



2023 2Q Three Cosmic Messages—Lesson 4 Fear God and Give Glory to Him

by Tim Jennings

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph:

The purpose of the book of Revelation for our generation is to prepare a people to be ready for Jesus' soon return and to unite with Him in giving His last-day message to the world. Revelation reveals the plans of God and unmask the plans of Satan. It presents God's final appeal, His urgent, eternal, universal message for all humanity. (SDA Adult Bible Study Guide 2Q 2023, p. 31).

What is the last-day message to go to the world?

If we read the message of the 3 angels right from the Bible on every website, TV and radio station, and phone system in the entire world so that every single person hears the word-for-word reading of the 3 angels messages, would that fulfill God's plan? Would that result in the gospel going to all the world and would it result in Jesus coming? Why or why not?

What would be missing from the message if we merely read it to everyone?

Is it possible to take the message of the 3 angels to the world in such a way that we advance Satan's kingdom rather than God's? How?

Is the message of the 3 angels the eternal gospel?

- Is there a false gospel presented in Christianity that misrepresents God? And could people take that false view of God to the world under the umbrella of claiming they are presenting the message of the 3 angels and actually be doing harm?

Are the 3 angels' messages the righteousness by faith message? How do you explain righteousness by faith?

- If we present the idea that righteousness by faith is the legal declaration that we are accounted righteous by God because of the blood payment of Jesus applied to our heavenly record so that the Father declares us to be legally righteous even though we remain unrighteous, is that the righteousness by faith message? Does that message advance the eternal gospel or does it advance Satan's counterfeit gospel?
- What is the righteousness by faith message then?
 - "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)



So the message that is to go to all the world is the eternal gospel, it is the righteousness by faith message—is that message the message of God’s character of love?

Where do you find that in the message of the 3 angels?

When you have gone to various Revelation seminars, or had Daniel and Revelation in school, what were you taught was the message of the 3 angels?

Have you ever heard anything legal in the message? Have you ever heard the message presented in a way that suggests there is a tribunal or judgment and heavenly beings are going over legal records of sin and seeking to determine if every sin has been confessed and had the proper legal payment of Jesus’ blood to erase it from the record book, and if there is one sin left not properly accounted for in God’s legal system then God must use power to inflict punishment upon people for unpaid for and unrepented of sin?

If an organization, say a denominational church, takes such a legal message with a punishing god to the world will it be advancing the kingdom of God or that of God’s enemy? Why and how?

Read second paragraph,

The Greek New Testament word for “fear” in Revelation 14:7 is *phobeo*. It is used here not in the sense of being afraid of God but in the sense of reverence, awe, and respect. It conveys the thought of absolute loyalty to God and full surrender to His will. It is an attitude of mind that is God-centered rather than self-centered. It is the opposite of Lucifer’s attitude in Isaiah 14:13, 14, when he says in his heart, “ ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High’ ” (NKJV). (SDA Adult Bible Study Guide 2Q 2023, p. 31).

This is well said, the lesson does a good job here of emphasizing that the meaning of *fear* here is not terror, dread, or anxiety, but reverence, awe, admiration, respect.

But, do you see this same emphasis in the first question from Friday’s lesson?

Think about the incredible power of God, the One who created and sustains the entire cosmos. We can barely grasp the idea of the cosmos. How then could we even begin to grasp the Creator of it? Think about how much greater and vaster and more powerful He is than we are. And this God will one day judge us? How do these facts help us understand the idea of the “fear of God” and what it means? (SDA Adult Bible Study Guide 2Q 2023, p. 36).

Does this series of questions emphasize awe, respect, and admiration or does it instead lead toward intimidation, dread, and terror?



What ideas are imbedded in this series of questions that causes the questions to be framed this way and which incite the wrong kind of fear?

It is the assumption that God's law functions like human law and that God's power is used judicially, to determine guilt and innocence and then to inflict punishment upon the wrongdoer. Therefore, we must be afraid of God and what He will do to us for our unpaid for sins. This is a satanic idea.

