



2024 3Q The Book of Mark Lesson 12 Tried and Crucified

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

The lesson focuses on the most important and significant event in universal history—the crucifixion of Jesus. We will be studying and learning more and more of what Christ accomplished for us throughout all eternity future, but even though we cannot fully comprehend all the infinite aspects of what Christ did for us, there are important truths that are revealed and can be known to us today.

What questions do you have about the crucifixion?

- Why did Jesus have to die in order to provide salvation to human beings?
- Why couldn't another human die as our savior?
- Why couldn't an angel be our substitute?
- What did the death of Jesus accomplish?
- Was Jesus' death only for humans or did the unfallen angels in heaven also need the benefits of the Cross?
- How is it that Jesus' death helps sinners be restored to unity with God?
- Was Jesus' death a legal requirement?
- What would happen to humanity if Jesus had not become our substitutionary Savior?
- What would God do to sinners if Jesus did not become our substitutionary Savior?
- What would have happened to the rest of the universe if Jesus had not become humanity's substitutionary Savior?

Would we agree that the death of Jesus is the solution to the sin problem—God's means of winning the war against Satan and ultimately eliminating sin from His universe?

If Jesus' substitutionary death is the solution to the sin problem then in order to understand its achievement don't we need to understand the nature of the problem? What is the problem that sin caused that the plan of salvation fixes?

How would you describe the problem that sin caused that is fixed by God through the accomplishments of Jesus?

When Adam sinned did God get changed?

When Adam sinned did God's law change?

When Adam sinned did the condition of humanity change?

- Did the change in humanity cause human beings to become more like God or more like Satan?

- Did the change in humanity bring human beings into closer unity, intimacy, friendship, loyalty, abiding trust with God or did the change in humanity cause a separation between human beings and God—a separation of distrust and fear?
- Did the change in humanity cause human beings to become healthier, have more vitality, to have greater wellbeing—or did the change *cause* death, *cause* humanity to become out of harmony with life and thus the species became dead in trespass and sin? In other words, does humanity have a terminal condition that without intervention from God results in death?
- Or is the problem that sin caused a legal one? Do some version of Christianity suggest that Adam and Eve did not have a change in themselves; they did not cause their own hearts and minds to become corrupt; they were not separated from the source of life; they continued to have life in themselves and could live eternally as sinners, but they now had a legal problem and even though they as sinner could naturally live eternally, God was required by law and justice to use His power to either torture them or execute them for their crime? So, in this legal version, the sin problem is not in humanity’s condition, it is in their legal status. And the death that is the wages of sin, in this legal model, does not come from sin itself, but from God who inflicts it. Thus, the solution in the legal model is to do something to God to get God to not use power to kill us.

But if the sin problem is a reality-based problem, something that caused a real change in humanity that broke the bonds of love and trust and caused a separation in our unity with our heavenly Father who is the source of life and therefore results in death—as Scripture teaches, sin when full grown brings forth death (James 1:15). Then what needs to happen to fix the problem?

- Does a legal declaration restore love and trust?
- Does a legal payment heal hearts and minds?
- Does legal pardon put God’s living law back into the hearts and minds of people?

This is why the Bible says,

- “No one can be made right with God by following the law.” (Romans 3:20 NCV).
- “For **no one is put right in God’s sight by doing what the Law requires**; what the Law does is to make people know that they have sinned. But now **God’s way of putting people right** with himself has been revealed. **It has nothing to do with law**, even though the Law of Moses and the prophets gave their witness to it. **God puts people right through their faith in Jesus Christ**. God does this to all who believe in Christ, because there is no difference at all: everyone has sinned and is far away from God’s saving presence. But by the free gift of God’s grace **all are put right with him through Christ Jesus**, who sets them free. 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**. What, then, can we boast about? Nothing!

And what is the reason for this? Is it that we obey the Law? No, but that we believe. For we conclude that a **person is put right with God only through faith, and not by doing what the Law commands.**” (Romans 3:20-28 GNT, emphasis mine)

And here are those same verses in the Remedy:

- Therefore no one will be recognized as having a healthy relationship with God and being like Christ in character by adhering to a set of rules; rather, it is through the Ten Commandments that we become aware of our sickly state of mind. But now God has revealed a healthy state of being — a character that is right and perfect in every way — that did not come from the written code, but is exactly what the Scriptures and the Ten Commandments were pointing your minds toward. This perfect state of being comes from Christ and is created within us by God when we place our trust in him. Our trust in him is established by the evidence given through Jesus Christ of his supreme trustworthiness. There is no difference among any ethnic groups, for all humanity is infected with the same disease — of distrust, fear and selfishness — and is deformed in character and falls far short of God's glorious ideal for humanity. Yet all who are willing are healed freely by God's gracious Remedy which has been provided by Jesus Christ. God presented Jesus as the way and the means of restoration. Now, through the trust established by the evidence of God's character revealed when Christ died, we may partake of the Remedy procured by Christ. God did this to demonstrate that he is right and good — because in his forbearance he suspended, for a time, the ultimate consequence of us being out of harmony with his design for life — yet he has been falsely accused of being unfair. He did it to demonstrate at the present time how right and good he is, so that he would also be seen as being right when he heals those who trust in Jesus. Where, then, is human bragging or accomplishment? It has no place, for our healing has been accomplished by God, through trust made possible by Jesus. And why is boasting not possible? Because our efforts to conform to a set of rules do not establish trust, or remove the infection of selfishness from our hearts! Only trust in God eliminates fear and opens the heart to him. Then, in order to recreate us to be like Jesus, God lovingly applies to our hearts and minds the Remedy Christ achieved. Therefore, we insist that a person is cleansed (set right with God) only by trusting in God and opening their heart to him—and this is different from keeping rules. (Romans 3:20-28 REM).

