



2023 3Q Ephesians—Lesson 3 The Power of the Exalted Jesus

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

Read Memory Text:

Through the Holy Spirit, believers may know “what is the exceeding greatness of His **power** toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty **power** which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 1:19-20 NKJV)

What is this power? What kind of power is this? Is this the power of physical might, of thunder, lightning, flaming swords, fire falling from heaven to destroy rebellion, the power of cosmic winds and atomic forces, the nuclear power of suns?

Let us be clear, we believe God is Creator and He is omnipotent in physical power and creative power, and He governs the laws of nature, and through Him all things were made and through Him all things hold together and are sustained. So, we never want to suggest anything that diminishes the might and power of God—however, is the physical might and power of God what wins the war against Satan and what Paul is referring to here?

Could God have used physical might to destroy Satan at the very first moment Satan rebelled in heaven? Why didn't God do this?

Would rebellion against God, the breach of trust, the growth of fear and selfishness, which is sin, have been eliminated if God had used might and power to destroy Satan in the beginning?

What about at any time? If God ever uses might and power to inflict pain, suffering, and death as punishment to destroy His enemies what will that result in? Will it result in the removal from every single remaining heart and mind all doubt, all misunderstanding, all fear, or will it result in the seeds of distrust, rebellion, fear and selfishness remaining in hearts and minds?

Can you get love, devotion, loyalty, trust, friendship by using might and power to destroy anyone who refuses to love you and be loyal to you?

What is the war over?



For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against **the knowledge of God**, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV84).

The war is over God's character, His trustworthiness. So imagine in heaven, Satan starts to lie about God, and God calls the heavenly beings together and says,

“Satan has lied about me; he has said that I am not just. Well, I am not only just, I am also love. And you can know it is true because I have said so, and because Satan has spoken falsely about me. Justice requires that I now execute him.” And God kills Satan, and then says, “Does anyone now doubt how just I am?”

Would such actions result in the resolution of fear? Would the lies that Satan had been telling be resolved if God used such methods? Could God leave His heavenly beings truly free and use such controlling methods?

How do such methods look in the church today? What about proving things with a key text, saying God is just because the Bible says God is just. And who inspired the Bible, it is God the Holy Spirit, so if the Bible says God is just, isn't that the same thing as God saying He is just. Are we supposed to believe because God says it, or does God want us to believe He is just because He has revealed by deed, evidence, and action that He is just and we actually understand what true justice is?

Now, the Bible does say God is just, but is that the reason we believe it? Or is a claim, a proclamation insufficient to win the war to restore trust? Is actual evidence of trustworthiness required as well as the evidence that Satan lied?

So God gave evidence to demonstrate His character of love, His righteousness, which is the same as His justice. Paul wrote:

“God offered him, so that by his blood he should become the means by which people's sins are forgiven through their faith in him. God did this **in order to demonstrate that he is righteous**. In the past he was patient and overlooked people's sins; but in the present time he deals with their sins, in order to **demonstrate his righteousness**. In this way **God shows that he himself is righteous** and that he **puts right everyone** who believes in Jesus (Romans 3:35,36 GNT, emphasis mine).

Consider this quote from a book *Patriarchs and Prophets*, this quotation will give us insight into what the Seventh-day Adventist church was called into existence to teach. It will reveal what is necessary to with the war, and how imposed rules, legal declarations, use of external might and power, proclamations, proof texts, doctrinal statements—even true ones, are insufficient to win the war. That the SDA church was called to lead people out of a legal religion to a reality-based experience with God based on the truth of who God is, including design law. I want you to consider if the message we



read in the quarterlies consistently presents this perspective or has our church lost its way, just like God's church 2000 years ago, the Jewish nation lost its way and rejected God when He came to them in person?

