



2021 4Q Present Truth in Deuteronomy Lesson 8 Choose Life

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

What does the title make you think of?

Was the first thought temporal life or eternal life?

Read our memory verse, but let's read Dt 30:19 and 20:

“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days” (Dt 30:19–20 NKJV).

What does this passage mean to you?

What life is referred to here—temporal or eternal?

In Friday's lesson it quotes from *The Great Controversy* p 544:

“The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23. While life is the inheritance of the righteous, death is the portion of the wicked. Moses declared to Israel: “I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil.” Deuteronomy 30:15. **The death referred to in these scriptures is not that pronounced upon Adam, for all mankind suffer the penalty of his transgression. It is “the second death” that is placed in contrast with everlasting life**” (GC 544).

Is there a connection with receiving life, blessings and love for God and obeying His voice? What is that connection?

Is there a connection between cursing, death and not loving God and disobeying His voice? What is that connection?

Do you see how the view of God's law we take impacts our understanding of these questions?

Do you see how the view of God's law we take impacts our understanding of God's character, if we believe the imposed law view we actually end up worshipping a different god than our Creator God.



Read the first three paragraphs in Sabbath's lesson, "Always, it's a sad story..."

What do you think of this woman's plan?

Are the premises or ideas that have caused her to pursue this path without merit? Or is there a real rational basis to her approach? For instance:

- Can we die and live again? Don't we believe Jesus died and rose again? Don't we believe Moses died and rose again, and others? Don't we believe in the future resurrection?
 - So if it is possible to live again after dying, then the idea of dying and living again is not far-fetched to us.
- What about having our individuality, personhood transferred to another body—an upgraded body, a body that is not diseased an immortal body? Do we believe that this can happen?
 - Will that body be this exact same physical body we live in now, made of the same particles of matter our bodies have now, just with all the defects fixed, or will it be made of different physical matter? Consider this quotation from EGW:
 - **Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave.** The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved. In the resurrection every man will have his own character. God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the breath of life, and bidding the dry bones live. The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect. It lives again bearing the same individuality of features, so that friend will recognize friend. **There is no law of God in nature which shows that God gives back the same identical particles of matter which composed the body before death.** God shall give the righteous dead a body that will please Him. {6BC 1093.2}
- There are reports of people dying, but doing so in places where the body rapidly cooled and being resuscitated up to 18 hours later <https://leaps.org/coming-back-from-the-dead-is-no-longer-science-fiction/particle-2>
 - Do we know the time limit on this?
- So, is there a logic a rationale that if she were to cryogenically freeze her brain she could be resuscitated and have her individuality transferred to a new body, perhaps a cybernetic body in the future?

My view of those who have died and been resuscitated many hours later is that they were in fact not dead, as my definition of death is necrosis not mere cessation of heartbeat or brain function, cellular death is true death from my view.

A recent [60 minutes segment interviewed](#) Yuval Noah Harari, Israeli professor of history and intellectual, author of *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* predicts an end to homo sapiens and a replacing humans with a new upgraded species genetically or cybernetically enhanced. Or transferring our consciousness to completely artificial platforms.



He makes the difference between consciousness and intelligence. Consciousness is the ability to feel, love or hate, to have compassion, to have conviction of right and wrong, a morality. But intelligence is about problem solving. Artificial intelligence has immense problem solving ability but with no consciousness, no feelings, no conscience, no moral compass.

Who does that describe? Satan—Satan is highly intelligent, can process information, problem solve, but he has destroyed within himself the faculties that love, that have compassion, that has any conviction of wrong—yes I suspect he feels hate, anger, rage—so not a complete cyborg, but the plan to enhance humans is designed to make us more like Satan and less like Jesus. And it will be sold to us as a way to make us better, but it will not.

I wrote a blog about this in June 2021 entitled Human 2.0: [The Rise of the Cyborg—Disconnecting Humans From God](#) in which I describe my concern that these actions are designed by Satan to change the human brain in such a way that we no longer are capable of connecting with the Holy Spirit.

