



## 2022 4Q On Death, Dying, and the Future Hope—Lesson 12 The Biblical Worldview

by Tim Jennings

### SABBATH

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What is a Biblical worldview?

Is a Biblical worldview better than other worldviews?

Does it depend on what law model those who hold a Biblical worldview have?

Does it depend on what God concept those who hold a Biblical worldview have?

Did those who crucified Christ consider themselves to have a Biblical worldview?

Did the Puritans who burned people they believed were witches to death believe they had a Biblical worldview?

Do you think David Koresh and the Branch Davidians believed they had a Biblical worldview?

Is it enough to believe in the Bible? Is it possible to believe in the Bible and be one of God's worst enemies?

Would you like to have someone like David Koresh or Caiaphas, who both would claim to have a Biblical worldview, in charge of your church or perhaps in charge of your government?

Is knowing the Bible enough or something more than knowing Scripture needed?

Is life eternal knowing the Bible or is it knowing God and Jesus Christ—and of course the Bible is God's revelation to us. Thus, we need to prioritize the Scripture in our pursuit of truth, but I am making a point.

The primary purpose of Scripture is to reveal God to us in the context of the cosmic conflict, the sin problem, and God's solution for it.

Scripture reveals God's dealing with the sin problem and thereby reveals God to us, this is its primary purpose.



So a Biblical worldview means understanding the truth about God, God's character, God's design laws and methods and not falling into the trap of viewing God and the Bible through human law and imperialism.

In fact, I would suggest that those who hold the wrong picture of God and believe God's law functions like human law, who have presented God running the universe like Caesar ran Rome, with imposed rules and imposed punishments, are actually promoting a non-biblical worldview while claiming to be promoting a biblical worldview.

Read first paragraph:

The book of Revelation speaks of two major "globalizations" prior to the Second Coming of Christ. Revelation 13 describes the globalization of error, when "all the world" will marvel and follow the beast from the sea (Rev. 13:3, 7, 8, 12, 16, NKJV). Revelation 14 highlights the globalization of truth, when the "everlasting gospel" will be preached "to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people" (Rev. 14:6, 7, NKJV). During those "distressing times" (2 Tim. 3:1, NRSV), "every wind of doctrine" will be blowing (Eph. 4:14, NKJV) and people will "turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths" (2 Tim. 4:4, NRSV). "Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome." — Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 588. (Adult SS Guide 4Q 2022, p. 96)

How would you describe the globalization of error?

The lesson seems to be leading us to believe the final globalization of error will be over the state of the dead and day of worship, that if we have the right understanding of the state of the dead and worship on the Bible Sabbath then we will not be drawn into the beastly system and won't use its power?

Is this true? Will knowing the truth about these doctrines and worshiping on the right day mean people receive the seal of God and are protected from receiving the mark of the beast?

Or, is it that the two errors referenced above open people up for the final deception and they choose the beastly methods and practices? The author they quoted says: "Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions."

So is the final deception believing wrong about these two ideas, or about other deceptions that Satan brings people under?

Have you ever heard the idea that Sunday is the mark of the beast? But the same author we quoted above repeatedly says that Sunday *enforcement* is the mark of the beast, not Sunday itself. That same author says there is nothing in the Sabbath commandment that forbids worshiping God on Sunday or doing missionary work on Sunday or requires antagonizing our neighbors by working on Sunday.



The issue is about what Sunday and Sabbath represent. They stand as emblems, marks, signs, flags, pennants of two systems or governing.

Sabbath became a day of worship by Creation, God created it as a day of rest when God rested from using power after giving evidence of His methods, of His creatorship, of creating an entire planet that functions upon His design laws. And He did this in the context of a war against His right to rule. God, presented truth, in love and wove the design law of love into this entire planet, and then rather than using power to force angels to bow, He created a day where He stopped using power, a day of liberty, of freedom to think without pressure or coercion. Thus the Sabbath stands as a symbol or sign of the methods and principles of God's government.

Sunday became a day of worship through legislation and stands as evidence or a symbol of imperialism, of imposed law with external enforcement and inflicted punishment. It is a sign of the methods and practices of Satan and this fallen world. Why? Because created beings cannot create reality, we cannot make laws of physics, or gravity, or health, so created beings who want to counterfeit the government of God make up rules that are called laws and enforce them with inflicted punishment. Thus the artificial legislation of Sunday sacredness, not going to church on Sunday, but legislation, imposed passed laws about its sacredness, is evidence of the beastly system and methods. And when those laws are enforced with coercion then the coercive force used to coerce conscience is understood to be the mark of the beast. Those who believe in their minds that it is right to coerce another person's conscience mark themselves in their foreheads, symbolic of their minds. And those who go along with the coercion to keep their job, their government funding, their travel privileges or any other benefit, mark themselves in their hands, symbolic of their works.

