both studies later retracted because the information was fabricated.
 - Hundreds of peer review studies show it is effective in early treatment of COVID
 - You should not treat it until you get short of breath
 - Vaccines provide the best protection against COVID 19
 - We, the government, want to stop the spread of COVID 19—that is why we open the southern border bring in over 200,000 illegal aliens tens of thousands infected, actively ship them around the country to communities without permission or notice.
 - We, the government, want to stop COVID but we don't put out any early treatment protocols that are published in peer review journals as universal guidelines.
 - The vaccines don't cause deaths in anyone
 - Heightening fear by distorting the data—New COVID cases are presented without the high recovery rates to create a false sense of terror
 - Deaths are not age stratified—for instance, have you been getting messaging that your children are at risk from this because of all the positive cases? There are 72 million people under age 20 in the USA and how many have died from COVID? Somewhere around 260—this is not a pandemic of the young. Your children are not in danger of a virulent disease.
 - Declarations/proclamations/claims versus evidence
 - Coercion versus liberty
 - censoring versus freedom of speech and expression
 - Accusation on reputation rather than addressing the evidence
 - Greed/mammon/money—don't discount the impact of greed and money
 - The same people who funded the gain of function research are many of the ones who developed the vaccine technology, are many hold the patents or stock in the vaccine companies, and are the ones who are making billions on the vaccines and are the ones who are obstructing any evidence that would undermine the need for the vaccines.
 - Satan's government—authoritarianism over versus leaving people free to decide for themselves
 - Fear versus love

Finally on this question there is the risk/benefit analysis. Just consider how your decision-making has been impacted by the false-narratives, the censored and highly biased media propaganda campaign that has conditioned you to believe that we must, in order to save lives, shut down schools, mask kids, mask adults, shut down business, shut down churches, force an experimental vaccine upon people and more.

Why, if you think any of this is reasonable, is the justification for doing it—to save lives right?



Then would you support, on the same principle of the necessity to save lives—but with even more certainty than all these COVID interventions, mandates for the following:

- Universal governors on all vehicles, except emergency vehicles, that will restrict speed to 25 mph? Why not? We would with 100% certainty save millions of lives worldwide every year from dying in auto-accidents if we did this? If you are unwilling to do this does that mean you don't love your neighbor? That you are callous and a sociopath who wants to kill people?
- Ban all fast-food restaurants, sodas and tobacco products—and mandate plant-based or pescatarian diet? We know with 100% certainty that if we did this we would save millions of lives, and reduce all kinds of chronic diseases and improve quality of life and health. If you don't want to do this does that mean you don't love others and want to see more death? Why would you be unwilling to mandate this knowing it would save lives? And we would also do something else with this action, what? We would seriously reduce the need for billions of dollars of pharmaceuticals to be sold every year to treat chronic conditions. Have you ever considered that there are people in our society that don't want true health, they want chronic sickness that they can treat with a pill or annual injection that will make them billions? [A news report](#) just announced that the government is going to approve the third injection at 6 months rather than 8 months.

Do you realize how your normal lifelong skill of assessing risks and benefits, the cost of an intervention has been undermined by the media and false-narratives—this is a spiritual war going on, seeking through fear to get you to surrender your mind to some external authority and to employ Satanic methods of coercion upon others to force them to do something against their conscience.

God's people do NOT use Satan's methods to advance His kingdom. We are to come out of Babylon and stand apart.

The lesson also asks us to read Hebrews 8:5:

They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” NIV84

Is a copy, shadow, pattern—the reality?

If you see the blueprints to a building, is that a copy, shadow or pattern? Is that the same as the building?

Can God use symbols, metaphors, similes, parables, types to teach more than one thing at a time? Can there be multiple truths woven together in the same symbol or type?

Think about the Come and Reason Logo—the symbol of our ministry. It represents our ministry but within the symbol there are different things represented:

- The ministry as a whole
- The Bible as our foundation



- The heart and mind
- The C and R that form the heart/mind as we come and reason together from God's word a flame comes forth, the Holy Spirit that enlighten and empowers
- But the flame also represents our witness, our lives that shine forth in the darkness, we are lights to lighten the world

Does God's little theater teach multiple truths and have multiple threads that are simultaneously true and woven together?

