



## 2023 3Q Ephesians—Lesson 6 The Mystery of the Gospel

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

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Read first paragraph,

In Ephesians 3, Paul opens with a theme that he had already touched on earlier: “that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel” (Eph. 3:6, NKJV). And though that might not be much of a surprise to the church today, composed mostly of Gentiles, it was something that seemed radically new to many of his readers at that time. (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2023, Ephesians p. 46).

Why was the idea that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs something radical and new?

Was this idea something that had not been taught in the Old Testament Scriptures?

Was the message of God through His prophets in Old Testament times that salvation was found in being Jewish, that it was through their genetic descent from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—or by converting and being legally adopted into a Jewish family and therefore the Jewish nation—that one became an heir?

Does the Old Testament teach salvation to only a certain select ethnic, national, or racial group?

- Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and **all nations on earth will be blessed through him.** (Genesis 18:18 NIV84).
- The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that... **through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed**” (Genesis 22:15–18 NIV84).
- The LORD appeared to Isaac and said... “**through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed**” (Genesis 26:2–4 NIV84).
- “Turn to me and be saved, **all you ends of the earth**; for I am God, and there is no other” (Isaiah 45:22 NIV84).
- “**All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations** will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations” (Psalm 22:27–28 NIV84).



- **“All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name”** (Psalm 86:9 NIV84).
- **“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed”** (Daniel 7:13-14 NIV84).
- **“It is too small a thing for you [Messiah] to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”** (Isaiah 49:6 NIV84).

This is only a sampling, there are many other texts in the Old Testament that teach the same thing, that God’s call to salvation is for all people.

Israel was not called to be exclusive heirs of the promises, but to be God’s helpers in sharing the message of salvation with the world, and to be the human family through whom the Messiah would come.

When was the promise given that the Messiah would come? In Genesis 3:15, in Eden right after the fall, when it was clear there is only one human race descended from Adam and Eve and the plan of salvation is for the entire human species.

The Old Testament narrative is the record of God working out His plan to save humanity, from all corners of the globe, from every nation, tribe, kindred, and people from sin.

Are there examples in the Old Testament of people not descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and who did not convert to Judaism and did not start observing the Jewish feasts etc., yet who were saved?

- Every human before Abraham who was saved (Adam and Eve, Abel, Seth, Methuselah, Enoch, Noah)
- Jethro
- Melchizedek
- Lot
- Sarah
- Naaman
- Nebuchadnezzar
- The wise men from the East who worshipped baby Jesus

Where then did this belief come from that salvation was restricted to the Jews?



Here is one commentary from the book *The Desire of Ages* that nicely sums up the problem with the Jews in Old Testament times:

- The Jews had so **perverted the law that they made it a yoke of bondage**. Their **meaningless requirements** had become a byword among other nations. **Especially was the Sabbath hedged in by all manner of senseless restrictions**. It was **not to them a delight**, the holy of the Lord, and honorable. The scribes and Pharisees had made its observance an intolerable burden. A Jew was not allowed to kindle a fire nor even to light a candle on the Sabbath. As a consequence the people were dependent upon the Gentiles for many services which their rules forbade them to do for themselves. They did not reflect that if these acts were sinful, those who employed others to perform them were as guilty as if they had done the work themselves. **They thought that salvation was restricted to the Jews**, and that the condition of all others, being already hopeless, could be made no worse. **But God has given no commandments which cannot be obeyed by all. His laws sanction no unreasonable or selfish restrictions.** (The Desire of Ages 204).

What was the root of the problem? A perversion of God's law into what? Into arbitrary rules, some are arbitrarily chosen by the sovereign, and some are not. He is the ruler, who are we to question. It was the same lie that Satan used in heaven, God makes up rules and made up rules discriminate against some, that's why Jesus gets to go into counsels of the Father that I Lucifer don't get to go into—God made up a rule and declared it so. Satan denies the inherent difference between himself—a created being, and Jesus a divine being—one fully equally with the Father. Satan alleges God runs His universe no differently that created beings do, no made up rules that require external enforcement.