Even when he was cast out of heaven, Infinite Wisdom did not destroy Satan. [Why not? If God runs His universe on rules, and Satan broke the rules, why not call Satan before the heavenly tribunal, play the recordings of Satan's false statements against God. Then have God take the stand and say, "this is not true. I am just. Satan has lied, and all those who believe Satan are also now liars and will be found guilty. Since I am completely just, I am now going to execute Satan for His crime against me. Does anyone else here believe that I am not just?" Might one of the angels say, "God of course we know you are just. It is simply that this doesn't seem like the loving thing to do. We also thought that you were not only just, but were love. Were we wrong about that?" And God responds, "You were not wrong. I am love because I say I am love and who are you to question me on this? You wouldn't suggest that my actions in destroying Satan are not love would you?" Why didn't God destroy Satan? Because God is love and God's justice is the justice of love, and love cannot be compelled, it cannot be developed or experienced by force, by coercion, so if God were to act in these ways God would not be love and His actions would destroy love in the hearts of the loyal angels and Satan's rebellion spreads.] Since only the service of love can be acceptable to God, the allegiance of His creatures must rest upon a conviction of His justice and benevolence. [What kind of allegiance is this? Can such loyalty be obtained through imposed laws, rules enforced by threats of punishment? How can angels or humans know that God is just and benevolent? Can we know this through claims, through statements, through written words, because the Bible has a proof text that says God is love? Does the Bible text that says God is love prove God is love? How can God win us to eternal confidence and unshakable certainty that He is just and benevolent? Doesn't that have to be demonstrated by evidence? And that is the true purpose of Scripture, to record the history of God's actions in dealing with the sin problem, demonstrating God's character, methods, principles, ultimately in the life of Christ which is not a declaration or a claim, but reality, historical fact that God is love, and that God will never use His power to kill us, but would rather die that use His power to save Himself even from unjust execution. Notice what the author says next as to why God didn't destroy Satan.] The inhabitants of heaven and of the worlds, being unprepared to comprehend the nature or consequences of sin, could not then have seen the justice of God in the destruction of Satan. [Does this statement say God would be just in using His power to destroy Satan, or that if God had permitted Satan's destruction it would be just on God's part, but the heavenly intelligences would not have understood how and why it was just?] Had he been immediately blotted out of existence, some would have served God from fear rather than from love. [Why would some of the sinless angels have served God from fear rather than love, if God would have eliminated Satan in any way—certainly if God would have used power to artificially destroy Satan as an external execution we can understand how that would have resulted in fear. But what if God simply allowed Satan to reap what sin brings, separation from God who is the source of life and therefore Satan ceases to exist and die. What then? Since no death had ever occurred, and since Satan had lied about God's law and government, the cause of death would have been misunderstood. The idea that God kills, inflicts death as punishment would have persisted even



if Satan was gone and that idea would continue to spread into more hearts and minds and love and trust for God would be undermined and sin would continue.] The influence of the deceiver would not have been fully destroyed, nor would the spirit of rebellion have been utterly eradicated. [Why? Because misunderstanding about what causes death would persist and beings would believe God is the source of death and will kill the disobedient. What does most of Christianity teach God must do for justice sake? Use His power to kill the wicked. This is part of Satan's lies from the beginning. Love and trust cannot be achieved through the external infliction of punishment, for it is a violation of God's law of love and liberty and always results in the destruction of love and the incitement of rebellion.] For the good of the entire universe through ceaseless ages, he must more fully develop his principles, that his charges against the divine government might be seen in their true light by all created beings, and that the justice and mercy of God and the immutability of His law might be forever placed beyond all question. Patriarchs and Prophets 42.3 [For the good of the universe Satan's existence and rebellion must be allowed to grow—how is this good? Because it is the only way to eliminate the lies. When lies are believed they cannot be removed from hearts and minds by declarations of truth alone. Irrefutable, overwhelming, reliable, and reality-based evidence is required. The old saying, the proof is in the pudding. The outcome will reveal the truth. The only way to fully and permanently eliminate Satan's rebellion is through a revelation of truth—both God revealing the truth about Himself and His kingdom, which was accomplished through Jesus, and Satan revealing the truth about his character, methods, and kingdom—which is being revealed and will more fully be revealed right before Christ's return when God's protective hand is withdrawn as more people harden their hearts against God.]