This is designed to destroy the image of God in humankind. This is Satan's goal to make humans to be the temple of his character. It will be presented as advancing and enhancing and improving the species—but it is just like the temptation to Eve—take the fruit to make yourself more knowledgeable, better, more godlike but it instead corrupted her and effaced the image of God in humankind. Then the antediluvians corrupted humankind further consider this quote:

But if there was **one sin above another** which called for the destruction of the race by the flood, **it was the base crime of amalgamation of man and beast which defaced the image of God**, and caused confusion everywhere. 3Spiritual Gifts 64

Sadly millions will eagerly line up to take these augmentations if they become available.

So, is this woman's plan without rationale or logic?

So the premises that cause her to seek this path are not irrational, but what is? What is the part that does make her plan irrational and doomed to fail? That even if human technology could at some point achieve this, it would be resuscitating people into mortal bodies, still subject to death, with carnal natures and the life that they have is still infected with fear and selfishness who experience the pain and suffering that sin brings and who would likely have the image of God destroyed in the process. It is not eternal life that comes from harmony with God. It is Satan's counterfeit fruit offering people to pursue as a means to save self while remaining in sin.

So, in the end this is truly doomed to fail.



SUNDAY

The Tree of Life—any questions about this?

The lesson quotes from *The Great Controversy* page 532:

“In the midst of Eden grew the tree of life, whose fruit had the power of **perpetuating life**. Had Adam remained obedient to God, he would have continued to enjoy free access to this tree and would have lived forever. But when he sinned he was cut off from partaking of the tree of life, and he became subject to death. The divine sentence, “Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return,” points to the utter extinction of life.” *The Great Controversy* 532.

What does this mean?

- Would access to the tree prevent death if one were beheaded, or incinerated, or vaporized in a nuclear explosion?
- My view is that the tree provided something nutritional that prevented all physiological aging, infections, decay, provided healing powers from physical injuries much more robustly than we have now, but it would not have prevented Cain from smashing Abel’s head with a stone.
- And if access to the fruit were to in some way prevent physiological death despite being beheaded, or being blasted with high dose radiation, or torn apart by wild animals, if that were true (which I don’t think is so) how would the fruit have likely been used once human beings were corrupted by sin? to torture others.

Why did God remove the tree of life? If God would not have removed the tree of life from the earth after Adam’s sin, what would have been the most likely result?

If there were the proverbial fountain of youth in existence today on earth, a fountain that prevented aging, and even perhaps healed injuries and diseases—who do you think would control it and who would be granted access to it?

Do you think if such a fountain existed on earth it would bring greater peace or greater conflict, greater harmony or more war, greater love or greater exploitation?

So, if the wicked, the unrepentant, those who love Satan’s ways had access to the tree of life, what would be created? Hell—a place of perpetual torment, exploitation, and evil.

So, God in mercy, in love, removed the tree of life from the earth until He could fulfill His plan to remove sin from people and restore His law of love in us. Then, He will return the tree to earth and we will have access to it again.

What does “The divine sentence, ‘Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return,’ points to the utter extinction of life” mean?



Does it mean God pronounced a judicial sentence upon them—they broke a rule and God sentenced them to death—or does it mean they changed themselves to be out of harmony with how God built life and the unavoidable result is decay—disconnected from God the source of life, slow wearing out, ruin and death?

God's sentence upon them did not cause their death sentence, or inflict it, God's sentence announced it, pronounced it, confirmed it, made plain the reality of their terminal condition.

Another thought about the Tree of Life—does life have its origins in a tree? Another way to ask this is—where did the tree come from? Did God create the tree? Then the tree gets its life sustaining powers from God, not inherent in itself, and thus life comes from God, not from a tree. God, for some reason, has chosen to use the tree to sustain and maintain human life in Eden, similarly to how God uses fruits and nuts today to give us life, but life really doesn't come from any tree—all life comes from God.

- In him was life, and that life was the light of men. (Jn 1:4 NIV84).
- I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world” (Jn 6:48–51 NIV84).

Consider this quote:

“Christ is the source of our life, the source of immortality. He is the tree of life, and to all who come to Him He gives spiritual life” (RH Jan. 26, 1897). {7BC 989.8}

MONDAY

Following up on Sunday's lesson, the lesson on Monday points to multiple texts in the Bible that speak of only two options, life and death, let's look at 1John 5:11-12:

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 Jn 5:11–12 NIV84).