But, the two days, Sabbath and Sunday, are not the governments, any more than the US flag is our government. They two days are signs or marks of the governments and the two types of laws.

And people can wave the US flag while they work for enemies of the US government. Likewise, people can revere and extol the Bible Sabbath and crucify the Lord of the Sabbath and want Him off the cross by sunset to keep the Sabbath. Such people are marked as beastly.

Whereas, those who revere the principles of God, truth, love, liberty and refuse to coerce others consciences while they worship on Sunday are sealed of God and considered Sabbath keepers because they have the design law of God written upon their heart of which the Bible Sabbath is a sign.

The same author the lesson quoted wrote the following:

The time has come for the true light to shine amid moral darkness. The third angel's message has been sent forth to the world, **warning men against receiving the mark of the beast or of his image in their foreheads or in their hands. To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the word of God.** {*Review and Herald*, July 13, 1897 par. 5}



What are the methods and practices of the beast?

- Lies
- Imposed laws
- Coercive enforcement

The same author wrote in the book *The Great Controversy*:

**If the reader would understand** the agencies to be employed in the soon-coming contest, he has but to trace the record of **the means** which Rome employed for the same object in ages past. [This means look at the methods employed, not the specific doctrine the methods were employed to advance.] **If he would know how papists and Protestants united will deal with those who reject their dogmas, let him see the spirit which Rome manifested toward the Sabbath and its defenders.** { *Great Controversy* 573 } [Again, the author is telling us to look at the **METHODS** employed.]

**Royal edicts, general councils, and church ordinances sustained by secular power were the steps** by which the pagan festival attained its position of honor in the Christian world... [What methods? Proclamations, imposed rules, legislation, authority of office, backed up by governmental coercive enforcement. This is what we are to be watching for. Romanism, overruling conscience on any subject by edict, authority of office—perhaps an executive order, law, and inflicted punishment. Have we seen these methods used the last two years? And did many Christians collude with them?] { *Great Controversy* 574 }

**The royal mandate [or executive orders] not proving a sufficient substitute for divine authority**, Eusebius, a bishop who sought the favor of princes, and who was the special friend and flatterer of Constantine, **advanced the claim** that Christ had transferred the Sabbath to Sunday. **Not a single testimony of the Scriptures was produced in proof of the new doctrine...** { *Great Controversy* 574 }. [What is the method of Satan here? Imposed laws and mandates coupled with claims, declarations, and proclamations without evidence. Have we seen mandates recently that coerced consciences, mandates that lacked evidence to support them, and that were advanced through some claim? In other words, Eusebius, a doctoral church historian and theologian, gave his *expert opinion* that something was true. He claimed it, declared it, used the authority of position and office. Have we seen this happening in society recently? And have we recognized this as beastly? Or are we locked into the day of worship only and cannot recognize the beastly methods at work that destroy hearts through other forced behaviors or false ideas?]

**Later it was decreed** that rich men should **be punished** with the loss of half of their estates; and finally, that if still obstinate they should be made slaves. The lower classes were to suffer perpetual banishment... { *Great Controversy* 574 } [What methods are employed here? Have we recently seen the use of financial punishment, loss of employment, restrictions of liberty upon those who didn't comply with government mandates regarding their own body and health?]



Later the pope gave directions that the parish priest should admonish the violators of Sunday and wish them to go to church and say their prayers, **lest they bring some great calamity on themselves and neighbors...** { *Great Controversy 575* } [Have we seen the science priests and government officials making the argument that it is right to coerce others because if we don't some great calamity will happen to them and their neighbors?]

With this in mind, how would you describe the globalization of deception that brings the world, all but the righteous, into the camp of the beast?

By the advancement of some just cause through the application of Satan's methods, and those methods are:

- Imposed laws and made up mandates that coerce conscience
- Claims, proclamations, declarations—not evidence and truth; in other words, propaganda, misinformation, and deceit
- Silencing, vilifying, and censoring those pursuing and presenting evidence and truth
- Accusations against those who resist the mandates that they are the cause of calamity and suffering on society
- Use of coercive pressure, fines, loss of property, loss of jobs, loss of position, licenses, ability to travel, assemble, worship, visit family, imprisonment and the Bible says eventually death penalty

Are we seeing the globalization of such methods and principles, the willingness of a freedom-loving people to abuse their neighbors and restrict the liberties of others under the guise of advancing some good cause?