Remember this quotation, written by one of the founders of the SDA church, documenting the way the SDA church is supposed to teach things:

- “The great controversy [is] between Christ, the Prince of life, the Author of our salvation [and] **Satan**, the prince of evil, the author of sin, **the first transgressor of God's holy law**. Satan's enmity against Christ has been manifested against His followers. **The same hatred of the principles of God's law**, the same policy of deception, by which error is made to appear as truth, by which **human laws are substituted for the law of God, and men are led to worship the creature rather than the Creator**, may be traced in all the history of the past. **Satan's efforts to misrepresent the character of God, to cause men to cherish a false conception of the Creator, and thus to regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love; his endeavors to set aside the divine law**, leading the people to think themselves free from its requirements; and his persecution of those who dare to resist his deceptions, have been steadfastly pursued in all ages. They may be traced in the history of patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, of martyrs and reformers. GC x.1

If you worship a god who imposes law, who makes up law, whose law functions like human law that requires legal oversight and enforcement—you are worshiping a creature, not the Creator, even if you are worshiping on the Sabbath.



And notice what Paul says happens to the minds of people who do this:

- The **wrath of God** is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men **who suppress the truth by their wickedness**, [Paul goes on to describe in verses 24, 26, 28 that God's wrath is letting people go to reap what they have chosen. God's wrath is not using divine power to inflict harm, it is when people insist on rebelling and God **STOPS** using divine power to prevent the harm that their actions cause. And their wickedness suppresses the truth—notice the specific truth Paul says they suppress] since **what may be known about God** is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. [Why is it plain to them? Notice Paul's inspired reason] For **since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.** [From the moment of Creation the truth about God has been revealed in what He has made. And what truth about God does nature reveal? What kind of law does all nature operate upon? It reveals the truth that God's laws are design protocols and not imposed rules arbitrarily enforced. Now notice what Paul says happens when they reject the truth about God as Creator, because they don't embrace the truth that nature reveals about how God runs/governs nature.] For although they knew God, **they neither glorified him as God** [Aren't we called at this time in history to give glory to God? But these people didn't why? Because they rejected the Creator God and worshiped the creature, and we do the same thing when we replace God's design with imposed law, if you worship a god who makes up rules and is required to legally enforce those rules with external punishments, then you are worshiping a creature, not the Creator. Notice what happens when we do this.] nor gave thanks to him, but **their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.** Although **they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man** and birds and animals and reptiles. (Romans 1:18-23 NIV84). [Making a false image of God in the likeness of mortal man—that doesn't mean a statue—it means a being who functions like a mortal man, a being who governs like a mortal man, a being who makes up rules like a mortal man, a being who has to have a tribunal and make legal rulings and inflict external punishments like a mortal man. And if you worship such a god you are worshiping a creature and not the Creator and your mind is being darkened and even though you have a degree in theology and consider yourself wise, Paul says you will become a fool if you keep to this lie about God's law and keep worshiping a being who is in the image of a man.]

## SUNDAY

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The lesson focuses on Paul as a prisoner in Rome. The lesson points out the status of being a prisoner could undermine the esteem some would hold for Paul, some might consider him a criminal, unworthy of respect. So Paul turns this fact into a badge of honor by describing himself as a prisoner of Christ, or being imprisoned for Christ.



Have you ever considered what your attitude toward Paul's letter to the Ephesians might have been had you been a member of that congregation?

If you were receiving a letter today from someone in prison, does their being in prison impact how you read the letter?

What is the issue here that we should carefully consider?

Have you ever heard that if you can't destroy the message then destroy the messenger?

If the enemies of truth cannot refute the truth and they are still opposed to it and want to fight against it, then they often seek to bias the listeners by tainting the messenger of truth with some attribute that will cause the listeners to reject the truth, or not even listen to it.

This is one of Satan's classic attacks, to accuse and slander the voices of truth.

- "The Jews answered him, 'Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?'" (John 8:28 NIV84).

The religious leaders implied Jesus was morally corrupt because He spent time with tax collectors and prostitutes. They suggested Jesus was untrustworthy because He treated Samaritans and women with respect.