From where does life come? And how is it that if we have Christ we have life? Why is it that if we don't have Christ we don't have life?

How is it that all choose for or against Christ if all haven't heard about Jesus?

We choose Christ whenever we choose truth, love and freedom. Jesus is love, Jesus is truth and Jesus is freedom. We only have these in union with Jesus. And we choose these in how we treat others. Jesus said, “as you have done it unto the least of these you have done it unto me.”



Jesus works through His agencies on earth to bring His healing truth and love to bear on all hearts. Every person is given opportunity to choose truth, love and freedom in how they treat others—and making the choice in what we choose to do in governance of self, choose to surrender our lives into God's hands, is how we are healed and transformed.

The law of worship enters in, by beholding we are changed. So, it is imperative to inquire, which God are we worshipping—the God of truth, love and freedom revealed in creation as the basis of life (Romans 1:20), revealed fully in the life of Jesus, revealed in Scripture, revealed in reality of how things work, or do we reject the God of love and truth and embrace the god of this world, the god of fear, selfishness, control, coercion, imposed law, force and inflicted punishment, the god that seeks justice through more government?

There is no middle ground—we are either becoming more like Jesus who did not seek to reform the governments of this world, either the Jewish government or the Roman one, but came to heal hearts and minds, or we are becoming more like Satan and seek to advance our morality, our view of right and wrong through more enforcement upon others.

The second paragraph states, “In the end there is no middle ground for us human beings. Before the great controversy is completely over, sin, Satan, disobedience, and rebellion will be eradicated.”

Do we agree that all sin, disobedience, evil, rebelliousness, along with Satan and all those who persist in sinfulness will be eradicated?

But how does God eradicate all wickedness along with the wicked without inciting fear and causing more rebellion?

If God were to inflict this upon people, use power to kill those who would not otherwise die, what would be the result?

Consider these quotes—do you agree?

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.** *The Desire of Ages* 759

Now this next quote is powerful, we will unpack it, it reveals what we are dealing with right now in our world and the choice we have between the two sides, how it gets framed, and how people get duped into choosing the wrong side and the results of choosing that wrong side:



The warfare against God's law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. [What law? How did it begin in heaven? Were the Ten Commandments in heaven when Lucifer rebelled? When the angels realized there was a law, what was their view of that? How did Satan attack God's law? By attacking the idea of law in the minds of intelligent beings, infecting their minds with the idea that God's law is made up rules, imposed laws, which once accepted immediately causes one to view God as a rule-enforcer, the source of inflicted punishment for disobedience, which immediately undermines love and trust and fuels more rebellion.] **Every man will be tested.** [How? What will be the test? How will we be tested? Will it be by a rule or by methods we employ in how we live, how we treat others?] Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. [What is obedience? Is it rule keeping? Were the Jews who killed Jesus obedient because they kept the Sabbath? Was the Good Samaritan disobedient because he didn't keep the Sabbath or sacrifice at temple or eat a kosher diet? Jesus said if you love me keep my commandments—which he explained was to love God and others. The sheep and goats are not separated by Sabbath keeping, they are separated by how they treat others. Do we live God's law truth, love and freedom, or do we live Satan's law of imposed rules with external enforcement upon others?] **All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn.** [How? Where? When? By the law we choose to practice in governance of self in the treatment of others.] There will be but two classes. **Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion.** *The Desire of Ages* 763.3 [How will they show? By the character they develop in the law they identify with and apply to their lives in how they live and treat others!]

Then the end will come. God will vindicate His law and deliver His people. [How will the end come? What causes it? How does God vindicate us?] Satan and all who have joined him in rebellion **will be cut off.** Sin and sinners will perish, root and branch, (Malachi 4:1),—Satan the root, and his followers the branches. The word will be fulfilled to the prince of evil, “Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; ... I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.... Thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.” Then “the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be;” “they shall be as though they had not been.” Ezekiel 28:6-19; Psalm 37:10; Obadiah 16. *The Desire of Ages* 763.4 [How is it Satan and His sympathizers are destroyed—they are cut off? Cut off from what? From the source of life, from God. What causes them to be cut off? Who decides to cut them off? They decide. They beg for the mountains to fall on them, they flee from His presence, they hate holiness, love, honesty, truth, it torments their minds to be aware of their own state and all the evil they have done.]

