



2022 3Q In the Crucible with Christ—Lesson 12 Dying Like a Seed

by Tim Jennings

SABBATH

Let's read the memory text, John 12:23-26:

“Jesus replied, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me’” (John 12:23–26 NIV84).

What does this text mean to you?

“Jesus replied, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.’”

What is Jesus referring to when He says the time has come for Him to be glorified? Is He referring to might, power, pomp, signs, or wonders?

He is referring to His crucifixion; to being beaten, abused, treated unjustly, and dying on the cross. How is this glorifying Him?

What is God's glory? His character of love! And why does God's glory, His character, need to be revealed at such cost? Because Satan's primary war effort is lies about God and those lies caused confusion throughout the universe and the truth about God and God's character and methods of love needed to be revealed to settle all questions about God's trustworthiness.

So how was the crucifixion the means to glorify Jesus? Jesus had all power and at the crucifixion what does Jesus do with all power? He restrained the use of His power; He left His sinful creatures free to abuse and mistreat Him. He revealed that He values the freedom of His intelligent creatures more than He values protecting Himself, which means He revealed He is love and how love actually works. He submitted to injustice, to abuse, to death and in doing so He destroyed the lies about God that Satan told, and destroyed the infection of fear and selfishness within the humanity that He assumed thereby perfecting humanity and thus, even though He was buried, He rose again demonstrating that God's laws are the laws of life.



Notice what Jesus says in this same conversation about His being glorified by His refusal to use power to protect Himself, but instead He accomplishes His goal by surrendering Himself in love to protect the liberty of His creatures, even protecting the liberty of His enemies to abuse and kill Him:

“Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. [Jesus knew this was His mission, to confront and overcome the lies, but also to purify the species human by destroying the infection of fear and selfishness, the carnal drives of sin that corrupt the human species. Thus He rose again as the new head of a new humanity that He perfected.] Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. **Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.**” He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.” (John 12:27-33 NIV84). [The word “men” is supplied, it is not in the Greek. Jesus didn’t say He would draw all men to Himself, but He would draw all unto Himself. Jesus was including the unfallen angels in heaven. As Colossians 1:20 says “all things in heaven and earth are reconciled to Christ at the cross.” The lies of Satan were refuted at the cross. God and Jesus were revealed to be trustworthy and all sympathy for Satan in the loyal beings in heaven was severed. Satan’s work was restricted after the cross by the revelation of truth of God’s character, methods, principles fully lived out by Jesus. God was glorified in His Son at the cross]

When we think of God’s glory do we think of His character of love?

When we think of the 3 Angels’ messages and the call to “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water” (Revelation 14:7 NIV84), do we think about loving others and sacrificing self like Jesus did as the way to give God glory? Or do we present a god who makes up rules and then we tell people that if they don’t obey His rules then they are in legal trouble because God is sitting in judgment and if they don’t stop breaking His rules He is going to declare them guilty and then use His power to inflict pain and suffering upon them before He kills them? Is this the message we are to share to the world in order to bring God glory? Or is such a penal/legal punishing god the very picture of a human dictator, the very character of Satan, the very same type of power used against Jesus by His crucifiers and the opposite of the glorious character of God?

“Jesus replied, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me’” (John 12:23–26 NIV84).



So what does it mean to glorify God? What are the lessons of the kernel falling into the ground and dying?

There are multiple:

First, is what Jesus said directly. The seed is an object lesson of Jesus, as our Savior, dying and being buried only to come forth in a new and perfected humanity, the second Adam, who provides the remedy to sin and thereby Jesus brings forth much fruit—the saved throughout history who have partaken of Jesus' victory and been saved from sin.

Second, this lesson applies to us individually. We are required to “die” to sin, to selfishness, to the old carnal nature and rise again with a new heart and right spirit, living a new life with new motives that come from Jesus. So, the object lesson also applies to us individually, we are to die to the survival drives, the fear driven, me-first, self-advancement motives of this world, and live to love God and others more than self, sacrificing self for the good of others.