The Sanctuary symbolism, the little theater teaches at least the following:

- Jesus Christ—destroy this temple and in three days He will raise it again. The entire structure teaches us about Jesus:
 - Jesus is the sacrificial lamb
 - Jesus is the High Priest
 - Jesus is the Lamp—the light that lightens the world
 - Jesus is the showbread, the bread of heaven the truth of God that we internalize
 - Jesus is the wine—the perfect character of love that we ingest
 - Jesus sinless life is the blood carried in the vessels that brings life to us and cleanses from sin
 - Jesus is the fragrance of God the incense
 - Jesus is the pure gold
 - Jesus' righteousness is the pure white robes
 - Jesus is the way through the veil to atonement with God
 - Jesus is the lid to the ark that reconciles and restores the universe to unity or oneness thus Jesus is the at-one-ment
- The plan of salvation
 - Human beings are apart from God spread throughout the four corners in the world represented by the tribes of Israel
 - God's people, represented by the Levites, are witnesses, and go out to bring the people into the body of Christ, the church, or in the metaphor to the temple
 - The brazen altar represents the unconverted hearts that receive Christ, the sin offering sacrificed upon it and the blood poured out at the base
 - The golden altar represents the converted heart—it is in the holy place, representing the church with the lampstand, the word of God and Christ the living Word, and the Showbread and wine. The heart of the converted prays to God and incense burned on the golden altar.
 - The ark in the most holy place represents the universe reconciled to God again—the Shekinah represents the Father, the angels the angelic heavenly host, the box represents the saved sinners who are covered in gold, the righteousness of Christ and who have partaken the manna—the word of God the truth, and been won to trust and opened their heart and had the living law of God written upon their hearts (represented by the 10 Commandments), and though they were dead in trespass and sin they came to live and bore the fruits of righteousness (represented by Aaron's rod that budded).



- Our own hearts and minds, our bodies our Spirit Temples
 - Jesus said that unless we eat his flesh and drink His blood we have non part with Him. The flesh of the sacrificial animal represents the words of truth, which are also represented by the unleavened bread. We are to ingest the truth, lies are dispelled, as flesh or bread taken into the body become building blocks to our physical bodies, so truths taken into the mind become building blocks to our beliefs, schemas, worldviews and wins us to trust. In trust we open the heart and God pours His love into our hearts, we receive the life of Christ, the character of Christ represented by the blood. And it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me.
- The Corporate temple, the church and body of Christ
 - Each of us are living stones built together into a house for the Lord, thus the temple also teaches God's plan for the heavenly sanctuary, built out of living beings who have been fitted for heaven.

Here are some historic quotes to consider:

The first tabernacle, built according to God's directions, was indeed blessed of Him. The people thus were preparing themselves to worship in the temple not made with hands--a temple in the heavens. The stones of the Temple built by Solomon were all prepared at the quarry and then brought to the Temple site. They came together without the sound of ax or hammer. The timbers were also fitted in the forest. The furniture was likewise brought to this house all prepared for use. {3MR 231.3}

Even so, the mighty cleaver of truth has **taken out a people from the quarry of the world and is fitting this people, who profess to be the children of God, for a place in His heavenly temple.** We want the cleaver of truth to do its work for us. **We are taken from the quarry of the world. The material must not be a dead substance but living souls, and these souls must be brought out of the quarry of the world, where the hand of God can fit them for the temple in heaven.** We are here as probationers, and we must pass under the hand of God. All rough edges and rough surfaces must be removed and **we must be stones fitted for the building.** We are brought into church capacity with defects of character, but we must not retain them. **We must be fitted and squared for the building. We must be "laborers together with God," for we are "God's husbandry," we are "God's building."** In view of this we must see that our temple is not defiled with sin. We should be lively stones, not dead ones, but live ones that will reflect the image of Christ. We must be worshipers in spirit and in truth. {3MR 231.4}

This world is God's workshop, and **every stone [every person] that can be used in the heavenly temple must be hewed and polished until it is a tried and precious stone, fitted for its place in the Lord's building.** But if we refuse to be trained and disciplined, we shall be as stones that will not be hewed and polished, and that are cast aside at last as useless. – {ML 268.3}



It may be that much work needs to be done ... , **that you are a rough stone**, which must be squared and polished before it can fill a place in God's temple. You need not be surprised if with hammer and chisel **God cuts away the sharp corners of your character** until you are prepared to fill the place He has for you. No human being can accomplish this work. Only by God can it be done. And be assured that **He will not strike one useless blow. His every blow is struck in love, for your eternal happiness.** He knows your infirmities and works to restore, not to destroy. – {ML 268.4}

A character polished after the similitude of a palace ... may shine in the courts of the Lord forever. – {ML 268.5}

The trials of life are God's workmen, **to remove the impurities and roughness from our character.** [cleansing of the sanctuary] Their hewing, squaring, and chiseling, their burnishing and polishing, is a painful process; it is hard to be pressed down to the grinding wheel. **But the stone is brought forth prepared to fill its place in the heavenly temple.** Upon no useless material does the Master bestow such careful, thorough work. Only His precious stones are polished after the similitude of a palace." {MB 10.3}

Paul and the other apostles, and all the righteous who have lived since then, have acted their part in the building of the temple. **But the structure is not yet complete. We who are living in this age have a work to do, a part to act. We are to bring to the foundation material that will stand the test of fire—gold, silver, and precious stones, “polished after the similitude of a palace” (Psalm 144:12).** To those who thus build for God, Paul speaks words of encouragement... : “If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.” ... **The Christian who faithfully presents the word of life, leading men and women into the way of holiness and peace, is bringing to the foundation material that will endure, and in the kingdom of God He will be honored as a wise builder.**—The Acts of the Apostles, 598, 599.