Rather than dealing with the facts, evidence, truth and exploring and discussing the principles and methods, they instead sought to destroy the one bringing the truth.

The devil has a well-practiced strategy to do this:

- Deception—try and get those who love the truth to believe a lie—satan tried this in the wilderness by misquoting Scripture and pretending to be an angel of light
- Bribes and educements to buy people to betray the truth—Satan tried this with Jesus in the wilderness by offering Jesus the kingdoms of the world
- Slander, accusation, Satan's agents did this with Jesus
- followed by rejection by the weak minded and various forms of mob violence and intimidation to try and silence the voice of truth—the religious leaders repeatedly stirred up the mobs against Jesus and the Apostles
- Then imprisonment, restriction of liberty, and eventual execution

Do we see this same script being run today and who is running it? Recognize those that run this script are not being led by the Holy Spirit, they are not working for God's cause, they are in fact being led by demons regardless of what cause they claim they are supporting, such as trying to save lives, or advance equity or fairness.



I experienced some of this. Of course, I have had to confront various lies, of course I have had opportunities to get some transient benefit if I would only stop speaking the truth on some subject. And over the last 13 years I have frequently been the subject of various false allegations designed to get people to never consider what I am teaching: “Jennings doesn’t believe in substitutionary atonement.” “Jennings teaches moral influence theory.” Both of which are false statements, but I have heard from around the circle such allegations have caused others to not even examine what we are teaching.

And I have had various “mobs” work to cancel me. I have been invited and schedule to be a key speaker at various events and when certain SDA leaders have heard of this, they rallied some of their pastor friends and called various conference officials and had the invitation canceled.

This is what people do who do not have the truth. And we will see more and more of this right up until Jesus comes.

Did you see this evil method used when serious, loving, and concerned people had real and legitimate questions about the safety of a certain medicine being advanced under an emergency authorization, that they were accused of wanting to kill people, and they were censored, and they were threatened in various ways?

Have you seen when loving people object to the mutilation of children through various hormones and surgeries that they are attacked as transphobes? Why? Because the evidence is so overwhelming that such actions cause significantly more harm to the child than any benefit that is reaped. So, those promoting the attack on God’s creation—remember Scripture says God made them male and female—cannot win their case by truth. They cannot sit down and have an honest investigation of the facts, science, evidence, because it all comes to the same conclusion, there is biological male and female. This is irrefutable. So they resort to accusation, intimidation, mobs, censoring, and any means of intimidation and threat.

What they are doing is attacking minds through the assault of almost all public sources of information in an attempt to get people to deny reality itself. This is critical to Satan’s war against heaven. God is the God of reality. Satan’s entire system is based on lies, falsehood, which is fantasy, myth, fable. Thus, the followers of Satan cannot have real debate that examines actual evidence, instead they accuse, misinform, intimidate, riot and scream and do everything to silence any source of truth.

## MONDAY

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Read Ephesians 3:1-6:

- For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this,



then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:1-6 NIV84).

What does this mean? We already went through multiple texts from the Old Testament that document that God had been revealing over and over again that the plan of salvation is for all human beings, Jews and Gentiles alike. Then, why was this a mystery?

Paul says that it was also a mystery to him until it was revealed to him by divine revelation. Yet it was revealed by God to the prophets beforehand and written in the Scripture, so why was it a mystery to such a serious Bible student as Saul of Tarsus? Why didn't he see this before a special revelation revealed it to him?

Because the Jewish system in which Saul was raised and educated had become burdened with human law constructs and layers of rules, restrictions, traditions, and lies about God that perverted the meaning of what the illustrations were intended to teach.

Satan was actively working to corrupt the truths God had given to Israel and to replace the plan of God with his own false appeasement, legal payment plan.

Remember the Jews kept falling into Baal worship—and remember who Baal was? The son of El, the God of creation, weather, harvest, called the lord of the earth, the god who fought against the great serpent leviathan, and who fought against Mot the god of death, and in his battle with Mot died and rose again to bring life to the earth.