Now let's explore this concept a little more. Was the death of Christ an event that brought an end to life, or an event that brought an end to death and the death causing principle and opened the way for eternal life to be experienced by us?

“So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, [this is self-sacrificial love, this is dying to selfishness by giving of self for the advancement of God's kingdom] by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. [Saved us? From what? From Himself, from an angry punishing god who would use power to torture and kill us? No! From sin, from the death causing principle that corrupts us.] This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, [think about that—how could this grace be given us in Christ Jesus before time was even created? Which means before we were created, which means before angels were created? Because this grace is not something new, it is the eternal gospel spoken of in the 3 angels' messages, the eternal good news that has always been true about God. God's character of love has never changed, it has always been the same. God's design laws of love have never changed, they have always been and always will be constants that life is built upon. The only thing that changed was Lucifer corrupted himself and spread lies about God causing the perspective of angels and humans to change, to question God, to distrust Him and to be afraid of Him, to view God as authoritarian and unforgiving, severe, and punishing. But this was never true. God has always been and will always be the same, God is love and God is always for us and never needs anything done to Him to save us. But we need something done to us to return us to trust in Him so that we will cooperate with Him so that He can heal and save us. And Jesus is true to Himself and committed Himself to be our Savior before time was even created.] but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, **who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light** through the gospel” (2 Timothy 1:8-10 NIV84). [Jesus death wasn't the death that ends life, it was the death that ends the cause of death, that destroys sin, that destroys rebellion, that destroys Satan and Satan's power of death (Hebrews 2:14) and fully restores God's living law



of love into the species human, which means perfectly restores the species to unity with God, the source of life and thus brings life and immortality to light.]

When we think about the seed falling into the dirt and “dying” that seed still has the life-causing principle in it, but it dies to what it was so that it can live to what it can be in God’s purpose. Jesus died as our Savior in order to destroy the infection of sin, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV84). Jesus died to destroy sin, Satan, death, Satan’s power, and Satan’s work and restore God’s law and character back into the living temple, the showcase where God created it to be—the human being and this is why He rose again, it was the predictable, inevitable, unavoidable result of His completing His mission. Unity with God, knowing God intimately, loving and trusting Him, having His living law of love written upon the heart through that intimate love connection with God is life. Jesus could predict His resurrection because He knew what He was going to accomplish, not because of prophetic vision of the future.

We just read 2 Timothy 1:10 about destroying death, here are the texts about what else Christ destroyed by His death:

- “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14 NIV84).
- “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work” (1 John 3:8 NIV84).
 - And what has Satan worked to accomplish? To destroy the image of God in human beings and put Satan’s image where God’s should be. Satan has been jealous of Jesus as Creator and humans as pro-creators and Satan has labored to make beings in his image, specifically to turn humanity into, as Revelation calls it, “synagogues of Satan.” But in Jesus all of Satan’s corruption has been purged and God’s perfection has been fully and completely restored into the species human and in Jesus we have a perfect, sinless human being. Jesus justified or put right the species human in the humanity He took upon Himself and carried through the cross. Now a human being stands at the right hand of the Father and wields the power of the Godhead because that human being is none other than God Himself, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

And when we are united through faith in Jesus, His life, His love, His victory is reproduced in us through the indwelling Spirit and the infection of fear and selfishness is displaced as the motivating power of our actions. We are still tempted in this world, but our motivation is our love, trust, and devotion to God and we choose to align ourselves with God and choose His methods relying on His power to overcome and succeed.

There is another lesson from the seed falling to the ground and dying and that is the lesson of the resurrection from the first death to immortal life in an earth made new.

Paul wrote:



“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power” (1 Corinthians 15:42-43 KJV).

Jesus said,

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26 NIV84).

Do we believe this?

Then this dying isn't the cessation of life it is something else? It is a pause, a sleep, a state of suspended animation, a timeout, an interruption of active living, but it is not the cessation of existence. Thus, it is not the death that is the result of unremedied sin in the life.