This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. [What kind of law uses arbitrary power? Imposed law, but this is not arbitrary power, not an infliction. This is the natural result of unremedied sin.] **The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown.** [What kind of law is sowing and reaping? “those who sow to the carnal nature, from that nature reap destruction” Galatians 6:8.] God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life. [They choose to separate themselves from God—this is what sin does, hardens the heart and the sinner, if not healed, if



not reconciled will voluntarily choose death over connection with God.] He is “alienated from the life of God.” Christ says, “All they that hate Me love death.” Ephesians 4:18; Proverbs 8:36. **God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. [How? What causes this?]** This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. **By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them.** *The Desire of Ages* 764.1

At the beginning of the great controversy, the angels did not understand this. [Why didn't they understand this? Because sin and death were never seen and Satan had introduced lies about what was happening.] Had Satan and his host then been left to reap the full result of their sin, they would have perished; **[From what? From God letting them go, not from an infliction of death]** but it would not have been apparent to heavenly beings that this was the inevitable result of sin. **[Sin, not God, causes death. God is the source of life. But Satan has so infected minds with the lie about God's law most Christians, including SDAs believe God must use His power to torture and kill the wicked in the end. The church has perpetuated this lie and it is the message of the 3 Angels that is to lighten the world with the truth about our Creator God and His design laws and the real cause of death, which is breaking the laws upon which life is built. But sadly, our own church is still deeply infected with imperialism and human law constructs of God and has failed thus far to effectively take this end time message to the world.]** A doubt of God's goodness would have remained in their minds as evil seed, to produce its deadly fruit of sin and woe. *The Desire of Ages* 764.2

But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. [Why will not doubt about God remain? Why will no rebellion remain? Because God will not use power to inflict death upon the wicked, they die of the natural results of unremedied sin in their being. As the author states elsewhere, the death of the wicked is “voluntary with themselves.”] Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, **the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable.** Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. *The Desire of Ages* 764.3

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph, “The Lord is very clear...” What do you think of this? Why would the words be the same between good and evil that Adam and Eve chose and what we choose?

Each person decides what we will know by experience, not cognitively, but functionally.

Adam and Eve were created sinless and chose to know evil, fear, selfishness in their being.



Jesus was born to a sinful mother, and through her knew by experience the temptation of sin, being tempted in every way just like we are, but Jesus chose to know in His heart and mind and character only good.

We are born in sin, conceived in iniquity, we all know sin, know fear, know selfishness both in temptation and experience, but through our faith in Jesus we can choose to die to fear, selfishness and sin, and know good—we can choose to know God and choosing this is to partake of the divine nature, to take the bread of life and thus to know life.

The lesson states, “In a real sense, the Lord said to them: *Therefore, with the free will that I have given you—choose life, choose blessing, choose goodness, not death, evil, and curses.*”

Why must we choose? Because it is the only way for use to be healed, cleansed, restored and retain our individuality.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson points us to Deuteronomy 30 where Moses points out that when they find themselves in distress, disbursed among the nations, that when they turn back to God and obey all He told them then He would bless them and restore them.

The lesson asks what this tells us about God’s grace.

Are blessings grace from God? What about cursing, is that grace from God?

What is the cursing? Isn’t it the sufferings and consequences that come when people reject God, walk away from Him, insist on violating His design laws for life? And is this suffering, pain, loss grace from God or the lack of grace from God?

Under imposed law such suffering is seen as punishment for sin.

Under design law it is seen as God’s grace allowing them to reap what they have insisted upon sowing into their lives. And God permits them to reap loss, pain, suffering to cause them to reflect and consider and perhaps learn and repent and choose life. But if there was no pain or suffering when we break God’s law, it would only lead to greater injury, separation and eventual eternal death. Thus the so-called cursings are also God’s grace working to wake us up and turn us back to God.

Do you remember this quote that I shared two weeks ago?

