



2022 3Q In the Crucible with Christ—Lesson 10 Meekness in the Crucible

by Tim Jennings

SABBATH

Read memory verse: “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5 NIV84).

What does this mean to you? We are called to be meek, but what is meekness?

Is meekness the same as weakness? What is the difference?

There is no greater example of the contrast between meekness and weakness than Jesus and Pontius Pilate. John 18:29–19:16.

Despite Jesus being falsely accused, lied about, cruelly mistreated, and abused, He retained self-control and a calm, fearless yet meek dignity founded on the strength of His righteous character and trust in His Father that could not be shaken by any worldly assault.

By contrast, Pilate, though empowered with earthly authority that was reinforced by Roman soldiers, demonstrated weakness of character: a fear of what others thought, a willingness to compromise his own judgment and choose the wrong, even when convicted of what was right, merely to avoid the accusation of being disloyal to Caesar and face the potential loss of position and power.

Jesus was meek and strong. Pilate was weak and wrong.

What is necessary to be meek? What is the source of strength that allows someone to be meek and strong?

What is the cause of weakness, even when one is empowered with all earthly power?

Meekness is a trait of character that stems from the outworking of God’s love operating in the heart; weakness of character stems from fear dominating the heart.

As soon as Adam sinned, he ran and hid because he was afraid (Genesis 3:10). Fear that incites selfishness is part of the infection of sin. But “there is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18 NIV84).



Love focuses our concern on others. Fear focuses on self. Love is willing to sacrifice self for others, whereas fear sacrifices integrity, principle, honor, truth, and others to protect self. “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers” (1 John 3:16 NIV84).

The meek love God and others and are not afraid to stand for God’s truth; the weak are driven by fear and will compromise the truth to protect themselves.

And thus **meekness is founded on the combination of truth and love coming from a trust relationship with our trustworthy God of love.** We experience the transformational power of God’s love as we come to the knowledge of God, the truth about God and are won back to trust.

Truth and love combined is the power that changes hearts and minds from **fearful weakness to cheerful meekness.**

The meek, having been reborn into God’s kingdom of love, experience godly self-control (Galatians 5:23); the weak remain fearful and selfish and seek to make themselves feel safe by trying to control others.

These weak people “are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless” (Romans 1:29–31 NIV84). And we see these weak people all too often in positions of power in the world, in businesses and also in the church. Why? Because the meek seek to help others, the weak seek to gain power for self, to make self feel safe and use their energies to advance self into the positions of power; and the world loves such people.

Jesus said, “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you” (John 15:18–19 NIV84).

Satan is the father of the weak, the father of fear and selfishness; listen to what the Bible says about Satan and his method of governing:

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, “**(1) I will ascend to heaven; (2) I will raise my throne above the stars of God; (3) I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, (4) on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. (5) I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; (6) I will make myself like the Most High.**” But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit (Isaiah 14:12-15 NIV84).

Satan seeks to rise above, to rule over—and every human government operates upon Satan’s method, a few ruling elites rising over and exploiting the masses to empower the elites.

Notice Jesus’ method of governing:



Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, **(1) did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, (2) but made himself nothing, (3) taking the very nature of a servant, (4) being made in human likeness. (5) And being found in appearance as a man, (6) he humbled himself and (7) became obedient to death—even death on a cross!** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:5–11 NIV84).

Jesus sacrifices self to uplift the masses. No human government represents the government of God. We will never achieve God's kingdom, God's purposes through Satan's methods and human governments.

Note further, Satan made six claims or six moves to advance self:

- (1) I will ascend to heaven;
- (2) I will raise my throne above the stars of God;
- (3) I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
- (4) on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.
- (5) I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
- (6) I will make myself like the Most High

But because his method of self-exaltation is a violation of God's design law of love, the law upon which life is built, Satan is brought down to the grave and dies from his rejection of God and God's methods.