The Bible refers to two deaths, the first death, which is described as this sleep—just like your computer running out of power goes to sleep. Jesus said this of His friend Lazarus and went to the grave to wake him up. That death was not the death the wicked die in the end. The first death, the sleep death is the death of grace, of mercy; it is an artificial state of pause permitted by God for the plan of salvation to be carried out.

But the Bible refers to a second death, a death that comes after the 1000 years, after the great white throne judgment, a death from which there is no resurrection, a death in which the individuality of wicked are eternally destroyed and they live no more. This is death from sin, the actual cessation of existence.

Now, the question, what causes the death that is the wages of sin? Does sin cause this eternal death or does God cause this death as a punishment for sin?

If God were to do nothing, to exercise no power, to take no action, but merely to allow events and circumstances to operate in their natural way, in harmony with Himself and His design laws for life, would the wicked live eternally in sin or would they die?

I recently had a conversation with a very intelligent and sincere Christian gentleman who takes the position that God, for justice sake, is the cause of death for the wicked. He suggests that God takes an action that causes the death of the wicked in the end. He argues that God, by revealing His glory, is killing them by this action and this is justice and the punishment for sin.

It is a subtle misinterpretation of reality that comes from the imposed law view, the idea that God's law functions like human law and that God as Sovereign must use power to inflict the pain and suffering and death upon the wicked for justice sake.

But the facts are being interpreted backwards—as soon as Adam sinned God, in mercy began taking an action, using power, intervening, interceding in ways that are artificial, that are not natural to His



universe, in order to stop sin and save His children. What action did God take that was artificial, but an act of grace to save sinners? God veiled Himself. He withdrew His infinite life-giving glory from planet earth, to prevent the destruction of humanity that would have occurred had He not. Adam and Eve suddenly found themselves naked and cold and they sought to cover themselves because God's light was no longer their covering. The natural state in God's universe is to be bathed and covered in light, like Elijah and Moses were on the mount of transfiguration; like the millions described in Daniel when the Ancient of days takes His throne and rivers of fire come out from Him.

After Adam sinned, God in mercy withdrew His full presence, His sustaining power didn't flow over the planet any longer in its fullest sense and nature began to decay, mutations entered, things began to wither and die, including human beings. Aging and the sleep death are not inflicted punishments by God for sin, they are a result of God's grace working, of God veiling His presence to allow the plan of salvation to be carried out.

Remember God said to Moses, "no one may see me and live" (Exodus 33:20 NIV84). Why?

What destroys the lawless in the end? The brightness of Jesus' coming (2Thes 2:8).

So what does the Bible teach is the cause of eternal death? Is God the source of death, does death come out from God? Or is God the source of life and death is the unavoidable result of breaking away from God and refusing reconciliation and healing that God freely offers? In other words, death results from unremedied sin which severs the connection with God, the source of life and occurs when God stops using power to protect the wicked and returns the universe to its normal state, filled with His glory. Any Bible verses on this?

- "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23 NIV84).
- "Sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death" (James 1:15 NIV84).
- "The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction" (Galatians 6:8 NIV84).

So first death is a sleep, a timeout, a pause, a mercy of God's grace for the purpose of carrying out the plan of salvation, while the second death is the eternal destruction of the sinner the eternal cessation of life that comes from sin for all who refuse God's healing.

But, is the terminology of "dying" that doesn't actually result in death but results in life confusing?

I use this concept a lot in marriage counseling when dealing with a toxic marital situation in which certain practices are employed that are damaging to both parties, yet both parties want to save the marriage, but they don't want to go on like this.

What are they saying they want? They want the old way of relating to die and they want to have a new relationship with new motives, practices, principles that bring forth fruits of joy, love, kindness, health, and wellness. They don't want to return to the old ways, the old relationship, they want to kill it so they can have a new relationship in which new and healthy ways of living are employed.