Had Israel taken heed to the messages of the prophets emphasizing the value of “the great things” of God’s law, they would have been spared the humiliation that followed. It was because they persisted in **turning aside from his law** that God was compelled to allow their enemies to take them captive. **[What law? Imposed rules, or God’s design law given through**



all Scripture? Remember over and again the prophetic message of justice was loving people, not rule-keeping?] “My people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge**,” was his message to them through Hosea. “Because thou hast **rejected knowledge**, I will also reject thee, ... seeing thou hast forgotten **the law of thy God**.” Hosea 4:6. [What knowledge had they rejected? Creator worship whose law is design law of love, truth, freedom and they preferred pagan gods with imposed laws instead. So God would teach them reality, cause and effect, which is design law. Note what comes next] **In trial and affliction they were to learn lessons** that under circumstances more favorable they had refused to learn. RH February 26, 1914, par. 1 [If a child refuses to learn by the favorable circumstances of instruction not to touch a hot stove, then the child eventually learns through the trial of touching the stove and the affliction of getting burned.]

Are the trials and afflictions grace? Yes!

God’s grace is God working to save us—all His actions are for us, everything God does is for us.

What, then, can we possibly say in response to this? Don't you realize that God is on our side? And if God is for us, who can be against us? God does not need convincing to be good to us; No! It is we who need convincing that God is good to us! If he did not withhold his own Son—but gave him up for us all—don't you realize that he will withhold nothing good from us? But along with his Son, he will give us all things that are for our good! Who is it, then, that brings charges against those whom God has chosen? Stop believing Satan's lies about God — it is not God who brings charges against us! It is God who sets us right with himself. It is God who heals and transforms us. Then who condemns? It is not Jesus, oh no! Christ Jesus, who died—and more importantly, who was raised from death to life—is sitting at God's right hand and is working hand in hand with his Father. Together they are interceding with the malignancy of sin in our minds and holding in check the power of the evil one, while providing the Remedy for our deliverance, healing and restoration. Who, then, shall ever separate us from the love of Christ? Shall problems, or hardships, or criticism, or persecution, or hunger, or disease, or homelessness, or nakedness, or imprisonment, or financial ruin, or terrorists, or war? As it is written: "For no matter what we face, including death, we will not doubt you; even if we are treated as sheep led to the slaughter—our confidence in you will not waver."

In all things — no matter what we face — we are more than conquerors through trust in him who loved us. For I am absolutely convinced that God is totally on our side and nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the past nor present nor future, nor any power in the universe; neither things exalted nor things debased, nor anything else in all creation—nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:31-39 Remedy)

There is an EGW quote in the third paragraph, “All His biddings are enables.” COL p. 333.

What does this idea mean to you?



THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “Central to the covenant...” Is there a law involved here? What law and what type of law?

What happens if we insert into people’s minds the idea that this is a rule, that there are imposed religious rules one must conform to—dress in a certain way on a certain day, don’t do this, do do that, don’t use the same kitchen utensils for meat and milk, don’t push an elevator button on Sabbath for it is a spark and that is starting a fire.

If one believes worship functions like this—what kind of god are they worshipping?

And then, because of the law of worship—by beholding we are change, what happens to their mind, hearts and character?

Thus the 3 Angels’ messages to worship Him who made the heavens, earth, sea and fountains of water—worship the Creator whose laws are design laws.

This was the message of 1888 that was rejected and the leadership went with the imposed law view and our church has been presenting the dictator view of God and obstructing worship of the Creator and we have languished.

Below I am including the text of an entire article printed in the *Signs of the Times* January 20, 1890 entitled: God Made Manifest in Christ by EGW.

This article was written in 1889, shortly after the 1888 GC. I encourage you all to read the entire thing—it is the direction the church was to go after 1888, but instead the penal legal view as advanced.

At the first advent of Christ, darkness, covered the earth, and gross darkness the people. [Darkness about what? It was about God, the controversy has always been about God. The eternal gospel is the good news about God.] Light and truth seemed to have departed from among men, and Satan appeared to reign in undisputed power. Rival sects existed, and among those who professed to be the servants of God were displayed **love of preeminence and strife for power and position.** [Satan’s government is rising above others, the elites rule over others and the masses serve the elites. But Jesus did not think equality with God was something to be grasped but sacrificed Himself to uplift the masses.] Souls who were desirous of light were filled with perplexity and sorrow. **Many were sighing, “What is truth?” Ignorance prevailed, but many were looking for something better, looking for light that would illuminate the moral darkness of the world.** [Do we find the world in this state today?] They were **thirsting for a knowledge of the living God,** for some assurance of a life beyond the tomb. [This is what the world is truly thirsting for today, even if they don’t know it. Instead they the common view of God is simply a more powerful dictator—no different than any human ruler, imposing laws and punishments.] There **were men not of the Jewish nation who prophesied** that an inspired instructor would come to teach them of the truth. [God didn’t limit