But Jesus makes seven moves to counter Satan's self-exaltation, Jesus:

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

Jesus lived out God's law, the design protocols of love destroying the infection of selfishness and thus even though Jesus died on the cross, by doing so Jesus:

- Destroyed him who holds the power of death that is the devil (Hebrews 2:14)
- Destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light (2Timothy 1:10)
- Destroyed the devil's work by restoring the image of God in humankind (1John 3:8)

And therefore, having accomplished the eradication of the sin infection and restored God's law in humanity, Jesus rose from the grave and is exalted to the highest place and receives all glory and praise forevermore amen!



The meek are those who have had God's law written into their hearts so that they live and love like Jesus. They seek to bless others, and they understand that love grows only in freedom; they advance the autonomy of others and use any positions of power they have to help others develop and grow.

But the weak are jealous of others, fear not having what others have, fear others gaining more skill, or ability, or fame, or fortune and taking their power from them so they seek to control others.

The meek present the truth in love and leave others free; the weak lie, manipulate, and coerce all in order to protect themselves.

The religious leaders in Christ's day were weak in character, consumed with fear—fear of loss of power, position, authority, and respect; rather than rejoicing in Jesus and admitting they were wrong, they instead worked to destroy Him.

Jesus taught His disciples to be meek, to respect the choices of those with whom they sought to share the gospel. If people didn't want to listen, the disciples were not to take personal offense, become angry, or seek to retaliate. Instead, they were to recognize that such people were injuring themselves and to simply move on to those who did want to hear the truth, without carrying any of the "dirt" of the rejection with them.

“If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town” (Matthew 10:14 NIV84).

The meek present the truth in love and leave people free.

But the weak in character, if not in positions that enable them to assert control over others, will instead either find someone powerful for them to believe in, follow, surrender themselves to, and become their adherent and pawn; or they become a behind-the-scenes conniver, plotter, and manipulator of others—like Judas, who sought to manipulate Jesus through behind-the-scenes betrayal.

The meek stand firm for truth in the face of opposition; they don't compromise truth or God's principles to garner favor. The weak present what they believe others want to hear in order to be accepted, seeking to manage people around them to keep themselves in good standing.

Yes, “blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth!” (Matthew 5:5 NIV84).

SUNDAY

The lesson calls our attention to Moses who was called the meekest man in the world and points out that “Moses was called to endure endless waves of gossip and criticism.”

Is gossip a serious problem or a minor thing?



How did Lucifer advance his war in heaven? What did Lucifer do in heaven that got 1/3 of sinless angels to rebel? Wasn't it gossip and criticism?

Have you ever been gossiped about or criticized?

What enables you to handle such mistreatment?

When you are gossiped about do you focus upon the gossip, the gossip, the reaction of others, or something else?

What is our responsibility when people gossip about us?

How did God handle things with Lucifer? How did Jesus handle gossip and misinformation about Him when He was on Earth?

Our responsibility is in how we live and govern self, to do what we know is right, healthy, and reasonable and in accordance with God's will and then leave others free to think and do as they choose.

If a person is misinformed and is open to be corrected, then going to them to reconcile the misunderstanding is Biblical, even taking 1-2 others with you. However, if the person is closed to truth, closed to correction, then we are not to cast our pearls before swine lest they turn and attack us. In other words, conversations with people who are bent on hurting us only gives them information to twist and turn to hurt us.

Jesus didn't engage with the Sanhedrin during His trial, they were not interested in truth, in doing what was right. Anything He said would be twisted and used against Him, which is exactly what happened when He finally spoke.

So, we deal with gossips by living out the principles of God's kingdom in how we govern self and how we treat others. We keep our focus on Jesus and advancing His truth.

One of Satan's strategies is to divert us to the gossip and take our eyes off Jesus and instead of continuing to advance the truth we focus on getting certain people convinced, trying to prove to them that what they are saying isn't true, or worse, conforming to their concepts of right and wrong to get them to see you as okay.

Eventually the truth wins out, this is the Great Controversy—the truth is being revealed. The truth about God revealed in Jesus and at the cross the two antagonistic principles stood face to face. God's self-sacrificial love and refusal to use power to force others to comply with His law and Satan's method of power over others which does use force to make others to comply and to destroy those who won't.