But if we return to design law and rephrase this with design law understanding, it would read like this:

Think about the incredible power of God, the One who created and sustains the entire cosmos—His laws are the protocols reality is built upon. We can barely grasp the idea of the cosmos. How then could we even begin to grasp the Creator of it—the One who sustains it all and holds it all together in love? Think about how much greater and vaster and more powerful He is than we are. Think about how this all-powerful God has been using His power to hold at bay the ultimate destructiveness of sin and to bring healing to His creation. Think about how this Creator God will one day examine us and diagnose accurately everything that is wrong and will use all His power to cleanse, heal, recreate and restore all who trust Him to His perfect design. But, for those who refuse to allow Him to heal them, rather than using power to torment them, He sadly lets them go to reap what they have chosen—separation from Him the source of life and therefore eternal non-existence. How do these facts help us understand the idea of the “fear of God” and what it means?

Do you see how the wrong law concept contaminates the Bible and perverts the meaning so that people can take the 3 angels' messages and present them to support Satan's view of God?

Do we get a message that to fear God means to revere and awe and not be afraid or in terror from the question at the bottom of the page in Monday's lesson?

How do Jesus' words here—“ ‘And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell’ ” (Matt. 10:28, NKJV)—help us understand what it means to fear God? (SDA Adult Bible Study Guide 2Q 2023, p. 32).

Note that the authors use a translation that capitalizes “Him” to fear “Him” who is able to destroy both body and soul, thus implying that it is God who will destroy body and soul in hell. The text does not say this, Jesus simply said, be afraid of the one who can destroy the body and soul in hell. Jesus did not say it was God who would do this, but because the world has almost completely bought the lie that God's law functions like human law, and therefore believes without question that justice requires the ruling authority to use power to inflict punishment, then the translators automatically conclude that the only one it could be is God Himself. But that is not true, when we understand design law, we realize the one who destroys the soul is the sinner themselves, as Galatians say, the one who sows the carnal nature *from that nature reaps destruction*—not from God, from their own sinful selves.



This is how I rendered it in *The Remedy*:

Don't be afraid of those who can destroy the body: they cannot touch your psyche, your mind, your individuality. Rather, be afraid of unremedied sin, which destroys both body and mind and results in eternal destruction. (Matthew 10:28 REM).

Read the fourth paragraph,

The essence of the great controversy revolves around submission to God. Lucifer was self-centered. He refused to submit to any authority except his own. Rather than submit to the One upon the throne, Lucifer desired to rule from the throne. Put simply, to fear God is to place Him first in our thinking. It is to renounce our self-centeredness and pride and to live a life wholly for Him. (SDA Adult Bible Study Guide 2Q 2023, p. 31).

Is this right? Do you agree? Or is something off about this?

Is the essence of the GC about submission to God, or the *type of submission*?

Does God have the power to force every being to submit? What happens if God uses power in this way?

Does Christianity present God in this light? Is it stated that God will use power to punish sinners? Is it stated that Jesus came to take our punishment?

In fact, this past week, I was listening to a Christian radio station when a passionate young lady came on and gave a plea for everyone to trust Jesus because, He came “to take our punishment away.”

Is this what the Bible says? Well, the Bible almost seems to:

They offer sacrifices given to me and they eat the meat, but the LORD is not pleased with them. Now he will remember their wickedness and punish their sins... (Hosea 8:13 NIV84).

The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. (1 Thessalonians 4:6–8 NIV84).

Is there punishment for sin? Yes—does the Bible use language that says God will punish people for sin? Yes—so the question is simply how, by what means, system, or method? Is God's means, method, or system of governing, through which He brings about justice and therefore through which His punishment is brought, the same type of system that sinful humans have, a system of imposed rules, with imposed laws, requiring the infliction of imposed penalties?

In other words, the way we understand God's punishment is through the type of law we believe God uses. Is God's law like human law, or is God's law design law?



If we already believe God's law functions like human law, then we read texts like this and say, *See God will use His power to punish*. The people who read these texts never take the time to let the Bible describe and reveal what God actually does. They never stop to see *how* God punishes, which is explained, described, and demonstrated over and over again in Scripture. And how does God punish, what is His method?

God does bring the punishment when He lets people go to reap what they have insisted upon. **God brings the punishment when He ceases His merciful interventions and the use of divine power**, not by the infliction of divine power.

Sin damages and destroys, God has been using divine power to interfere with what sin does, to hold at bay the destruction that sin naturally brings and through Christ to reconcile all to Himself. But if people insist on rebellion against God, and refuse His grace, God eventually sets them free to reap what they have chosen and they experience the full weight of unremedied sin and they are tormented by what sin does to them and then they die.