Are the events right now happening in the world placing people in situations where they have to decide what methods they will employ in how they treat others? Will this impact their character development?

MONDAY

The lesson points to the importance of the shed blood of the sacrificial animal and asks what was its importance and that it was necessary for our atonement.

What do we understand this to mean?

What law lens do we read this through?



If imposed law then sin is a legal problem and justice requires inflicted punishment and thus someone has to die the death penalty inflicted by the ruling magistrate. Jesus didn't do any sin that would legally require Him to die, so He could be our substitute and have our sins applied to His account and God could punish Him in our place and thus at the Cross God killed Jesus for our sins and the blood represents that legal payment that we can claim to our account and if we do God declares us to be righteous even though we are not.

Do you see the lie after lie after lie in this view? Can you name some of them?

- sin is a legal problem
- God's law functions like human law
- sin requires punishment
- sin can be transferred from one person to another
- it is righteous and just to punish an innocent for the crimes of the guilty
- sin doesn't actually harm God harms you for it
- God is the source of death—thus Eastern philosophies that teach the eternal existence of good and evil, life and death are true as in this model death comes out from God as an inflicted punishment upon those who would otherwise live if God didn't act to kill them
- God declares things to be one way when they are actually another, thus God is not entirely truthful
- others?

This view is so corrupt it keeps people trapped in a form of godliness with no power to heal and save. Worse, because of the design law of worship, people who hold this view and worship such a god become like that god and they become willing to use force and power on others. This is what we read about in the Great Controversy last week when the author described how Protestantism has become more and more like Romanism—in that they have forgotten the principle of freedom of conscience and believe justice can be obtained through external law enforcement.

So what is the purpose of the shed blood? Why did Christ have to die?

We have multiple resources on our website that explores the various atonement models, here is one of them: <https://comeandreason.com/pol-09/>

TUESDAY and THURSDAY

The lesson asks us to read Hebrews 4:1-11, I am going to read it from *The Remedy*:

¹ Therefore, since the Remedy is still available, and the promise of complete healing and perfect rest still stands, let us be careful that none of us be found to have rejected it.² For we also have had the good news of God's healing truth presented to us just as they did; but the message of truth had no value to them because they did not believe it nor did they trust the one who gave it.³ But we, who have trusted God on the basis of the truth Christ provided,



experience healing and enter that rest, and our minds are at peace. As God has said, "So I granted them their persistent choice and said, 'Since they refuse the truth—the Remedy I freely offer—they will never be able to enter my rest and get well.'" It was not because God's perfect rest was not available—for it had been ready since his work of creation was complete —⁴ as the Scriptures say elsewhere regarding the seventh day: "And on the seventh day, God rested his case. He had finished all his work of providing the evidence needed to refute the lies of Satan."⁵ And yet in another passage he says, "If they refuse the truth, if they reject the evidence I have provided, their minds will never find rest and they will not get well."

⁶ The opportunity to find God's healing and rest still remains, even though those who formerly had the good news of God's healing truth presented to them did not get well or find rest because they refused to believe the truth and trust God.⁷ Therefore God again and again presents his healing Remedy, and he set a certain day which he called "today," when much later he spoke through David in the same Scripture as before: "Today, if you hear his voice offering healing and restoration, do not reject the true Remedy and darken your minds."

⁸ For if Joshua had already given them healing of character and rest for their minds, God would not have spoken later about another day of rest still to come.⁹ There remains then a Sabbath-rest—a rest in the evidence and truth of the character of God—which heals and transforms the people of God;¹⁰ for anyone who rests in the achievements of Christ rests from working to save himself, just as God rested from his work.¹¹ Let us therefore make every effort to rest in the truth about God as revealed by Christ, so that no one will fall by following the example of distrust and refusal to accept the truth.

Why did they not enter that rest?

What about us today? Have we entered that rest? What would prevent us?

They saw enemies and didn't trust God to provide a solution?

So what was Satan's strategy to defeat the people at that time? To get them to focus on the threat rather than God as their source of strength.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On **Saturday, September 11** we will have **two lessons and no Q&A session** after. Lesson 13, The Ultimate Rest, will begin at 9:30 AM. We will begin the first lesson in *Present Truth in Deuteronomy* at 10:35 AM.

We will *not* have Bible Study Class on Saturday, September 18 as the team will be in Orlando, FL sharing free materials at the AACC (American Association of Christian Counselors).

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!

NOTES—my notes for each class are available for download on our website under our Bible Study tab.