I have consistently and repeatedly pointed out the contrast between these two systems of governing and frequently over the last few years done so by pointing to events happening in our society in which these two principles are at war and exposed them for all to see. Yet, I repeatedly get emails from people telling me to stop being political, to stop taking sides, to just stick with the Bible and the truth in the Bible.

For those who have had such concerns, do you not understand that these two antagonistic principles enter into every phase of human experience. In every act of live we are deciding on whose side of the Great Controversy we are going to be found by the methods and principles we choose to employ in how we treat others.

I love this historic quote from the book *Education*:

The Bible is its own expositor. Scripture is to be compared with scripture. The student should learn to view the word as a whole, and to see the relation of its parts. [One of the problems many have with the Bible is that they take a story here a verse there and don't understand it in the context of the entire history of the Bible and the war between Christ and Satan.] He should gain a **knowledge of its grand central theme**, [What is that grand central theme? The truth about God, the kingdom of God, the methods and design laws of God at war with the lies of Satan, the imposed law system of Satan, the corruption, disease, abuse, and destruction that comes from breaking God's design law and following Satan—and God's intervention to heal the damage done and restore us to harmony with Him and thus experience eternal life.] of God's original purpose for the world, of the rise of the great controversy, and of the work of redemption. He should understand the nature of **the two principles that are contending for supremacy**, [What are these two principles? Love versus fear and selfishness; truth versus lies; freedom versus coercion and control] and **should learn to trace their working through the records of history and prophecy, to the great consummation**. [We must see these two principles at war through human history, through Bible history, but we also must be able to see how they battle all the way to the very end so that we can choose to be aligned and part of God's kingdom.] He should see **how this controversy enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the one or the other of the two antagonistic motives; and how, whether he will or not, he is even now deciding upon which side of the controversy he will be found**. Ed 190.2 [We must not just study Scripture to understand how God's principles and methods warred against Satan's principles and methods in the past, we must then understand how those same two systems are warring for hearts and minds today and how this conflict enters into every phase of human experience and we are all deciding whose methods we prefer, whose law we are incorporating into our hearts and minds by how we treat others. Thus, when I point out these things that are happening in the world I am NOT being political. I am advancing the truth of God's kingdom and calling each of you to leave the methods of this world behind—to come out of Babylon that fallen imposed law system that coerces and controls.]

Satan doesn't care one wit about whether someone has a physical disease or gets cured from that physical disease. Satan doesn't care one wit whether someone takes a treatment or doesn't take a



treatment; what the evil one cares about is whether is getting people to choose his methods so that they become like him! Satan wants people, in the pursuit of saving temporal lives, to choose his methods and become like him in character.

Can Satan trick good people into becoming coercive and manipulative and violate the principles of love and liberty? What if it is all to save lives, save lives from a virus?

Who would have thought that the SDA church would have willingly sided with the various governments of the world to close their churches and stop their missions and to coerce the consciences of their employees, students, and the people coming to their institutions for help? Who would have thought the SDA church would actively collude with fraud, misinformation, and lies that have resulted on one of the greatest abuses to humanity in history?

Why did so many go along? Why are so many still colluding? Because they don't understand the principles, they are deceived by looking at the diversion, the misdirection, the misinformation.

Let me say this as clearly as I can—what has happened to the world during the COVID pandemic was NOT ABOUT A VIRUS it is spiritual warfare, it is about the kingdom of Satan assaulting the kingdom of God—and where is the kingdom of God found on Earth according to Jesus? Within you and me. It is about getting people to be afraid, and based on fear and misinformation, under the guise of supposedly helping others and saving lives, to get people to choose to use state power, political power, economic power (no one can buy or sell), to coerce people to make decisions that went against their own judgment and conscience.

There were two issues: 1) the objective facts about the virus and the various objective interventions to deal with it and 2) the methods we employ in how we treat others as we advance whatever solution we think is best.

Both issues are legitimate to discuss and explore and pursue the facts and truth about, but **the more important issue is the methods one uses** for that determines what law one internalizes into their heart, and whose kingdom one becomes a part of.