This method is described in many places in the Bible such as Romans 1:18-31 God's wrath being poured out on those who refuse the knowledge of God, and who insist on worshiping things they make with their own hands and three times, Paul tells us this results in God giving them up or letting them go to reap the destruction that sin causes.

The human condition, which Paul describes in Romans 1:18-32, is not something caused by God. The phrase "revealed from heaven" (where "heaven" is a typical Jewish substitute word for "God") does not depict some kind of divine intervention, but rather the inevitability of human debasement which results when God's will, built into the created order, is violated. Since the created order has its origin in God, Paul can say that the wrath of God is now (constantly) being revealed "from heaven." It is revealed in the fact that the rejection of God's truth (Rom 1:18-20), that is, the truth about God's nature and will, leads to futile thinking (Rom 1:21-22), idolatry (Rom 1:23), perversion of God-intended sexuality (Rom 1:24-27) and relational-moral brokenness (Rom 1:28-32).

The expression "God gave them over" (or "handed them over"), which appears three times in this passage (Rom 1:24,26,28), supports the idea that the sinful perversion of human existence, though resulting from human decisions, is to be understood ultimately as God's punishment which we, in freedom, bring upon ourselves.

In light of these reflections, the common notion that God punishes or blesses in direct proportion to our sinful or good deeds cannot be maintained... God loves us with an everlasting love. But the rejection of that love separates us from its life-giving power. The result is disintegration and death. (Kaiser, W., et al., *Hard Saying of the Bible*, Intervarsity Press, 1996 p. 543)

And Paul uses the exact same expression when describing what God did to Jesus who became sin though He knew no sin, in Romans 4:25—God gave Him up, but the various translations translate it



differently with words like delivered over, or handed over, rather than given up. But the Greek is exactly the same. And what did Jesus testify that God did to Him on the cross? God let Him go, forsook Him, abandoned Him. And what happened to Jesus—He died.

One of the founders of the SDA church understood it this way, EG White, and wrote the following:

We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. The sinner brings the punishment upon himself. His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure result. Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner, works in him a change of character, and makes it more easy for him to transgress again. By choosing to sin, **men separate themselves from God, cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death.** Selected Messages Volume one, p. 235. [this is Romans 1, God's wrath, design law, God ceasing the use of power to hold at bay the destructiveness of sin]

God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression; but he leaves the rejecters of his mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown. [Galatians 6:8...] Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown, which yields its unfailing harvest. **The Spirit of God, persistently resisted, is at last withdrawn from the sinner,** and then there is left no power to control the evil passions of the soul, and no protection from the malice and enmity of Satan. The Great Controversy p. 36.

This is the reality—but Satan gets the world to misconstrue it all when people accept the lie that God's law functions like human law, then they falsely teach that God is required by law to use His power to inflict harm, punishment, and death, rather than the truth that God's power is always used to restrain, overcome, and heal the destruction, harm, and death that sin brings.

So, what type of submission does imposed law with a punishing god result in? The submission of slaves, of those who don't trust, of fear, and this type of submission only stifles rebellion under a veneer of behavioral conformity.

This is not what God wants! God wants our love, our trust, our loyalty, devotion, and submission of understanding friends. And this type of submission can never be achieved by threat, intimidation, the use of might and power. Thus Scripture says, not by might nor by power but by my Spirit says the Lord, Zechariah 4:6. And the Spirit is the Spirit of truth and love. It is by the presentation of truth in love that the heart is won and we submit freely, as understanding friends.

With all of this in mind, consider these historic Adventist quotes, what the SDA church is supposed to be teaching, and take note how much of the material we read from the church today has rejected this view and instead is teaching a message that is the opposite of this:

The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan's deceptive power was to be



broken. **This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government;** He desires only the service of love; and **love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority.** Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; **His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan.** This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known. Upon the world's dark night the Sun of Righteousness must rise, “with healing in His wings.” Malachi 4:2. The Desire of Ages p. 22.

God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. **Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government.** The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. **God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power.** The Desire of Ages p. 759.

Do we need to be afraid of God? No! But the lie of imposed law, the penal-legal lie, the lie that God's law functions like human law, has resulted in the vast majority of Christians being more afraid of God who is trying to save them than the sin in their life which is killing them.