And what of the church's response?

Consider this warning, from the same author, written over 100 years ago:

In the movements now in progress in the United States **to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the state, Protestants are following in the steps of papists.** { *Great Controversy 573* } [Have we seen churches join the state in the coercion of its employees in order for them to secure the support of the state, the continued financial reimbursements, the avoidance of any fines, or orders to shut down?]

Do we see the call of the three angels, which the lesson references, is a global message of truth, of the eternal gospel, the good news about God that has always been true, that God is the Creator, whose laws are design laws and God is not an imperial dictator whose laws are imposed and enforced with external punishments?

- Do we recognize and respond to the call to return to worship God as Creator, the One who made the heavens, earth, sea and fountains of water, and we do this by rejecting imposed law and embracing design law?



- Do we respond to the call to leave Babylon, the fallen system of imposed law and imposed punishments and stop aligning and supporting systems that coerce others' consciences, even for good causes?
- And are we presenting the truth about God in love while leaving others free? The hour has come in human history for people to make a right judgment about God, to stop judging Him to be like a Roman dictator and judge Him to be exactly as Jesus revealed.

Those who make this right judgment about God open their heart in trust to Him and the Holy Spirit is poured out transforming their characters, healing their hearts and minds, so that they bring glory to God by living out God's methods in how they treat others.

This is the final message of mercy, that separates the people of God from the world. And the people of God are those who are like Jesus in character and have His law written into their hearts and minds so that they love God and others and live out that love in how they treat others. Whereas, the enemies of God may very well be religious but they have embraced the lie that God is like Caesar and worship a dictator-god, and by so doing they embrace the imposed law of Satan and become like God's enemy, people who seek what they believe is right by using force, coercion, and punishment upon others to coerce consciences—all under the guise of seeking the greater good, protecting lives, saving the planet, or equity for all.

## SUNDAY

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Read Luke 2:52: "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52NIV84).

The lesson states,

Jesus was the perfect Human Being, and His growth comprised all basic dimensions of human existence. According to Luke 2:52, "Jesus grew in wisdom [mentally] and stature [physically], and in favor with God [spiritually] and man [socially]" (NIV). "His mind was active and penetrating, with a thoughtfulness and wisdom beyond His years. Yet His character was beautiful in its symmetry. The powers of mind and body developed gradually, in keeping with the laws of childhood. As a child, Jesus manifested a peculiar loveliness of disposition. His willing hands were ever ready to serve others. He manifested a patience that nothing could disturb, and a truthfulness that would never sacrifice integrity. In principle firm as a rock, His life revealed the grace of unselfish courtesy." — Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68, 69. (Adult SS Guide 4Q 2022, p. 97)

How did Jesus grow as a human? Did Jesus grow in a different way than the rest of us? Let's consider the different aspects of growth and what is necessary to grow in healthy ways and how Jesus did it and whether those same resources are available to us:





- Physical growth—what is necessary to grow physically?
  - Nutrition—food, did Jesus have to eat? Is healthy food important to our growth and health?
    - What happens with poor nutrition? Does poor nutrition affect only the body and physical growth, or does it have impact on the mind, the ability to regulate mood, to concentrate and focus, on memory and neural development? And does that have an impact on the ability to discern spiritual truths and to serve God to the fullest?
  - Exercise
    - The law of exertion if you want something to get stronger you must exercise, physical development requires exercise.
    - But exercising the body also improves brain development. Exercise increases anti-inflammatory factors that protect the brain from oxidative stress, neurotrophins which improve neuroplasticity and the ability to adapt and learn, and endorphins and enkaphalins which improve mood, provide resilience, help manage stress, and all of these factors improve neural development.
    - Additionally, the circuits which initiate physical movement also have a role in initiating thoughts, and the circuits which make our movements fluid, smooth, and organized, have a role in organizing our thoughts. Thus developing the body is not restricted to the body, but to the mind, character, and spiritual development as well.
    - Did Jesus need to physically exercise, to engage in physical activity, including work to develop various motor skills that would help his thinking and mental processing? And do we?
    - If we don't live in harmony, to the best of our ability, with the laws of health, what happens? And do physical health problems impact our usefulness in God's cause?
  - Security and safety
    - Iraqi children in safe zones versus war zones
    - Children experience security and safety not from governments, or the reality of available resources, but from their parents. If the parents create a home in which the children feel safe, then the children are insulated from much of the stressors in the world around them.
    - Did Jesus need a home in which He was safe and not abused?
    - Can we choose to be godly parents and not exploit and abuse our children, and do all in our power to provide safety and security for them?
  - Love
    - Fredrick the Great's study on infants...
    - Did Jesus need to be loved as a child and to experience the love that is God's design for parents to provide for their children?
    - Can we provide that love to our children?
- Mental growth, growth in wisdom and understanding—what is necessary?
  - Nutrition
  - Exercise—physical and mental, education, problem solving, application