Now with this in mind, let us consider the quotation from *Upward Look* in **Thursday's** lesson. I will quote a little bit more than the lesson did:

Now is our time of peril. Our only safety is in walking in the footsteps of Christ, and wearing His yoke. Troublous times are before us. In many instances, **friends will become alienated. Without cause, men will become our enemies.** [Have we seen this over the last couple of years, churches, families, friends dividing?] **The motives of the people of God will be misinterpreted, not only by the world, but by their own brethren.** [Have we seen this?] The Lord's servants will be put in hard places. A mountain will be made out of a molehill to justify men in pursuing a selfish, unrighteous course... By misrepresentation, these men will be clothed in the dark vestments of dishonesty, because circumstances beyond their control made their work perplexing. They will be pointed to as men that cannot be trusted. And **this will be**



done by the members of the church. [Have you seen this? Have you experienced this?]
God's servants must arm themselves with the mind of Christ. They must not expect to escape insult and misjudgment. They will be called enthusiasts and fanatics. But let them not become discouraged. God's hand is on the wheel of His providence, guiding His work to the glory of His name. UL 177

MONDAY

Read first two paragraphs, “After the people...” What do you think of this story?

The lesson says that God decided to destroy the people—did He? Did God decide to destroy the people and if it wasn't for Moses, who had more patience than God, more love than God, more understanding and compassion than God, and therefore interceded with God then God would have destroyed the people?

Is it true that God needs people like Moses and ultimately Jesus to intercede with Him to talk Him down, to calm His anger, to propitiate His wrath, to keep Him from killing us?

I have some patients with certain conditions that at times will flair up and cause them to lose control of themselves. These people know themselves well enough that they will ask their spouse, “if you see me having symptoms of unusual irritability, or impulsivity, please intercede with me and remind me to take an extra dose of my medicine so I won't escalate into a full relapse and need to be hospitalized again.”

Is God like this? Does God have some mental health problem and needs His Son to plead with Him to help Him get a grip?

Of course not!!!

- God is for us! Romans 8:31
- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son John 3:16
- God was in the Son reconciling the world to Himself 2Cor 5:19

God did not decide to destroy the people when talking to Moses. Then what was going on?

The Bible tells us that angels long to look into these things (1Pet 1:12). That we are a spectacle a theater to angels and men (1Cor 4:9), and the angels in heaven just watched God deliver the people in a mighty and miraculous way yet within 40 days the people are having an orgy around a golden calf.

What do you think Satan was doing with that? We see glimpses in Job chapter one where Satan twists things, presenting things in a false light before the heavenly counsel trying to win more of the angels to his side. Do you think Satan was doing the same thing here?



Does God have foreknowledge? Absolutely, so God knew when He said what He said to Moses exactly how Moses would respond, and God knew that He was not going to destroy the people. God was never intent on destroying the people. Then why did God say this to Moses?

What God did want to demonstrate was that His methods of truth, love, and freedom work to heal hearts and minds.

Remember 40 years earlier Moses was a man who was willing to kill others; he murdered the overseer and then ran away. The angels knew this history.

So in the face of this apparent defeat, where the people having just been delivered miraculously by God prefer a false god and it appears they are waste of time, God looks to the angels in heaven says, “I know it looks bad, but my methods work. Remember Moses, 40 years ago he murdered someone, the infection of selfishness was strong in his heart. But after spending time with me he has been healed. He has a new heart and right spirit. He won’t kill others to protect himself any longer, no, my law of love is restored in him and he will sacrifice himself to save others. Watch this....”

And Moses revealed that God’s methods do work. Moses demonstrated new methods and motives and godly love for others and supreme concern about the reputation of God.

This is what was transpiring.

The lesson suggests this is a lesson on grace and in the last paragraph states “grace is needed when people least deserve it.”

What are your thoughts on this?

What do you understand the grace of God to be? A classic answer is “unmerited favor,” and what is usually meant by that? Is it something we don’t deserve or haven’t earned.