Is there a punishment for sin? Yes, what is that punishment? Eternal death—and how does it come about? **By God ceasing His interventions** that keep that death at bay and letting people reap what they have chosen. Thus death does not come out from God as an infliction, it is the unavoidable result of persistent rebellion and reaping the full freedom from God, the source of life, that the sinners insist upon and the death that unremedied sin causes.

And does the Bible teach that Jesus came to take away our punishment? No! It teaches that Jesus is the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29).

MONDAY

Read first paragraph,

These passages reveal a linkage between fearing God and keeping His commandments. Fearing God is an attitude of reverential respect that leads us to obedience. Heaven's urgent appeal is for those saved by grace to be obedient to God's commands (Eph. 2:8–10). Grace does not free us from obeying the commands of God. The gospel sets us free from the law's condemnation, not from our responsibility to obey it. (SDA Adult Bible Study Guide 2Q 2023, p. 32).

What does it mean that the gospel sets us free from the law's condemnation, but not the responsibility to obey it?

What law lens do you understand this idea through? What does this mean through imposed human law? That our past sins make us legally guilty and deserving of death, but if we accept Jesus as our



Savior His blood is the legal payment applied to our account and all our past sins are legally paid for and moving forward we must obey the law that we previously broke, but we really can't obey the law, and any new sins must be repented of and have the legal blood payment made to be sure they are erased from the books, so that we can be declared righteous even though we are not.

Does this even make sense? What is the truth, the design law understanding? Why doesn't the law condemn the saved?

Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are **in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.** For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, **in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.** (Romans 8:1-4 NIV84).

Why is there no condemnation for the saved? Because of legal adjustment in books somewhere off in the distant cosmos? No! Because through Jesus the living law of God is reproduced in us, we become the righteousness of God, we have God's law written on our hearts and minds, we are transformed, healed, renewed, regenerated, we have the mind of Christ, we are partakers of the divine nature, because our old sinful selves have died and it is Christ that lives in us. We are not condemned because we are no longer in rebellion against God but have been reborn with new hearts and right spirits that are at-one with God again! Thus, just like Abraham, we are recognized by God as being right with Him or being justified or righteous.

This is how I rendered these verses in The Remedy:

Therefore, those who trust in Christ Jesus are no longer destined to die, because through Christ Jesus the law of love has cleansed and healed them from the law of selfishness and death. The written law was powerless to restore trust, as it could merely diagnose the infection of distrust and selfishness pervading us all. God accomplished this restoration of his character of love in humans by sending his own Son in human flesh to eradicate selfishness from humanity, reveal the truth about God, expose the lies of Satan, and reveal what happens when the infection of sin is not cured. And so he condemned the infection of selfishness as the destroying element in sinful humanity in order that the law of love—the principle upon which life is based—might be fully restored in us, who no longer live according to selfish desires, but in harmony with the Spirit of love and truth. (Romans 8:1-4 REM)

What is the relationship to be between fearing God and keeping His commandments?

What law lens do we understand this through?

Does God want the obedience of fear?



In 1888 GC in Minneapolis, the delegates split over the question of what law was added in Galatians—one side said it was only ceremonial the other side said it was only the moral law of the Ten Commandments—what do you think, what law was added and why?

And how was Satan able to derail that conference and sidetrack the entire Advent movement since that conference?

When EGW finally gave her input on what law was added, what was her answer and what does her answer reveal about the strategy the devil used to derail the church?

I am asked concerning the law in Galatians. What law is the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ? I answer: **Both the ceremonial and the moral code of ten commandments...**

“The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24). **In this scripture, the Holy Spirit through the apostle is speaking especially of the moral law.** The law reveals sin to us, and causes us to feel our need of Christ and to flee unto Him for pardon and peace by exercising repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. 1SM 233-234.

What law was added—both the ceremonial and moral code of the 10 Commandments.

What trick did Satan use to derail the mission of the church? He got the delegates divided over a view in which both sides were wrong to some degree, in which both sides were arguing a portion of the truth, or an incomplete understanding. The sides then were tricked into defending a partial truth instead of advancing in the truth. This has prevented the church from completing its mission ever since as the church continues to defend partial truths instead of advancing into fuller and more complete understanding of the truth.