- Security/safety—an environment where it is valued and safe to ask questions, to contemplate, to challenge orthodoxy, and access to sources of truth
- Love
- Spiritual growth
  - A healthy body and mind from harmony with the laws of health
  - Truth, access to spiritual truth, Scripture, nature, and someone to educate on the meaning
  - Protection from indoctrination into falsehood
  - Safety and security—non-abusive environment
  - Love
  - Choosing to build a relationship with God, talk with God, seek to listen to God’s answers, apply God’s directions, trust God with outcomes
  - Application of the truth in practice, loving others, exercising mercy, grace, forgiveness, patience, kindness and self-control
  - Did Jesus need these elements to grow? Do we?
- Social/relational growth
  - Healthy mind, body, and spirit
  - Love
  - Security/safety
  - Exercise in application of healthy relational principles, being the healthiest person in governance of self that one can be while leaving others free.
  - Do we see Jesus doing this, governing self with godly methods and principles, while leaving others free?
    - Did His brothers try to influence His decisions? Did Jesus surrender His choices to the opinions and influence of His brothers?
    - Did Jesus tolerate rejection in order to do what was right?
    - Do we need to do the same if we want healthy relationships?
    - Does being healing in governance of self guarantee that we will have healthy relationships?
    - Were all of Jesus’ relationships healthy? No! Healthy relationships require healthy people and His relationship with Judas ended in betrayal, why? Because Judas was selfish and refused the truth and love of God into his heart.
    - We cannot have healthy relationships with unhealthy people. And healthy people are not perfect people but people who are mature enough to be responsible for themselves, to look at their own contributions to problems, to be willing to own their own shortcomings and through God’s grace, repent, ask for forgiveness and strive to overcome. But the unhealthy are those who refuse to take responsibility for their own shortcomings, who won’t repent, who won’t grow and mature, but who instead always blame others, make excuses, and never grow up. We can love them like Jesus loved Judas, but the relationship will not be healthy, and if they don’t change themselves, the relationship will eventually come to an end.





Can people develop health by a checklist of rules? Or could rule-keeping result in harm while intending to help? What leads to health? Harmony with the laws of health!

## MONDAY

Read first paragraph:

“The dualistic theory of a mortal body with an immortal soul has generated various theories about the human body. For example, for ancient Greek philosophers, the human body was the prison of the soul, which was liberated by death. **In an echo of this pagan concept, many Christians today believe that the body is the temporal housing of the immortal soul, which will be reintegrated with the body at the resurrection.** By contrast, pantheists make the human body divine; they believe that God and the universe are one and the same. For them, all things are God and the human body is part of the one single integrated and universal divine substance. Surrounded by conflicting theories on the subject, we must stand firm on what the Bible teaches regarding the nature of humanity.” (Adult SS Guide 4Q 2022, p. 98)

Do you agree or disagree with the concept that the body is the temporal housing of the immortal soul?

What about for the righteous, for the saved, is the body the temporal housing of an immortal soul—a soul that becomes immortal because it has received the gift of eternal life from Jesus?

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 those who believe in Jesus die or never die? If they never die does that mean they have received the gift of eternal life? And if they have received the gift of eternal life from Jesus does that mean this body is the temporal house for the now immortal soul that will be returned to a new body at the resurrection?

Are there other Scriptures that would support this?

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28 NIV84).

Is Jesus saying the soul is not destroyed when the body is destroyed on this earth?

What about 1Thessalonians 4:14, that Jesus will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Him? If they are asleep in Jesus are they destroyed or dead?

So, the error is not that the body houses a soul that does not die at the death of the body, but that humans possess in themselves inherent immortality and that righteousness or wickedness has no



bearing on whether a soul dies. The Biblical truth is that humans were created mortal and as long as Adam and Eve were sinless they would never die, but sin severed the connection with God who alone is immortal (1 Tim 6:16), and is the source of life and their condition became terminal. Thus, sinful humans are “dead in trespass and sin” we have a terminal condition that without remedy will result in eternal death.