His revelations to the Jewish people. The Holy Spirit works on all receptive minds. The Bible is the recorded focus because it focuses us on the human family through which Jesus would come, but it isn't the total sum of all God's revelations to humankind.] There were among the Jews men who had not polluted their integrity, who read with eager anticipation the sure word of prophecy that pointed to the advent of the Redeemer. They rejoiced in the promise that God had made to his servant Moses: "I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him." ST January 20, 1890, par. 1

Again they read how the Lord should anoint Him to preach good tidings unto the meek, to bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. They read how he would set judgment in the earth, how the isles should wait for his law, how the Gentiles would come to his light, and kings to the brightness of his rising. ST January 20, 1890, par. 2

Christ came just as prophecy had foretold. He was the "way, the truth, and the life," and the beams of the **Sun of Righteousness dispelled the moral darkness** so that the honest in heart might see the truth. [What was His goal? To reveal truth that dispels lies and sets hearts and minds free. He didn't come to establish an earthly kingdom of imposed laws and forced obedience, but to free hearts from fear and selfishness.] The absence of outward display and worldly grandeur, called forth comments of disapprobation from the people. **Doubt and criticism met him on every side.** [Why? Over what? He was too human, too frail, to weak. He wasn't even an Olympic champion. He wasn't even a Mr. Universe body builder. He was a real human and how can a real human be the Son of God. He doesn't show power. He doesn't show wealth. He doesn't show superiority of intellect by using words and language that made others feel stupid. He was easy to approach and talk to. And He ate with sinners.] **Christ himself had chosen the human conditions of his life.** He had selected the lowliest place in society. He was the Majesty of heaven, and he knew that the world would bear sway by magnificence, carrying everything before its display and grandeur; but Jesus honored those whom the world looked upon with contempt. Christ's birthplace was devoid of conveniences, not to speak of riches and luxury. And his entire life in this world was in keeping with the humble home of his early experience. ST January 20, 1890, par. 3

The Saviour of the world proposed that no attraction of an earthly character should call men to his side. **The light and beauty of celestial truth alone should be the drawing power. The outward glory, the worldly honor, which attracts the attention of men, he would not assume.** [Why? What is the goal? What is God working to achieve? The transformation of hearts and minds. To win us back to trust, love, understanding friendship. Does this occur when people are intimidated, fearful to ask questions, awed and silenced? Understand the purpose of the Roman cathedrals, they are designed to awe, intimidate and silence the mind, to stop thinking, to make us feel small and insignificant. The Roman liturgy, robes, and altar are all designed to intimidate, not make the approach simply and safe.] **He made himself accessible to all,** teaching the pure, exalted principle of truth as that which was only worthy of



their notice. But although so humbly born, so unpretending in life, God did not leave him without a witness. The principalities of heaven did him homage. Wonders in the heavens above and signs in the earth beneath attested his power and majesty. At his baptism a voice from heaven fell upon the ears of men, declaring, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The bright glory of God in the form of a dove of burnished gold encircled him. John declared: "That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and **the world knew him not**. He came unto his own, and his own received him not." ST January 20, 1890, par. 4

Christ came to represent the Father. We behold in him the image of the invisible God. **He clothed his divinity with humanity, and came to the world that the erroneous ideas Satan had been the means of creating in the minds of men, in regard to the character of God, might be removed.** [Why did He come? What was His purpose? Why was this necessary? What is the issue in the Great Controversy?] **We could not behold the glory of God unveiled in Christ and live;** [Why? Is it a rule that if we peak God will kill us, or is it something about reality that in our sinful state we couldn't tolerate God's unveiled glory?] but as he came in the garb of humanity, we may draw nigh to our Redeemer. We are called upon to behold the Lord our Father in the person of his Son. **Christ came in the robe of the flesh, with his glory subdued in humanity, that lost man might communicate with him and live.** Through Christ we may comprehend something of him who is glorious in holiness. Jesus is the mystic ladder by which we may mount to behold the glory of the infinite God. **By faith we behold Christ standing between humanity and divinity, connecting God and man, and earth and heaven.** ST January 20, 1890, par. 5