Does this sound familiar at all—that we worship the Son of God who is our Creator, the true Lord of the Earth, who fights against that ancient serpent the devil who holds the power of death, and in His battle in our behalf Jesus died in order to destroy death and bring life and immortality to light and rose again to bring us eternal life?

Why was Baal worship wrong? Because Baal required sacrifice be offered to him in order to obtain blessing. Baal was a god who would punish wrongdoing and would not bless without payment.

Baal became Zeus to the Greeks, Jupiter to the Romans, Thor to the Norse people and Jesus Christ to all those who worship a god who requires the blood of a human sacrifice be offered to him to pay our legal debt and get the blessing of his legal forgiveness.

That is why God prophesied through Malachi that before the second coming of Jesus the prophet Elijah must come again. Elijah confronted Baal worship, and God is calling for a people today to stand up and make it clear that God is the Creator whose laws are design laws.



And like Elijah we are to call people to decide—If god is like Baal, a being who makes up rules like creatures do, and uses power to inflict punishment for rule-breaking, then worship him; but if God is the Creator who builds reality, whose laws are the protocols life itself is built to operate upon, and who is healing, saving, delivering us from sin, then worship Him.

This is the message of the 3 angels, to call people out of worshipping the god of this world, the counterfeit imposter satanic version of God, and back to worship God in His true light as Jesus revealed Him, our Creator and this requires we reject imposed law with its penal/legal theories and accept design law and God's plan to heal and restore.

So, here is how I paraphrased Ephesians 3:1-6 in The Remedy:

- It is because I have brought the healing truth about Christ Jesus to you, Gentiles, that I, Paul, am now a prisoner. Surely you have heard how God graciously gave me the healing message of truth for you—that is, the truth previously not understood but made known to me by revelation, as I have already written to you. In reading this, you will be able to understand the insight I have into the truth about God and Christ — the truth previously hidden by Satan's lies and distortions. These insights were not understood by previous generations because the lies of Satan were so effective that only Christ himself could refute them and provide the truth sufficient to make plain what God's Spirit had previously revealed to his holy apostles and prophets. This is the truth previously hidden and not understood: God loves all humanity, and all humanity is included in God's plan to heal and restore, and—through the incredible good news of God as revealed in Christ—all humans are included in the promises given to Abraham, and are therefore heirs of the blessings of salvation which come through Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:1-6 REM).

## **TUESDAY**

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Read the second and third paragraphs,

- There is an interesting progression in Paul's self-understanding that is discernible as we move through Paul's letters in the order they were written. Early on, he lays claim to his status as a divinely appointed apostle (Gal. 1:1). Later, though, he introduces himself as “the least of the apostles” and “not worthy to be called an apostle” (1 Cor. 15:9, NKJV). Here in Ephesians he sees himself as “the very least of all the saints” (Eph. 3:8, ESV). Finally, he describes himself as the “chief” (NKJV) or “worst” of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15, NIV).

Perhaps this line of thinking here by Paul can help explain this famous quote by Ellen G. White: “The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer, and your imperfections will be seen in broad and distinct contrast to His perfect nature.”—Steps to Christ, p. 64. (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2023, Ephesians p. 49).





Have you experienced this? What is happening? Why is it that as we grow closer to Jesus and by beholding Him we become more like Him, we often experience ourselves as being even more unfit, having more imperfections?

Because we become ever more aware of reality, of how weak we are in our mortal state, how even with good intentions we can be overcome by fatigue, or make decisions with good motives but because of our finiteness, our inability to see all the permutations and the future, our decisions can sometimes have consequences we didn't anticipate or intend.

Sometimes we just have an irritable moment and regret not being more patient, or kind, or understanding.

What is the best approach to handling the truth that we are weak, wounded, and sick in sin?

To remember we are not responsible for procuring the remedy to our condition, nor are we responsible for perfecting or curing ourselves, we are responsible for trusting Jesus and staying connected with Him, following where He leads, choosing to do to the best of our ability what we know God would have us do.