However, Jesus became the second Adam, took up that terminal condition and eradicated the death causing principle and restored the life causing principle, the perfect connection with His Father and in Jesus humanity again possesses eternal life. For all those who are reconciled to Jesus they receive the gift of eternal life and thus even though the body dies, in Jesus they still live, their soul is not destroyed at the death of this mortal body, but sleeps in Jesus awaiting the resurrection. Thus, for the righteous they never die, they may sleep, but they never cease to exist.

Therefore, there is a truth that this mortal body houses the soul that, in Christ, will never die, but only for the righteous.

Read second paragraph:

“Both Adam and Eve were created in God’s own image and likeness (Gen. 1:26, 27), which was reflected not only in their character but also in their physical aspect. Because that image was marred and even hidden by the presence of sin, the work of redemption is to restore human beings to their original condition, including their physical health, to the degree possible for beings unable to partake of the tree of life.” (Adult SS Guide 4Q 2022, p. 98)

What is Satan’s goal for humankind? Does Satan want to kill all human beings? Or does he have another goal in mind? Does Satan want to destroy the image of God in humankind and put his image where God’s should be?

What do you think Satan would prefer—an earth devoid of all life where he reigns an empty lifeless planet or an earth filled with human beings who are like him in character and recognize him as their lord?

In fact, aren’t we told that during the 1000 years Satan will be confined to this earth devoid of life and it is a prison to him. He has no desire for geographic territory nor, do I believe, he has a desire to simply to kill all humans. He wants to kill the humans who won’t bend the knee to him, the humans who won’t accept his mold upon their characters, the humans who are lights of God’s love and truth that expose him as a murderer, liar, and fraud.



## TUESDAY

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Read 1 Corinthians 2:16:

“For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16 NIV84).

What does it mean to have the mind of Christ?

Does it mean that Christ takes control of our minds, that we surrender the driver’s seat to Him and He makes the choices for us?

Does it mean that we are good and obedient children who wait for Jesus to tell us what to do and then we following His instructions without question?

Does it mean we have our minds changed to love what He loves, value what He values, desire a world that He desires, practice His methods and principles, and have characters that are built in harmony with His character so that we are partakers of the divine nature and have the living law of God written upon our hearts as the motivating principle of action?

And how is it possible for a person to obtain the mind of Christ? Can Christ use might and power to impose His mind upon us? Why or why not?

Can people develop the mind of Christ on their own, with their own power?

Then if God can’t achieve this through the exercise of His might and power and we can’t achieve it by the exercise of our might and power, how can we experience the mind of Christ?

By faith, by trust—it is when we are won back to God in love and trust and open our hearts and minds to God, with a humble willingness to listen and follow, that we voluntarily choose to accept, assimilate, and apply God’s methods and principles to our hearts and minds. And in that trust relationship the Holy Spirit is there to not only enlighten with God’s truth, but to empower the individual to succeed in growing in God’s truth.

This is the only method that transforms the soul while retaining the individuality of the person who is being saved.

This is why it is the kindness of God that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4) and why every person must be fully persuaded in their own minds (Romans 14:5).

It is why the Bible teaches that God’s methods are not by might nor by power but by the Spirit says the Lord (Zechariah 4:6); it is the Spirit of love and truth working gently upon the heart, without intimidation, threat, or force that wins us to trust and changes the heart.



How beautiful is our God!

Read the second paragraph,

“The Lord had promised that under the “new covenant” He would put His law in the minds of His people and write it on their hearts (Jer. 31:31-33, compare with Heb. 8:8-10, Heb. 10:16). It is no surprise, then, that in the Sermon on the Mount, **Christ broadened and deepened the meaning of God’s commandments to the level of thoughts and intentions** (see Matt. 5:17-48). So, we can gain victory over temptation only by God’s transforming grace and, at the level of thoughts and intentions, we should claim that promise so that we can stop sinful thoughts.” (Adult SS Guide 4Q 2022, p. 99)

Weren’t the commandments always that broad?

What is the tenth commandment? Thou shall not covet—and what does that entail? Does it not focus on the level of the thoughts and intentions? And doesn’t that demonstrate that all ten were always about the thoughts and intentions?

Then why did Christ have to explain it as He did? Did the people come to view the law as a list of rules to be kept, as imposed, as legal?

Do Christians today still struggle with this same misconception?