Christ came to save fallen man, and Satan with fiercest wrath met him on the field of conflict; for the enemy knew that **when divine strength was added to human weakness, man was armed with power and intelligence, and could break away from the captivity in which he had bound him.** [What holds us captive? Lies about God and our own carnal natures, our fears, guilt, shame insecurities, which are magnified by believing Satan's lies. Christ came to set us free. What is the payment called that frees one from captivity? A ransom, the ransom is the truth about God and the new nature Christ developed that He offers to us. Thus the ransom price is paid to us.] **Satan sought to intercept every ray of light from the throne of God.** He sought to cast his shadow across the earth, that **men might lose the true views of God's character, and that the knowledge of God might become extinct in the earth.** [Has Satan had success in obstructing the true views of God on earth? How? By infecting Christianity with imposed law and teaching God as dictator. Those who believe this in the church promote false views of God and many who reject the belief in God do so because of this false view of Him.] He had caused truth of vital importance to be so mingled with error that it had lost its significance. **The law of Jehovah was burdened with needless exactions and traditions, and God was represented as severe, exacting, revengeful, and arbitrary.** [Presenting God's law as imposed and making rules etc. misrepresents God as the source of inflicted punishments] He was pictured as one who could take pleasure in the sufferings of his creatures. **The very attributes that belonged to the character of Satan, the evil one represented as belonging to the character of God. Jesus came to teach men of the Father,** to correctly



represent him before the fallen children of earth. Angels could not fully portray the character of God, but Christ, who was a living impersonation of God, could not fail to accomplish the work. **The only way in which he could set and keep men right was to make himself visible and familiar to their eyes.** [What is setting right? Justification and what is keeping right, sanctification—and what was the only way to do this? By revealing the truth about God which destroys the lies and wins us back to trust!] That men might have salvation he came directly to man, and became a partaker of his nature. ST January 20, 1890, par. 6

The Father was revealed in Christ as altogether a different being from that which Satan had represented him to be. [But which view of God dominates the church? Which view of God was advanced by our church after 1888?] Said Christ, “Neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.” **The love of Jesus, expressed for the fallen race in his life of self-denial and sufferings, is the manifestation of the Father's love for a sinful, fallen world.** Christ endured shame and grief and death for those who despised his love and trampled upon his mercy. **He paid the debt of man's transgression upon the cross of Calvary with his own precious blood.** [To whom? What was the debt? Why was it necessary to pay it? Did the Father need truth revealed to Him in order to free Him from Satan's lies? Did sinful humans need that truth? And did the Father need a new sinless nature developed for Him, or did the species human need a human to overcome sinfulness, purge it and restore God's law of love into the living creation? And Jesus is the second Adam, the one human being who developed a sinless human character eradicating the infection of fear and selfishness.] **The men of his own nation, the leaders of the people, were so ensnared by the deceptions of Satan that the plan of redemption for a fallen race seemed to their minds indistinct and unexplainable.** ST January 20, 1890, par. 7 [How many Christians are lost in the same confusion—with imposed law constructs, penal systems, Latin words that don't make sense?]

Man was God's workmanship, made after his image, endowed with talents, and fitted for a high destiny. **But Satan has worked to obliterate the divine image, and to impress his own image instead of the image of God in man's nature.** [Is this describing a legal problem, or a change in the state of being? When Adam and Eve sinned, were they still loyal, faithful, selfless, beings operating upon God's law of love but now had a legal problem—or did they actually get changed and were now infected with Satanic principles of fear and selfishness, the survival drives?] Jesus condescended to humble himself, to take human nature, and by **uniting divinity with humanity, he proposed to elevate man in the scale of moral value.** [How? By restoring God's law into humanity and sharing His immortal life with us.] All heaven was poured out in the gift of God's dear Son. **Through faith in him the sinner could be justified, and God could yet be just in justifying the sinner; for Christ had become a propitiation for the sins of the repentant soul.** [What does this mean? Set right, how? By restoring God's design law of love into us and Jesus was the means of doing this in reality.] The only plan that could be devised to save the human race was that which called for the incarnation, humiliation, and crucifixion of the Son of God, the Majesty of heaven. After the plan of salvation was devised, Satan could have no ground upon which to found his suggestion that God, because so great, could care nothing for so insignificant a creature as man. The redemption of man is a