Satan's rebellion was to be a lesson to the universe through all coming ages—a perpetual testimony to the nature of sin and its terrible results. The working out of Satan's rule, its effects upon both men and angels, would show what must be the fruit of setting aside the divine authority. [What does this mean? What law lens? Is this saying, see if you break the rules then God is the one who will use power to cause all kinds of pain and suffering and death as punishment for sin and that is really bad, so be good and obey the rules because God is just and loves you. Or is this saying, that breaking away from God and God's design laws results only in disorder, chaos, suffering, sickness and death and it will be evident to all that Satan's rebellion is the cause of all pain, suffering and death, not God.] It would testify that with the existence of God's government is bound up the well-being of all the creatures He has made. [How will this Great Controversy, this battle between good and evil waged throughout human history here on planet Earth testify that the well-being of all creatures is bound up in God's government? Because God's government is the government of reality, love, truth, freedom and His laws are the very basis for life and health and all will see that life and health are only possible in harmony with the laws upon which life is built.] Thus the history of this terrible experiment of rebellion was to be a perpetual safeguard to all holy beings, to prevent them from being deceived as to the nature of transgression, to save them from committing sin, and suffering its penalty. Patriarchs and Prophets 42.4 [Suffering sin's penalty—what does this mean? Does this say suffering the legal penalty inflicted by the just demands of God's holy law, or suffering the penalty that sin itself causes?]



Now, we are talking about the power of God, has this review of what the Adventist church is supposed to be teaching had anything to do with the power of God that Paul is talking about in Ephesians? Is there power in putting down rebellion and securing the universe from all future rebellion?

But what kind of power? Does God with the war through the exercise of physical might and enforcing power? So what power wins the war?

It is the power that Paul refers to in Romans?

I am not ashamed of the **gospel, because it is the power of God** for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the **gospel a righteousness from God is revealed**, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” (Romans 1:16–17 NIV84).

Gospel power is the power of the truth about God and the love of God, truth that destroys lies and wins us back to faith or trust, and in that restored intimacy with God, we know Him and experiencing His healing and transforming presence, His love, in us and we are healed from fearful enemies to trusting friends.

SUNDAY

The lesson is about prayer, read the fourth paragraph,

What does it really mean to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17)? It cannot mean that we are always kneeling before God in prayer. It does mean that, blessed by God’s Spirit, we move through life with hearts open to the presence and power of God, seeking cues for thanksgiving to Him. It means a readiness to process the issues of life in the presence of God, to seek divine counsel as we experience the twists and turns that life brings. It means living not in estrangement from God but in engagement with Him, ever open to divine leading. (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2023, Ephesians p. 23).

What does it mean to pray without ceasing?

What do you understand prayer to be?

What do you think of this description from the book *Christ’s Object Lessons*, do you think this is an accurate description of what prayer is supposed to be or not?

Our life is to be bound up with the life of Christ; we are to draw constantly from Him, partaking of Him, the living Bread that came down from heaven, drawing from a fountain ever fresh, ever giving forth its abundant treasures. **[What does this mean? This is a metaphor, so interpret the symbols? What does the living bread represent? The word of God, the truth as revealed by Jesus, we are to partake of truth from God’s word, from God’s revelations in**