And what would be required for them to have such a new and healthy marriage? Healthy relationships require healthy people, so the only way for them to kill the dysfunctional marriage and bring forth a new and vibrant one, is for each of them to die to fear, sin, and selfishness and be reborn with godly principles—God’s living law active and functioning in their hearts and minds.

This is what the Bible is teaching—we must die to all the ways that are harmful, the fear-based self-centered motives that break the very protocols that life and health are built upon. When we do this, we do die to the old destructive habits and ways and are reborn into Jesus Christ and His life begins to flow into us renewing us as new creatures in Him.

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “Contemporary culture...” Is this correct? Are we to give up our rights? Do we have any inalienable rights that we are never to surrender? Did Jesus surrender His rights?

The lesson points us to Philippians 2:5-9 in which Jesus did not think equality with God was something to be grasped but humbled Himself into humanity and all the way to the cross.

There is no question that Jesus sacrificed Himself and surrendered His original position in heaven in order to take a lowly position on Earth, for the purpose we already explored, to complete His mission of stopping the rebellion of sin and saving humanity. But did Jesus give up His rights to do so?

It all depends on what law lens you are thinking through. If we use the human law lens then Jesus gave up His rights, but if we use God’s design law, then we see something beautiful and incredible.

Did Jesus have the right to save humanity after Adam sinned? Did Jesus give up that right or did He exercise that right?

Who is the rightful ruler of planet Earth, Adam or Jesus? Did Adam rule Earth as Creator and owner of the Earth, or was Adam’s rule subordinate to God and under the rightful authority of Jesus? When Adam sinned and Satan claimed Adam’s position as ruler of Earth, did Jesus surrender His right to Earth and cede it to Satan or did Jesus retain His right and exercise His powers for the purpose of overthrowing Satan, destroying Satan’s power (as we read in Hebrews 2:14) and redeeming Earth from Satan’s clutches?

When Jesus was on Earth 2000 years ago, did He surrender His right to heal, to save, to forgive sins, to set captives free? Did Jesus surrender His right to teach and reveal the truth about the Father to the religious authorities and theology professors?

Did Jesus surrender His right to life? Or did Jesus say that He was laying down His life only to pick it up again?



“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority [the right] to lay it down and authority [the right] to take it up again. This command I received from my Father” (John 10:17-18 NIV84). [This command—this mission, the Father sent Jesus to accomplish their joint mission to overthrow Satan, destroy sin, destroy death, and save humanity. God was in the Son reconciling the world to Himself.]

Did Jesus surrender His rights or retain them and exercise them?

Did Jesus surrender His freedom or retain His freedom?

When Peter cut off the High Priest’s ear,

“Jesus commanded Peter, ‘Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?’”(John 18:11 NIV84)

“Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?” (Matthew 26:53-54 NIV84).

Did Jesus surrender His right to joy or did Jesus retain His right:

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy set before him endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and **sat down at the right hand of the throne of God**” (Hebrews 12:2 NIV84).

Did Jesus surrender or retain His right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?

Jesus retained and exercised His rights, but did so only in harmony with reality, with God’s kingdom, through living out God’s design laws of truth, love, and liberty.

The argument of the lesson about giving up our rights applies only when we view our rights through human law, **because human law is about imposing our will on others, forcing others to submit to our ways**, it is imperial, demanding that others acknowledge us and treat us the way we insist is our right.

But the kingdom of God is within us (Luke 17:21), and when we exercise the authority God has given us over ourselves to live out His methods and principles we never seek to force the hearts, minds, and consciences of others, but we also never surrender our right to live godly lives to the ungodly either. So we will not collude with beastly methods of coercion of consciences, even if we lose our government reimbursements, our jobs, or our freedom to travel etc.

Satan is a liar and he deceives by getting people to replace the laws of God for the methods and laws of humanity and then to seek to advance their rights through imperial methods of legislation, force,



coercion upon others, rather than advancing our rights through living out the truth, the love, and the methods of God in how we treat others.

MONDAY

Read Romans 12:1-2:

“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” (Romans 12:1-2 NIV84).