wonderful theme, and the love manifested to the fallen race through the plan of salvation, can be estimated only by the cross of Calvary. The depth of this love even angels cannot sound. **That God could consent to become flesh, and dwell among fallen beings, to lift them up from their helplessness and despair, is an unfathomed mystery.** [What kind of kingdom is this? What kind of government? What kind of law? Is this the elites ruling over the masses, or the Elite of elites giving and sacrificing self to uplift the masses? Understand, all human governments are Satan's because they use imposed law, punishments and seek to exploit the masses to elevate the few.] He whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, whose dominion endureth throughout all generations, **made himself to be sin for us that he might lift up all that are bowed down,** and give life to those who are ready to perish. ST January 20, 1890, par. 8

Oh, that men might open their minds to know God as he is revealed in his Son! Truth came forth from the lips of Jesus, uncorrupted with human philosophy. His words were from heaven, such as mortal lips had never spoken nor mortal ears ever heard. **His heart was an altar on which burned the flames of infinite love.** [An illusion to the golden altar in the sanctuary where incense burned. And this is to be our hearts also.] Goodness, mercy, and love were enthroned in the breast of the Son of God. He set up **his tabernacle** in the midst of our human encampment, pitched his tent by the side of the tents of men, that he might dwell among them and make them familiar with his divine character and love. [Again referencing the OT theater pointing us to the reality.] No one could love Christ and pay homage to him without serving and honoring the infinite God. Those who had an appreciation of the character and mission of Christ, were filled with reverence and awe, as they looked upon him and felt that they were looking upon the **temple of the living God. Officers were sent to take the Son of God, that the temple in which God was enshrined might be destroyed.** [Where is God to be enshrined? Only in Jesus, or in every one of us?] But as they drew near and heard the words of divine wisdom that fell from his lips, they were charmed, and the power and excellence of his instruction so filled their hearts and minds that they forgot the purpose for which they had been sent. Christ revealed himself to their souls. Divinity flashed through humanity, and they returned so filled with this one thought, so charmed with the ideas he had presented, that when the leaders of Israel inquired, "Why have ye not brought him?" they replied, "Never man spake like this man." They had seen that which priests and rulers would not see,—humanity flooded with the light and glory of divinity. **Those who would behold this glory would be drawn to love Jesus and to love the Father whom he represented. Christ exalted the character of God,** attributing to him the praise, and giving to him the credit, **of the whole purpose of his own mission on earth,—to set men right through the revelation of God.** [What was His mission? To set men right through what? What? No legal payment to God? No, legal payments were never required. The requirement has always been perfect harmony with God's law, which required it be restored into humanity. Jesus did this as a human for us, restoring the image of God in humanity, revealed the truth of God to us to dispel the lies and win us to trust. And when we trust Him He shares Himself with us we become partakers of the divine nature and our temples are cleansed.] In Christ was arrayed before men the paternal grace and the matchless perfections of the Father. In his prayer just before his crucifixion, he declared, "I have manifested thy name." "I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which



thou gavest me to do.” **When the object of his mission was attained,—the revelation of God to the world,—the Son of God announced that his work was accomplished, and that the character of the Father was made manifest to men.** ST January 20, 1890, par. 9

Wow—what do you think of this?

The lesson talks about God being a jealous God—this is not human selfishness, jealous for ourselves, it is the jealousy of love, the jealousy of wanting the best for others. He jealous for our good. To me in our language zealous would be a better word.

Read last paragraph, “However different the context...” Would this “pressure” include medical mandates upon others?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Property update: The renovation project is out to get contractor bids.

NEW TRACTS:

We have five new sharing tracts:

- Babylon the Mother of Harlots: Come Out of Her
- Loneliness Its Cause and Cure
- The Injustice of Human Justice
- How to Disagree and Remain Friends
- Knowing God’s Will