nature and life's experiences. All truth comes from and through Jesus to us. And these truths, some from revelation in Scripture, like the truth of Creation is six days followed by the Sabbath, some from experience, like God's forgiveness and grace which removes guilt and shame, and some from science and nature, the wonders of God's creation. As we internalize these truths what happens in us? This is to be our mindset as we daily journey through life, seeing the world around us through the mind of a person who knows and loves God and understands reality from heaven's perspective. Such a mindset impacts how we experience, understand, and relate to the events we are experiencing. And because God is infinite the truth that we are to experience is infinite, we have fresh revelations and insights daily. We never stop growing and advancing in our knowledge and experiences with God.] If we keep the Lord ever before us, allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise to Him, we shall have a continual freshness in our religious life. [What does this mean? Allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise? Consider your relationship with your spouse. When you are apart and anything of significance happens, what do you want to do? If you see a beautiful sunset, don't you want to take a picture and show your spouse? If you spot a black bear in your yard, don't you want to call your spouse and let them know? If you see a horrible train derailment don't you want to tell your spouse? In other words, when you are in relationship with someone, don't you want to share life with them, talk with them? And of course, when you receive various blessings from your spouse don't you automatically express your love and thanks to them? But what about when hardships happen, when pain occurs, sickness, death—what then? Well in my experience it is during those hard times that I find myself most thankful for my loved ones, my spouse, family, friends. Likewise, it is during the most difficult times that it is so sweet to trust in Jesus and lean into His love and mercy. So, if we have this mindset with God, notice what this author says our prayer life becomes.] Our prayers will take the form of a conversation with God as we would talk with a friend. [When you are going throughout your day, do you find yourself talking to God, commenting to Him your appreciation for the beautiful cardinal, thanking Him for the sounds of the flowing stream, the love of friends and family? Do you also tell him of your irritation with the traffic, or the frustration with the broken dishwasher, or leaking roof? Do you tell him of your fears when a loved one is sick, and cry out to your heavenly Friend when your heart grieves? Is this what prayer is for you? Then notice what this author says happens, when we talk with God as a friend.] He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Often there will come to us a sweet joyful sense of the presence of Jesus. Often our hearts will burn within us as He draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. When this is in truth the experience of the Christian, there is seen in his life a simplicity, a humility, meekness, and lowliness of heart, that show to all with whom he associates that he has been with Jesus and learned of Him. (Christ's Object Lessons 129).

This is what I believe prayer is supposed to be, conversation with God as with a friend, sharing our lives in ongoing and active communication with God.



MONDAY

The lesson focuses our attention on the Holy Spirit, specifically on receiving wisdom from the Holy Spirit.

What do you understand wisdom to be?

What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?

Knowledge is the awareness of facts, data, information—wisdom is the application of that knowledge in godly and healthy ways that conform to God’s designs and principles for life.

Why is the wisdom of this world actually foolishness and the wisdom of God considered foolishness by the world?

Wisdom is knowing and living in harmony with reality—God’s eternal reality, how life and health are designed by God to function.

Thus God’s wisdom is based upon truth, love, and freedom. Genuine health and happiness, not momentary pleasure, is only possible in harmony with God and His design for life. Thus the more you give the more you receive. But this is the opposite of Satan’s fantasy world, the false and artificial principles of this world, which is based upon lies, fear, selfishness, and coercion and says the more you take from others the more you have.

And what we are seeing in the world today is a world cycling downward into destruction as more and more of Satan’s methods and principles are practiced and promoted as wisdom, but it is foolishness.

Consider the following out of the book *Education*, do you agree, and what does it mean?

True education does not ignore the value of scientific knowledge or literary acquirments; **but above information it values power**; [What kind of power, coercive, external, force and might, or the power to think and to act, to exercise autonomy and choose?] **above power, goodness**; [what does power do when wielded by evil, so true education, education in God’s kingdom must advance beyond facts and knowledge to the power to think and act, but that power must be governed by goodness and not evil] **above intellectual acquirments, character**. [And this is true education, to develop mature Christlike character] **The world does not so much need men of great intellect as of noble character**. It needs men in whom ability is controlled by steadfast principle. Ed 225.1 [What is the steadfast principle that needs to be the controlling influence in us? Love, altruistic other-centered love for God and others, which is based upon truth and freedom.]

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom.” “The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright.” Proverbs 4:7; 15:2. **True education imparts this wisdom. It teaches the best use not only of one but of all our powers and acquirments. Thus it covers the whole**



circle of obligation—to ourselves, to the world, and to God. Ed 225.2 [What is this describing? Reality, how God built reality to work and true wisdom restores people back to harmony with God and God’s designs for life in how we live and relate and fulfill our obligations to ourselves, others, and God.]

TUESDAY

The lesson asks us “How is God’s power expressed in the resurrection of Jesus?”

Thoughts?

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—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (Hebrews 2:14-15 NIV84).

Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10 NIV84).

Jesus said to John in Revelation,

I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. (Revelation 1:18 NIV84).

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. (Revelation 20:14 NIV84).