And it is certainly true that none of us have earned God’s grace. His grace is not a paycheck, a medal, or a reward for some achievement on our part. But to talk about grace in this way focuses on the process of receiving grace—not on what grace is.

The typical meaning of merit is the reward one has a right to as a result of their own work or effort. If you get paid by your employer, you have earned or merited that pay. If you get stronger muscles by exercising regularly, you have earned or merited the growth in your muscles. If you become a better musician because you practice regularly, you have earned or merited that proficiency.

Unmerited favor is when you receive something you didn’t earn or didn’t merit; in other words, you don’t have a right to claim something as being owed to you. In that sense, God’s grace is not ours to claim by right. But understanding that God’s grace is not something we earn still doesn’t tell us what that grace is.



If someone gave you a glass of water as you were dying of thirst in a desert, you didn't buy it, earn it, or work for it—it was a gift. One could say the water was unmerited; it was given to you freely. But the water is water—the method of how you get it, whether free or at a cost to you, is separate from the substance of what it is.

The gift of God's grace to us is the manifestation of His character of love; it is gracious of God. But the fact that God gives His grace freely does not tell us what that grace is. Consider grace as a noun; the action of gifting it is a verb—we receive God's grace without earning it, but what is His grace?

Since it is true that God's grace is a gift to us—something we have not earned, something we are not owed, something we do not receive by right—does that also mean we do not deserve God's grace?

That depends on how one understands or defines “deserve.” Does a child born with a terminal illness deserve to be treated with kindness, compassion, and offered a remedy if one exists to restore them to wellness—even though they have done nothing to earn such treatment? Why would they deserve it? Does a child, simply by being a human child, deserve the love of its parents—not because the child earned anything but because of who the child is to the parents? Do we have value and worth to God, not because of our achievements or any work we have done, but because of who God created us to be, because of what God has designed for us and invested in us?

When the Bible describes Jesus as growing in wisdom and stature and favor (which is the Greek word for grace) with God and men (Luke 2:52), did Jesus not deserve His Father's grace or favor?

Was the grace that Jesus received from His Father, as our human substitute, given freely by His Father or did Jesus have to earn it? The Father gave His grace to Jesus in the same way He gives His grace to us! Jesus didn't “earn” grace from His Father through some system of employment or quest fulfillment. Jesus, as a human, received the free grace of His Father and was empowered by the Father's grace in order to accomplish their joint purpose in saving humanity from sin.

So what is God's grace?

The Greek word translated as grace is χάρις [charis /khar·eche/], and the Strong lexicon says it is “good will, loving-kindness, favour ... the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues” (Strong, J. 1995. In *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship).

This is exactly what Paul wrote in Romans 2:4: “God's kindness leads you toward repentance” (NIV84).

And the kindness of God is freely given because of who God is. We see God's grace in His every action, all His activities, which are the outflow of His character of love and which always fights against evil, opposes corruption, stands against sin, and heals, renews, recreates, cleanses, and ultimately destroys death and brings life and immortality to light (2 Timothy 1:10). God's grace is the



dispersment of His energy, love, life, and power and is seen in His every act, but it is most fully seen in response to rebellion and sin. As Paul wrote, “Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more” (Romans 5:20 NKJV).

God was just as gracious before sin and His grace was present and active before sin, but after sin His grace has been active and revealed in ways that were never before seen in the universe because it was never before needed—including the gracious condescension of Jesus to be our Savior. Prior to sin, God was just as gracious, but His grace never had to function to overcome sin until sin occurred.

We see God’s grace in calling to Adam in the cool of the day before Adam sinned, but His grace is more powerfully revealed when God gently called, “Adam, where are you?” when Adam was hiding in the bushes after he sinned.

We see God’s grace in His patient forbearance toward lost sinners prior to the Flood, waiting to act until there was no other option, when only one righteous man was left on the earth; thus, we see God’s grace in bringing the Flood as a therapeutic intervention to keep open the avenue for the Messiah in order to save the species human from sin and eternal death.

But we see God’s grace most fully revealed in sending Jesus to take up humanity, broken and damaged by Adam’s sin, and overcome where we never could.