What is a better understanding of the Ten Commandments? They were a distillation, or codification, of the design law of love specifically written for sinful human beings and added for our benefit as a diagnostic instrument and protective hedge. The Ten Commandments did not exist in heaven when Lucifer sinned; angels didn’t have a law to honor their mother and father, or a law about sins passing down the generations, or not to commit adultery, or not to covet their neighbor’s wife, and the Sabbath had not yet been created.

The eternal design laws of God were already in existence, but the diagnostic code of the Ten were specifically written for sinful humans.

Read third paragraph,

We will always have sinful natures until Jesus comes. But if we are in Christ, we are fully **covered by His righteousness. Although we are not yet perfect, we are considered already perfect in Him** (Phil. 3:12-15). “When we are united to Christ, we have the mind of Christ. Purity and love shine forth in the character, meekness and truth control the life. The very expression of the countenance is changed. Christ abiding in the soul exerts a transforming power, and the outward aspect bears witness to the peace and joy that reign within.” — Ellen G. White, Selected Messages, book 1, p. 337. (Adult SS Guide 4Q 2022, p. 99)



What does it mean to be perfect? And what does it mean to be covered by the robe of Christ's righteousness?

From the same author in *Christ's Object Lessons* here is her view, which gives a great historic view of what the SDA church historically taught. Does it still teach this, or does it teach something different? Is this what you believe or do you believe covered by the robe of Christ's righteousness means something different?

This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us... By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. **When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.** Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah. {*Christ's Object Lessons* 311}

And what does it mean to be perfect? What law lens do you answer the question through?

I wrote a blog on this recently entitled [Last Generation Theology](#), if you would like a full exploration of this question.

But the short answer is that Bible perfection is about maturity of character in our trust relationship with God. That we have come to a point that God can trust us to stay faithful to Him no matter what the problem.

- Job was described as perfect and he was a man who trusted God in the face of terrible tragedy, loss, sickness and friends and family that worked to undermine his trust
- Daniel and his three friends trusted God and wouldn't break trust with Him to save their own lives
- Revelations 12:11

## WEDNESDAY

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Read first paragraph,

The Holy Spirit is God's powerful Agent who pours out the love of God into our hearts (Rom. 5:5), leads us into a true saving experience (John 16:7-11), guides us into all the truth (John 16:13), and empowers us to fulfill the gospel mission (Acts 1:8). Because it is the Holy Spirit who counteracts the degenerating work of Satan, it is no surprise that Satan tries by all means to distort our understanding of the nature and work of the Holy Spirit. While some deny His



personality, others emphasize the gifts of the Spirit over His transforming power. (Adult SS Guide 4Q 2022, p. 100)

Do you think sinful humans can experience salvation without the Holy Spirit?

One Christian author, in the book *The Desire of Ages*, describes the work of the Holy Spirit in our salvation this way, do you agree?

**“The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail.** The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. **Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer.** It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. **Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature.** Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.” {*The Desire of Ages* p. 671 }

A simple description of the different roles the Godhead takes in our salvation is that Jesus is the one who procured the remedy to our sin condition and the Holy Spirit is the one who applies what Jesus has procured.

The species human was saved in the person of Jesus. Jesus became a real human being and lived a sinless life and destroyed the infection of sin Adam brought into himself and with which the rest of us are born (Ps 51:5). Jesus partook of that humanity and purified it in His person and thereby carried humanity to the perfection God intended for the species when He created Adam. Thus, in Jesus the species was redeemed. Jesus simultaneously procured the remedy that the Holy Spirit applies to us.

But without the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing what Jesus achieved into our hearts and minds no human could resist the corruption of sin in our lives. The Holy Spirit:

- Puts enmity between sinful human and Satan; in other words, the Holy Spirit puts a desire for good in our hearts, a longing for love and something better than evil and rebellion
- Convicts of sin
- Convicts of duty
- Reveals truth to us in ways we can comprehend, and then leaves us free to decide
- When we choose the truth the Holy Spirit provides divine power to succeed in living out that truth
- Comforts us
- Removes guilt and shame for those who trust God
- Instills new motives and desires that Christ wrought out





Do you see why the Holy Spirit is under constant attack in a variety of ways?

How is the Holy Spirit attacked?

- By replacing the true Holy Spirit with false spirits of hysteria or emotionalism
- By denying the existence of the Holy Spirit
- By separating the work of the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of truth and love so that people advance one or the other but
  - Love without truth is not kind—it's cruel; Truth without love is not healing—it's destructive.

## **THURSDAY**

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What do we need to do to be ready for Christ's appearing?

If you could name one change or action you need to take to be ready what would it be?