How does one destroy death? What kills, eliminated, erase, eradicates death? Life! So what do you think Christ’s power is that destroys the power of death and what is the lake of fire? And how did Christ accomplish this at the cross?

In Jesus the principle of life, God’s eternal, selfless love battled against fear and selfishness, the survival of the fittest principles that causes sinners to hurt, control, exploit and abuse others in order to protect self. Jesus, as our human substitute, had to decide, would He live out God’s principle of love, giving His life freely, or would He choose to use power to protect self? Would He live out the justice of God, which is based on love, truth, and freedom—or would He use the methods of this world, the methods of force and external enforcement to put down the injustice and abuse that His enemies were doing to Him?

Jesus chose, in His own person, to say no to the desire to retaliate, to use power, to punish law-breakers, to protect Himself. Instead, He not only sacrificed Himself in love, He forgave those who were abusing Him. In the person of Jesus Christ the law of life, the law of love and truth and freedom destroyed the law of sin and death when Jesus refused to give in to all temptations to act in self-interest. Thus Jesus rose again in a humanity that He fixed, that He purged from all fear and



selfishness, a new purified and sinless humanity. And Jesus became the second Adam, the new head of humanity—and as Scripture says:

Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, **once made perfect**, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him (Hebrews 5:8-9 NIV84).

As a human being, Jesus had to grow, mature, develop, and learn. Jesus had to choose, in His humanity, what principles He would live out, what character He would develop. And once, He was made perfect—not before—He became the source of salvation.

But wasn't Jesus always perfect—He was always sinless—but in His sinless self, He was still subject to our weaknesses, subject to temptation, and was tempted in every way just like we are yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). And we are tempted by our own evil desires (James 1:14). Jesus became part of this humanity. Through Mary, Jesus took up humanity damaged and broken by Adam. And thus Jesus experienced the temptations of human emotions that tempt us to fear, and fear tempts us to act in self-interest. In Gethsemane Jesus felt these powerful emotional temptations to avoid the cross, to save self. But, because Jesus' Father was the Holy Spirit, He was capable of resisting that temptation and choosing with His human brain to love fully and perfectly. And thus in Jesus love destroyed fear and selfishness at the cross—life destroyed death at the cross and Jesus rose again as the predictable and inevitable outcome of living out perfectly God's living law of love.

This is how Jesus was able to tell His disciples over and over again that He was going to Jerusalem to be abused and killed by evil men, but that He would rise on the third day. Jesus knew what His mission was. He knew what was required to complete the mission of destroying the cause of death principle and restoring the life causing principle into humanity. His ability to predict His resurrection was based on His understanding of God's character and laws. It was not based upon a prophetic vision of seeing the future.

This is why in the book *The Desire of Ages* the author correctly writes,

“Satan with his fierce temptations wrung the heart of Jesus. The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb” (*The Desire of Ages* 753).

Jesus was not given a vision of the future like Daniel or John were given in their prophetic visions. Jesus knew what was going to happen because He knew what the sin problem was and how He was going to destroy it and in doing so He would rise again.

So what is the resurrection power? It is the power of truth and love, God's living law that originates in and emanates from God and is the basis upon which God has constructed life to exist and operate, and when we are restored to harmony with truth and love we are restored to harmony with God and God's life-giving presence dwells in us again in the Third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, who recreates us in Christlikeness of character.



WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph,

Paul has celebrated the exaltation of Jesus, who now sits with the Father on the throne of the cosmos. Having defined the position of Christ in relationship to the Father (“seated . . . at his right hand in the heavenly places” [Eph. 1:20, ESV]), Paul turns to the relationship of Jesus to “the powers.” As coregent with the Father, Jesus is “far above” them all (Eph. 1:21). (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2023, Ephesians p. 26).

What do you think about this? When Jesus ascended to heaven, did He take His seat at the Father’s right hand on the throne?

But I thought the SDA church teaches that He did not take up His ruling vestments, but His priestly robes and didn’t sit on His throne but has been ministering as our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary.

What do you think of this?