And the biggest truth that church needs to embrace is that God’s law is design law, that He is Creator of all reality and His laws are the protocols reality is built upon, physical and moral. It was only after sin that God had to codify and give laws because of transgression, because of rebellion, because of how sin blinded sinners to reality. The law was given as a diagnostic tool, teaching tool, and protection while we were children and ignorant until we grow up and then it is restored into our hearts. **We never do away with the law**, but have the living law of God restored to God’s original place for it to exist, our hearts! God’s living law of love is to be the operating code/system for every intelligent living being.

So, EGW wrote the following—do you agree?

But in heaven, service is not rendered in the spirit of legality. When Satan rebelled against the law of Jehovah, **the thought that there was a law came to the angels almost as an awakening to something unthought of.** In their ministry the angels are not as servants, but as sons. There is perfect unity between them and their Creator. Obedience is to them no drudgery. Mount of Blessing p. 109.



What kind of law can be in operation and people are obedient to it, yet they have never been informed or told about it? The only kind of law that works this way is design law. We cannot expect beings to obey made up rules such as “don’t walk on the grass, don’t drive over 35 mph, don’t spit on the sidewalk,” if we have never been informed them of such rules.

But if the law is design law, it is lived out without ever realizing it is a law, it is just how things work.

Consider Isaac Newton telling all his friends he just discovered the law of gravity—can you imagine his friends going—law? A law? Hmmm, I have never even thought about the fact there was a law of gravity, it is unthought of; it is just how things have always worked.

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph,

The central issue in earth’s final conflict is a battle for the mind. It really is one of allegiance, authority, and commitment to God’s will. (SDA Adult Bible Study Guide 2Q 2023, p. 33).

What is the central issue in the final conflict? The cosmic conflict between Christ and Satan is certainly a battle for hearts and minds—but what is it over? Is the the issue who we trust, who we admire, who we worship, who we choose to align ourselves with and become like?

So, isn’t the issue fought on the battlefield of minds and heart but it is over God’s trustworthiness, God’s character, methods, and principles? Did the battle for the mind become an issue only at the end of time or has it always been a battle for hearts and minds, even in the opening of the Great Controversy?

I love this quote from *The Desire of Ages* what do you think?

In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. **Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan;** and **if God should remit the punishment of sin,** He would not be a God of truth and justice. When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God's favor. God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner. *Desire of Ages* p. 761

What is the issue that is being waged here? Will intelligent beings have to decide, based on Satan’s allegations, who they believe, who they trust, and ultimately what kind of law God runs His government upon? What is Satan’s version of God’s law? That God is required to use power to punish



sin—why does Satan say this? Because Satan’s lie is that God makes up rules like created beings do and denies that God’s laws are design protocols that life itself is built upon.

Satan teaches that God’s law is imposed rules (like human law) that require inflicted punishment, because this teaching makes God to be functionally no different than any other created being. **In this legal model, any of us, if we are in a position of authority where we can impose rules over others and enforce those rules with inflicted punishment, can be “like god.” This is Satan’s goal: to be like God.** And since Satan, as a created being, cannot actually create reality and cannot sustain the laws upon which reality exists, **he instead promulgates the lie that God’s law is the kind of law that created beings can make up; Satan then assumes the mantle of this law-enforcing god and garners our worship.**

Read third paragraph,

The final battle in the great controversy is between good and evil for control of our thoughts. The apostle Paul gives us this admonition: “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5, NKJV). The mind is the citadel of our being. It is the wellspring of our actions. The word “let” means to allow or to choose. It speaks of a volitional act of the will. The choice to have the mind of Christ is the choice to allow Jesus to shape our thinking by filling our minds with the things of eternity. Our actions reveal where our thinking process is. To fear God is to make Him first in our lives. (SDA Adult Bible Study Guide 2Q 2023, p. 33).

What do you think of this idea of “control of our thoughts”?

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 tell us we are to bring every thought into captivity to Jesus Christ—what does that mean?

Does God want to do our thinking for us? If so then why does the Bible say that every person must be fully persuaded in their own mind?

Does God want to do our choosing for us? If so why does the Bible instruct us to choose this day who we will serve?

Does God want to do our loving for us? If so then why does the Bible tell us we are to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength?

Does God want us to be puppets or robots that He controls?