He is the One who has procured the Remedy, and He, through His representative the Holy Spirit, is the One who applies that Remedy to our hearts. And thus when we see shortcomings, we say, "Thank you Jesus, I can see you are still working in my heart and mind. Keep up your healing work. Keep searching me and finding every defect in me and create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me!"

Read the last paragraph,

- Paul then continues. In Ephesians 3:10, he writes: "to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places" (NKJV). Who are the "rulers and authorities in the heavenly places" (ESV) mentioned here? How does the church announce God's "manifold" or multifaceted wisdom to them? Though Ephesians 3:10 does not describe the nature of the powers, it seems best to take them as the evil ones described in more detail in Ephesians 6:11, 12. If so, the composition of the church, unifying Jews and Gentiles as once very divided parts of humankind, becomes a ringing announcement to these demonic "rulers and authorities in the heavenly places" of God's plan for the future, "to unite all things in him [Christ], things in heaven and things on earth" (Eph. 1:10, ESV). They are put on notice that God's plan is underway and their doom assured. The very nature of a unified church signals their ultimate defeat. (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2023, Ephesians p. 49).

If the very nature of a unified church signals the ultimate defeat of the powers of darkness, does that mean that because today Christianity is fragmented into over 41,000 different groups, that the powers of darkness are winning?



Seriously, do we see anywhere in the world the unity in the church that Paul is describing here?

I have never seen this unity via religious organization or denomination.

I have seen this unity in people who have been reborn to have God's living law of love written upon their hearts.

So, I wonder, is this unity Paul is referring to found in denominationalism, organized churches, or is Paul referring to what some call the church invisible, the people who God sees and knows are members of His kingdom?

Consider this parable:

- Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.  
“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’  
“ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.  
“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’  
“ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’ ” (Matthew 13:24-30 NIV84).

What is Jesus telling us in this parable? Is this describing a church organization where all the people are united or a church where there is division?

I found this commentary in the book *Christ’s Object Lessons*, what do you think?

- Christ's servants are grieved as they see **true and false believers mingled in the church**. They long to do something to cleanse the church. Like the servants of the householder, they are ready to uproot the tares. But Christ says to them, “Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest.” (Christ’s Object Lessons 71, emphasis mine).

If true and false believers, wheat and weeds, are mixed together in the church then how is the manifold wisdom of God to be manifest in it?

Because God’s manifold wisdom is found in His true church—which is the fellowship of believers, those who are reborn to the kingdom of God.



In the field mixed with wheat and weeds—all the wheat have a common ancestry, genetics, and produce a common fruit. All the wheat are united in what they are and what they produce. And it is apparent for all who have eyes to see that the fruit of the wheat and the product of the weeds are not the same regardless of the field in which they grow.

Thus, the manifold wisdom of God is manifested through His people, His church, in contrast to all the fakers, the religious zealots, the legalistic rule-making followers of a Roman dictator god who seem to run most churches and who take up space in the church but instead of producing the peaceable fruits of righteousness produce the fruits of control, coercion, fear, guilt, shame, and division.

## WEDNESDAY

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When you hear the term, “the family of God” what comes to mind?

There is a lot of confusion about what it means to be a member of the family of God.

Some will ask questions like, “In your family, are only the good children considered members of the family?” And this is designed to suggest that all of us, saved or lost, are considered children of God and part of God’s family.

This idea is neither right or wrong in itself—it is incomplete and thus leads to false conclusions.

The truth is that there are two human family trees.

The first family tree descends from Adam, who was created by God and thus every human being born into the world is part of the human family descended from Adam and in that regard is a child of God. However, Adam corrupted himself with sin and severed his connection with heaven and aligned or united humanity with Satan. Without divine intervention all humans would die eternally. Adam’s family tree should be understood as being cut off from the source of life and it is therefore wilting and dying.

There is a second family tree, with a new head and that is Jesus. We become members of His family when we accept Him as our Savior and are grafted into Him, the vine, and we receive the life of Christ flowing into our hearts by faith. All the reborn, who receive new hearts and minds, become the various branches of the new human family tree. That family tree is connected to God through Christ and receives the life giving power and presence of God flowing into our reborn hearts and thus we produce fruits of righteousness and are considered part of the family of heaven.