The description of Jesus going to heaven and taking the throne after His ascension has been used by some to suggest that the SDA sanctuary message is untrue, that Jesus did not go to heaven and begin any work in the heavenly sanctuary as our High Priest in heaven.

How do you address such concerns?

The word pictures of Scripture are designed to teach us truths about Christ’s position in God’s government, His authority, His rulership, and His activity in the plan of salvation—these Biblical descriptions are not designed or intended to reveal heavenly geography.

In other words, descriptions of Jesus on a throne or descriptions of Jesus as our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary are descriptions of ability, authority, and function, not geography.

Right understanding requires our ability to think abstractly, to not get caught into literalism. Don’t fall for the trap of believing either/or, either He is on the throne or He is in the sanctuary—He can’t be both. That is childlike thinking. Instead, think through what these two pictures reveal about Jesus’ role in the plan of salvation and how He is fulfilling both simultaneously to complete His work of winning the war.

I see no contradiction in either of these two descriptions, Jesus as ruling Sovereign and Jesus as our heavenly High Priest. They both are true and simultaneously so.

Remember, Jesus was always and already Sovereign, ruler, Creator, fully and equally God. In other words, before Jesus’ incarnation He already shared the throne. So the image of Jesus returning to



heaven and sharing the throne with the Father is not intended to describe Jesus receiving powers or authority that were new to Him.

These descriptions are intended to inform us that His mission to Earth, in His direct confrontation with Satan was successful and that He returned in humanity to take again His rightful place as ruler of the universe, and having won the victory here, having demonstrated the truth about God and God's design laws for life, having exposed Satan as a liar and fraud.

When Jesus returned to heaven as victor, as conqueror, He was recognized as such by the heavenly beings, and Jesus was enthroned in the position of victor and ruler and Sovereign in the hearts and minds of all heavenly beings. All of Satan's allegations against Jesus were gone, and the heavenly beings all recognize Him as worthy, worthy to have and wield all power because He has proven Himself eternally safe with all the power.

Jesus upon His ascension stepped into the command center of the universe for the purpose of directing all the agencies of heaven for the completion of the plan of salvation, which is the work metaphorically acted out in the sanctuary theater. Thus in Jesus He is both Sovereign Ruler and Ministering High Priest and fulfills both roles simultaneously.

Thus, these two descriptions have no tension in them at all but are in perfect accord with reality and what Christ is accomplishing in our behalf.

And in **FRIDAY's** lesson there is a quote from *Acts of the Apostles* that describes this very unity of function:

When Christ passed within the heavenly gates, He was enthroned amidst the adoration of the angels. As soon as this ceremony was completed, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in rich currents, and Christ was indeed glorified, even with the glory which He had with the Father from all eternity. The Pentecostal outpouring was Heaven's communication that the Redeemer's inauguration was accomplished. According to His promise He had sent the Holy Spirit from heaven to His followers as a token that He had, as priest and king, received all authority in heaven and on earth, and was the Anointed One over His people. (Acts of the Apostles 38).

This description describes both His coronation in heaven and simultaneously His ministry as High Priest directing the Holy Spirit to cleanse, heal, and empower His people.

The lesson talks about how in Ephesus there was a strong interest in magic, incantations, sorcery and such. The belief that through the proper incantations, words, recitation of verbal formulas, charms, and various rituals one could conjure and control spirits to achieve magical outcomes.

What do you think about this?

Are we seeing a resurgence in magic, sorcery, spiritualism in the world today?



What about in the church? Is magic and magical thinking intruding into Christianity? How?

What about the idea that our prayers are not valid, don't have power, won't be heard unless we end them with the proper incantation of reciting the powerful word "Jesus" "In the name of Jesus?" But, then we discover, Jesus never went by that name as that is a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew Joshua, so we fear our prayers never were heard because we used the wrong incantation. So we with renewed confidence pray again but this time in the name of Joshua, but then we discover that is still not how the Hebrew is spelled or pronounced and thus our incantation is still incorrect, so we begin again, but now in the name of Yashua. What joy we now feel knowing we have the right incantation and God will finally hear our prayers.