- “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14 NIV84).
- “From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:16, 17 NIV84).
- “But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift” (Ephesians 4:7 NRSV).
- “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:8–10 NIV84).

The grace of God is indeed a gift—like water to a person dying of thirst is a gift; the gifting is gracious, but the grace is more than the act; it is the substance of God’s character—His love, truth, methods, power, glory, righteousness—fully manifested in Jesus. **When we receive God’s grace, we are receiving the presence and power of God via His indwelling Spirit, we are receiving the gift of Jesus, and can say as Paul did, “It is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me”** (Galatians 2:20). When we receive God’s grace, we receive a new heart and right spirit; we have His law written upon our hearts and minds (Hebrews 8:10).



TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, “Someone once said...” The lesson asks us to read Matthew 5:43-48:

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:43-48 NIV84).

What does it mean? Why are we to pray for those who persecute us?

What is revealed by the examples Jesus gave as to how God treats the righteous and unrighteous the same? What kind of law is revealed in Jesus’ example? This is the reality, God is Creator, His laws are design laws and they treat everyone the same, the only difference is in the individual, not the laws or in God.

What happens to us if instead of praying for our enemies we fantasize about their punishment, suffering, and death, and pray for their punishing, and perhaps even looking forward to the day when God tortures them in hell?

But what happens to us if we pray for our enemies, pray for their repentance, for the sin-sickness in them to be cured and for them to become trustworthy friends of God?

WEDNESDAY

Read second paragraph, “It is terrible...” What do you understand justice to be? How can you tell what is just and unjust?

Does our view of law make a difference?

Do we recognize that the abuser, the sinner, the oppressor is actually destroying their own souls and doing more damage to themselves than they are to the victim of their crime?

When Jesus was being crucified by the mob, who was being destroyed in that process? Was Jesus being destroyed or were those crucifying Him destroying their own souls?

What about when Stephen was being stoned? Did the stoning of Stephen destroy Stephen or those who stoned him?



What did Jesus mean by:

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28 NET).

Who destroys the souls of sinners in the fires of hell?

“The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction” (Galatians 6:8 NIV84).

How do we understand this?

Is sin harmless and God is the one who harms the sinner for their sin, or does sin actually destroy?

What law lens do we use?

If God’s law is like human law then sin doesn’t actually cause harm any more than going 36 mph in a 35 mph zone does. In this false law model sin is a legal problem that requires the ruling authority to use power to inflict punishment for sin, thus, in this false model, God becomes the source of suffering and death and the one whom we need protection from—and many atonement models and theologies teach such ideas, something being done to God to protect us from Him.

But when we understand God as Creator and His law as design law then we understand that sin breaks the very protocols of life, separate us from God and results in ruin and death and requires God to heal and restore in us His law reconciling us to Him so that we receive life from Him.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

To clear up any confusion, Dr. Jennings will CONTINUE to teach our bible study class AFTER his move to Liberty Univ. The schedule will be similar to how it has been with various substitute teachers teaching from time to time, but he will always be present “on stage” WITH those teachers via remote Zoom call.

If you are in our new studio then you will be able to interact live with Dr. Jennings, if you are not in the studio you will get the non-interactive livestream as usual.

Podcasts: We have a weekly podcast about 13 minutes long that is available to be delivered to your device if you sign up for it.

Remedy app: The Remedy is available as a free app and includes the New Testament, Psalms and Genesis.

Building update: Still aiming to occupy our building in September. Keep us in your prayers.

Dr. Jennings presentation at the United Healthcare Summit in Grand Rapids MI. entitled COVID and the Manipulation of Your Mind, is available at https://odysee.com/@ComeAndReason:4/CovidAndManipulationOfYourMind_UnitedForHealthcareSummit_TimJennings_20220715_1080p30:b

September 8-10, 2022: Dr. Jennings and Dr. Curt Thompson will be presenting an Intensive together at the American Association of Christian Counselors National Conference in Dallas, TX. You can find more details about the event at <https://nationalaacc.com/>