The lesson states, “It is only the renewed mind that truly can understand God’s will.”

What does it mean to have a renewed mind?

Can you think of any ways in which a renewed mind thinks differently than an unrenewed mind?

What do you think about what the verse itself says, that “you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is”?

What does this mean? Are we to test and then approve God’s will? Aren’t we merely to surrender and submit to God’s will? If we are to test and approve God’s will what would that mean for our thinking process? Are we to reason, comprehend and understand, or are we merely to submit and do what God instructs?

Does the renewed mind seek to understand God while the unrenewed mind seeks to simply obey?

Does the renewed mind seek an enlightened and intelligent faith while the unrenewed mind has “blind” faith?

Does the renewed mind seek to understand God’s methods and principles and intelligently live in harmony with them, while the unrenewed mind seeks to determine the right rules and the authorized way to keep the rules?

Does the renewed mind, with a jealousy for God’s reputation, humbly question what God has said while the unrenewed mind seeks to obey and never question what God has said? Consider Abraham questioning God about Sodom or Moses questioning God about destroying the people? Did they have renewed minds? Would it have been better had they taken the position “Who am I to question God. If the Sovereign has said it, I believe it, and that is all there is to it.”

What about John 15:15 Jesus says:



“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you” (John 15:15 NIV84).

Does a friend of God have a renewed mind? What about a servant?

Is there a difference between the attitude and mindset of a friend and that of a servant?

What does God want from us and why?

WEDNESDAY

Read the first paragraph, “When Eve...” What is being suggested? Is it being suggested that Eve was to believe that she did not have the ability to think, to comprehend, to reason, to understand? Was she to believe she was incapable of determining the right from the wrong and choosing the right? Was she not to exercise and use her own judgment and make a choice?

In fact, wasn’t the Tree of Knowledge put in the garden for this express purpose, to give Adam and Eve the opportunity to be confronted in the most gentle way possible, with a choice—a choice to trust or distrust God? To believe God or believe the lies of Satan about God and then act upon what they chose to believe?

At the Tree of knowledge, would they choose to know the truth and trust God and thereby choose to know love, loyalty, and friendship with God and solidify themselves into beings with characters like God’s, or would they choose to know fear, selfishness, disloyalty, shame, guilt, and death?

The tree was the place where they were to exercise the abilities God gave them and choose. It was not placed there for them to become mindless servants who refuse to think who simply turn off their reasoning abilities and say, “God said it who am I to question or seek to understand.” They were to think through all that God had given them, all that He had revealed about Himself and that they knew personally about Him and compare that to the lies being told and conclude the serpent is lying and that God is trustworthy; they were to be fully settled into their understanding and loyalty to God because they thought the issues through and had been fully persuaded in their own minds. They were to mature and the mature are those who have developed by practice the ability to discern the right from the wrong (Hebrews 5:14).

The lesson next focuses on King Saul’s downfall and they suggest his downfall was a three step process in which Saul “saw” the scattering of his troops, then “said” to himself that the Philistines would win, so he “felt” compelled to offer sacrifice.

The situation was that an army of Philistines was gathering and Saul initially has about 3000 men. Samuel was to meet them, but for 10 days doesn’t come and Saul is fearful, doesn’t show faith or



confidence in the Lord, and his men start deserting, ultimately by the time Samuel arrives there are about 600 men left with Saul.

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. 8 He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. 9 So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. 10 Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

11 "What have you done?" asked Samuel.

Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, 12 I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

13 "You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. 14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command." (1 Samuel 13:7-14 NIV84).

Why did Saul lose the kingdom over this? Didn't he, in dire circumstances turn to the Lord? He didn't go to the witch of Endor here, what did he do wrong?

He misrepresented God and treated God like a pagan god, like Baal, a god that requires sacrifice to be offered to get the god to intervene and help. He didn't actually trust God, but thought he had to pay god, influence god, bribe god with a sacrifice to get a blessing.