Is, prayer, the conversation with God as with a friend, really about saying the some word at the end in the right way? Even the name of God? If your grandchildren, struggle to pronounce your name properly, perhaps have difficulty with a lisp, or just cant form the words, but with love and joy call out to you, do you get offended, do you refuse to hear?

Think what this idea about we must use the right words when we pray says about God.

I like how the book *The Desire of Ages* describes what it means to pray in the name of Jesus:

But to pray in Christ's name means much. It means that we are to accept His character, manifest His spirit, and work His works. (The Desire of Ages 668).

THURSDAY

Read second paragraph,

Note carefully that having "put all things under his [Jesus'] feet," the Father "gave him as head over all things to the church" (Eph. 1:22, ESV; compare "gave Him to be head over all things to the church," NKJV). While "all things" is a universal, inclusive term, Paul still has in mind "the powers" mentioned in Ephesians 1:21. All things—the cosmic, supernatural, spiritual powers included—are under the feet of Christ, subservient to Him. (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2023, Ephesians p. 27).

Was putting all things under Jesus' rule and authority a change? Was Jesus ever not in authority over all things? Was Jesus ever not the rightful ruler?

So, is this description about all things being placed under Jesus a description of a new position of authority with new responsibilities and abilities for Jesus, or is it a description of the recognition in the minds of all intelligences of the reality that was always true but had been hidden or obscured by Satan's lies and now that those lies were defeated then Jesus continuing on in His same position of authority is recognized as such by all heavenly beings?



Consider this description of the beginning of Lucifer's rebellion in heaven from the book *Patriarchs and Prophets* I encourage you to read the entire chapter, this is one short paragraph after Lucifer's lies to the angels had caused confusion, God announced the true position of His Son, but consider this statement:

There had been no change in the position or authority of Christ. Lucifer's envy and misrepresentation and his claims to equality with Christ had made necessary a statement of the true position of the Son of God; but **this had been the same from the beginning. Many of the angels were, however, blinded by Lucifer's deceptions.** (Patriarchs and Prophets 38).

This is what lies do—they confuse and blind and thus the truth is needed, both to be proclaimed, but more powerfully revealed through evidence and action.

The lesson says, in the third paragraph, that “God has made Christ victorious over all evil powers.”

What does this mean? How has God made Christ victorious? How was this victory over all evil powers achieved?



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

I received a copy of the book *Did God Kill Jesus Instead of Killing Us?* By Kevin J. Mullins and found it to be very well done. If any of you would like to read it, you can download a free digital copy and also request a physical copy of the book at lastmessageofmercy.com.

Chip Liles has served as the treasurer of Come and Reason Ministries for the last 9 years. He has overseen significant growth in our ministry, the purchase and renovation of this building and has helped us efficiently keep up with all of our financial obligation. As of today, July 1, 2023 Chip will move from Treasurer to general board member. Stephanie Land who was our Treasurer for the first couple of years of our ministry has agreed to resume the role and as of today she has moved from general board member to be our Treasurer. I want to give thanks to both Stephanie and Chip, but especially thank Chip for all he has done for us the past 9 years.

The God Shaped Heart, has just been released in German in Germany, Herz voll Gott, published by the Adventist publishing house in Germany.

Our friend and class member, Dennis Hilton passed away June 28, 2023. **Celebration of Life** for Dennis Hilton will be July 9th, 2023 with visitation with family at 4:00pm & service starting at 4:30pm at Hamilton Community Church 7997 Shallowford Rd. Chattanooga, TN 37421. Meal will follow for family.

Memorial Service for Pastor Ralph LaFave father of Christie Jennings will be held, July 8, 2023 at 2 p.m. after potluck at our Come and Reason Ministry building 4922 LA COLLINA WAY, #100 OOLTEWAH, TN 37363. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Come and Reason Ministries.

New Address: Come and Reason Ministries is closing our PO Box Address. Please update your records to our building address for all future mail and shipping. Our street address is:

Come and Reason Ministries
4922 LA COLLINA WAY, #100
OOLTEWAH, TN 37363

NEW MAGAZINE: Critical Race Theory: Exposing the Lies While Advancing the Gospel, is now available!

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. 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.