Just as there are two family trees, one of sin and death, and one of righteousness and life—there are two births one born into this world of sin and death, and one reborn with a new heart of righteousness from Christ.



Those who are born into the world, but are not reborn to Christ, do not become part of God's heavenly family, they instead are considered part of the human family severed from God and connected in heart, mind, spirit, attitude, character and function to be part of Satan's family, the family of rebellion, of sin, of unrighteousness.

The members of the heavenly family look like Jesus, they carry the image of God in their characters.

The members of Satan's family look like Satan and carry around the satanic character.

Jesus said of the Jews, who were trying to kill Him, and who were claiming both Abraham and God as their father:

- **You belong to your father, the devil**, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44 NIV84, emphasis mine).

The apostle John tells us that,

- **“to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God**—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God” (John 1:12, 13 NIV84, emphasis mine).

So the Bible uses this idea of family to describe those who have been reborn and who are like Jesus in character. We are not considered members of God's family simply because of our genetics, i.e. being human. This was the same lie that the Jews had, they believed simply because they were descended from Abraham that they were considered part of God's family. Jesus refutes this.

Here are a few of historical quotes demonstrating my view is not unique to me:

- **If you have renounced self and given yourself to Christ you are a member of the family of God**, and everything in the Father's house is for you.” (Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing 110, emphasis mine)
- Remember that the Lord loves you, and that **each one of you can become a member of the family of God**. If you are faithful here, when He shall come in the clouds of heaven, you will meet your father, and will be a united family. (Selected Messages vol. 2, p. 265, emphasis mine).
- The Lord has enjoined upon us to come out from among them and be separate, and to touch not the unclean thing, and He will receive us and will be a Father unto us, and we shall be His sons and daughters. **If we wish to be adopted into the family of God, to become children of the heavenly King, we must comply with His conditions**; we must come out from the world and



stand as a peculiar people before the Lord, obeying His precepts and serving Him.  
(Testimonies to the Church vol. 4 p. 109, emphasis mine).

## THURSDAY

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Read Ephesians 3:20-21:

- Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen (Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV84).

What does this text mean to you?

What kinds of things do you ask or imagine—because He can do more.

What is the power that is at work within us?

What kind of power is this?

Is it the power of fear, of intimidation, of rule-enforcement, of punishment, of legal declarations?

What kind of power changes hearts and minds?

- “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32 Niv84)

What kind of power is this?

- 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. (Romans 1:16 NIV84).

What power is this? What is the gospel, the good news?

- “Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?” (Romans 2:4 NIV84).

Is there power in the kindness of God? What kind of power is that?

- Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty. (Zechariah 4:6 NIV84).

How does the Spirit work?



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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### **Dr. Jennings New Job:**

Dr. Jennings has taken the position as Medical Director of [Honey Lake Clinic](#) in Greenville, Florida.

- Honey Lake Clinic is an accredited holistic Christ-centered residential mental health treatment facility situated on a beautiful 5000-acre retreat with spring fed lakes. The program is staffed by licensed and board-certified mental health professionals and treats both male and female adults on one side of the campus and female adolescents on the other side. Patients typically stay for 30-60 days and the program includes individual and group therapies, equine therapy, hydro therapy, massage, spa treatments, exercise and fitness training, brain-healthy meals planned by a nutritionist—all Christ centered with regular worship services available in the on campus chapel.
- How you can help?
  - Continue your prayers and support of Come and Reason Ministries and share the vision
  - Our vision has been whole person healing through the true gospel of Jesus Christ
  - Working with Honey Lake allows for greater opportunity to take God's whole person healing truths to more people
- Thank you for all your prayers, support, and encouragement during this time of transition. And also thank you for your continued support of Come and Reason Ministries as we seek to share the healing message of God's love with others. We will return to our schedule of Dr. Jennings teaching remotely on most Sabbaths and teaching in person on the second Sabbath followed by potluck.

### **The God Shaped Heart:**

has just been released in German in Germany, *Herz voll Gott*, published by the Adventist publishing house in Germany.

### **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