Do our minds ever become controlled by God in the sense that God does our thinking, feeling, loving, and choosing for us?

Who would like to take control of our minds and direct our thoughts, feelings, and actions?

Can you get love from a robot, a puppet, or a programmed cult member?



God wants our love and loyalty which can only be freely given. Consider this quote:

In the work of redemption there is **no compulsion. No external force is employed.** Under the influence of the Spirit of God, man is left free to choose whom he will serve. In the change that takes place when the soul surrenders to Christ, **there is the highest sense of freedom.** The Desire of Ages p. 466.

WEDNESDAY

The title for the day is Giving Glory to God—what does this mean to you? How are we to glorify God?

What is the context in the 3 Angels' messages?

The eternal gospel is being proclaimed—which is what?

And what does the eternal gospel do? Does the eternal gospel, which is the eternal good news about God—His character of love and His design law methods of governing, contrast with another idea, belief, or viewpoint commonly held by human beings?

And does the eternal good news about God cause those who accept it and return to trust in our Creator God of love to be transformed by the renewing of their minds? And is God's law written upon their hearts? And do they live new lives and develop characters like Jesus? And does that bring glory to God?

And why is this important? What is it the eternal gospel that wins people to trust and transforms them so that their lives glorify God important? Because it is the time in human history for people to make a right judgment about God, to reject the penal legal rule-enforcing God and come back to worship the Creator who made the heavens, earth, sea and fountain of water. And when we do this we leave fallen and corrupt system of human like imposed laws with imposed penalties that is represented by Babylon, the first nation with a legal code.

We are to be God's witnesses living out the beauty of God's character and methods of love in how we govern ourselves and treat each other.



THURSDAY

Read the first paragraph,

“Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12). This is the depiction of God’s faithful people in the last days. Yet, the only way anyone can keep the commandments of God, then or now, is through the faith of Jesus. Notice our text does not say, “faith in Jesus,” although that is extremely important, but this expression, “the faith of Jesus,” is something more. It is the quality of faith that enabled Christ to be victorious over Satan’s fiercest temptations. Faith is a gift given to each believer. When we exercise the faith that the Holy Spirit puts in our hearts, that faith grows. We overcome, not by our willpower, but by the power of the living Christ working through us. We overcome not because of who we are but because of who He is. (SDA Adult Bible Study Guide 2Q 2023, p. 35).

They seem to make a lot out of a very small preposition which the Greek allows to be interpreted a variety of different ways.

They quote the NKJV which reads “faith of Jesus.” But here are some other translations:

- This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God’s commandments and remain **faithful to Jesus**. (NIV84).
- This calls for endurance on the part of God’s people, those who obey God’s commandments and are **faithful to Jesus**. (GNT)
- This means that God’s holy people must endure persecution patiently, obeying his commands and maintaining their **faith in Jesus**. (NLT)
- Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their **faith in Jesus**. (ESV)
- This means God’s holy people must be patient. They must obey God’s commands and keep their **faith in Jesus**. (NCV)
- This requires patient endurance on the part of the healed, who live God's methods of love and remain **true to Jesus**. (REM)
- This requires the steadfast endurance of the saints—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to their **faith in Jesus**. (NET)
 - Footnote in NET: “faith of Jesus.” The construction may mean either “faith in Jesus” or “faithful to Jesus.” Either translation implies that Ἰησοῦ (Iēsou) is to be taken as an objective genitive; the difference is more lexical than grammatical because πίστις (pistis) can mean either “faith” or “faithfulness.” (Biblical Studies Press. (2005). The



NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible. Biblical Studies Press.)

So, if the saved in the end have faith in Jesus will that be less than the faith that Jesus had? And if they have the faith of Jesus will it be less than having faith in Jesus?

It seems it is a lot to do about not much—we need to have living faith, trust, in Jesus and that is also the same quality or type of faith that Jesus exercised in His Father.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New Billboard Resource: In response to requests from our listeners, we have developed some billboards, and will be developing and releasing new ones periodically. They will be released in sets that have the same slogan with different layouts and images. These are available for anyone who would like to download and use them in their community. Find them in our website's RESOURCE MENU > BILLBOARDS. Come and Reason Ministries is not, at this time, planning on purchasing billboard space, but we are making these available for those who want to put billboards up in their community.