TUESDAY

The lesson points our attention to the story of Samuel as a child and hearing the voice calling his name and eventually realizing it wasn't Eli, but God, and Samuel responds with "speak Lord, for your servant is listening."

The lesson points out that the Holy Spirit is the still small voice that speaks gently to those who are willing to listen. Why? Why does the Spirit work this way?

What does God want from us and for us? God wants our understanding friendship, love, loyalty, devotion, and agreement with Him. Can God get this by intimidating, frightening, or in any way threatening us? What happens if we are overwhelmed with might and power? Does it lead to love, trust, understanding friendship? Or does intense stress impair thinking, learning, and growth?



Yes, when we are frightened, when our fear circuits fire, it impairs the function of the prefrontal cortex and the ability to think, reason, comprehend, process new concepts and ideas are impaired, further the more fear the more self-concerned we become, we regress into survival modes of fight, flight, of freezing.

God doesn't want this for us, thus the God works, not by might, nor by power, but by His Spirit, and the Spirit is the Spirit of truth and love, in an atmosphere of absolute freedom.

If that is so, then why did God thunder at Sinai, why did God send earthquakes, she bears, and fire at Mount Carmel?

While it is true that understanding friendship, love, trust, and loyalty can only be achieved through the gentle application of truth and love, gentle truths cannot be heard in the middle of a riot. So, God sometimes raises His voice to quiet the audience and get them to listen. And at Sinai when God thundered and all the people were terrified, there was Moses standing there in the middle of it all saying, "there is no need to be afraid." God was not their enemy, any more than if you would be if you came home to find your teenagers having a wild party with loud music, alcohol, drugs and several people were on the roof about to jump with umbrellas to see if they would work like parachutes and you yelled loud enough to stop the chaos. You are not the enemy of your children or their friends, but in that environment raising your voice was necessary to stop the chaos and hopefully over the next days and weeks get your children to listen.

But if they won't listen, then what happens as a result of mere power to quiet the chaos?

- What happened after the flood—the tower of Babel
- What happened after the plagues of Egypt—the golden calf
- What happened after the earth swallowed Korah and the other rebels—more grumbling and complaining
- What happened after the fire fell at Mount Carmel—more rebellion and eventual captivity in Babylon

Can God get understanding friends by the use of might and power? No! He can only get temporary cessation of chaos, but if people won't listen to the gentle voice of truth and love, what more can God do for them?

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, "As we saw yesterday..." What do you think about this? Can shopping make people happy? No, such activities can bring momentary pleasure, but not happiness. Happiness is always a by-product of healthiness, it is the natural result of growing closer to Jesus and living in harmony with His designs for life. Ultimate happiness will be experienced in the Earth made new.



But many people substitute pleasure-seeking for happiness, but pleasure-seeking often breaks the laws of health, the design laws of God and causes more unhappiness which will trigger more pleasure seeking to offset the unhappy feelings—it is a destructive cycle downward.

The only way out is the truth, the truth will set you free, but to begin the walk out of dysfunction to health is painful.

Once there is brokenness of injury of any kind there are no pain free options, the only options are to do what heals or not, but the healthy path is often painful. For those on the pleasure seeking path they almost always avoid the healthy path because it doesn't feel good, and thus then continue down the unhealthy path causing their condition to worsen.

The lesson points out that only supernatural help from God can relieve the pressure and give us victory. I agree with this, we cannot overcome in our own strength, the choice is ours, the power comes from God. But does the supernature help and power always come in obviously supernatural ways? Or is it often the gentle voice of the Spirit of truth and love working on a heart in the quiet moments of the night?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Jennings will still teach SS class and that broadcast will still go out live each Sabbath after he moves to Lynchburg. The schedule will be similar to how it has been with various substitute teachers teaching from time to time.

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 livestream feed as usual.

NEW MAGAZINE: Unmasking the Beasts of Revelation 13 & 17: Discovering Untold Truths to Prepare for What Comes Next! is now available.

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/>