Do you see the difference in the false legal religion which teaches that our salvation is getting legal adjustments through legal payments to an offended god versus the reality of our Creator God healing all the damage sin has caused in us?

But let's go into greater detail into what Jesus accomplished to heal humanity, why He had to be fully God and fully human.

Why did Jesus, in order to be our Savior, have to be fully God and fully human?

Simple answer is that only if He is fully God is the truth about God revealed and we are provided the evidence we need to learn about God through His life. In Jesus we see how God wields power. We see that God is in fact love. That God does leave us genuinely free, even free to kill Him. That Satan has

lied, that God does not use power selfishly, even under duress. We learn that God is truly safe with all power because He will never abuse His creatures, never force, never coerce, which means His law and government do not operate upon imposed rules, those are the laws of creatures.

This is what the unfallen angels needed. This is what solidifies them in their loyalty for all eternity. The truth about God revealed in Jesus that destroys the lies of Satan that God is arbitrary, maker of rules, imposer of punishments, and restrictor of liberties. Thus the loyal angels are kept safe from rebellion by the intercessions and mediations of Jesus.

But while we humans needed this same truth about God in order to win us to trust, we needed something the loyal angels did not need. And if we stop at this point, at the point that Jesus' life and substitutionary death was only to reveal the truth about God, then we present an atonement model commonly known as Moral Influence Theory. The idea that that God only had to reveal the truth of His character of love in order to win us back to trust and thereby save us. But while we human sinners needed the truth to set us free from Satan's lies and win us back to trust, we needed something more, something the loyal angels did not need.

We also needed a new sinless nature, a new pure and sinless animating life-force, a new spirit of holiness and love; we needed to have the infection of fear and selfishness purged from us. No human born in sin, born with fear and selfishness, possessed any ability to free themselves from this corrupting and life-destroying condition. So, Jesus became human, fully human, a real descendant of Adam, taking up our condition, in order to destroy the infection of fear and selfishness and restore in humanity God's perfect righteousness.

God had to accomplish both to save this species, this creation. From a human sinner's perspective, it is true that all we need to experience in order for God to save us is genuine trust in God and open our hearts to Him and He will save and heal us. We do not have to understand cognitively the other elements Jesus achieved in our behalf—but Jesus still had to achieve those elements in order to save us. If we love and trust Jesus fully—we will receive all the merits or benefits He accomplished applied to our lives. But Jesus had to accomplish it so that we could receive it.

Because it is true that we only have to be won to trust in order to be saved, those who teach and emphasis the trustworthiness of God, and how Jesus revealed God fully—people like Graham Maxwell, have been falsely accused of teaching moral influence theory by the legalists in the church (those who hold to the lie that God's law functions like human law and therefore teach that God requires a legal payment be made in order to pay the legal debt and be able to offer legal pardon).

They will argue that the revelation of truth to win us to trust is the subjective aspects of the atonement, the part we experience in our hearts and minds, but the objective aspects they will argue are the legal aspects, the paying of the legal penalty to the law or the offended god they worship, which they claim must be also be fulfilled.

But they are operating on Satan's ground when they try to explain things through imposed law definitions and understandings. Imposed laws are the made-up laws creatures use. The reality is when

we return to worshipping God as Creator and realize His laws are design laws, the protocols life itself exists and operates upon, then we realize that we not only need restoration to trust, but in reality we need a new and sinless life force, a new and sinless spirit, a new and sinless nature.

So what is the true objective accomplishment of Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice that Satan doesn't want people to know, or experience and he has worked so hard to hide behind the veil of legalism?

In simple terms—Jesus destroyed the infection of, the spirit of fear and selfishness and restored the law of life, the spirit of love and trust, into humanity.

- Jesus was born of a woman under the law of sin and death—(Galatians 4:4).
- He was a full and real human descended from Adam
- Through Mary, Jesus partook of human descended from Adam and nature infected with sin, infected with the spirit of fear and selfishness and thus could experience temptations in all the ways we do, yet He was without sin because He never chose to say yes to any temptation (Hebrews 4:15).
- Specifically—God formed Adam out of the dirt of the earth and then breathed into Adam the breath of life (pneuma), the spirit of life—the animating energy of life that comes only from God.
- That spirit of life was the spirit of love, pure, righteous, holy.
- Eve was created from living tissue taken from Adam—in other words, Eve's life animating energy was the same breath of life breathed into Adam—she was flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone, a new individual but an extension of the breath of life breathed into Adam.
- Adam and Eve were given an ability to share their life, their animating energy, the breath of life God breathed into Adam and procreate children.
- But Adam and Eve broke trust with God and contaminated their spirits with fear and selfishness.
- And every one of us is born in sin conceived in iniquity (Psalm 51:5). This means we are born with an animating energy a spirit of fear and selfishness, why? Because the spirit of fear and selfishness is the only spirit Adam and Eve had to procreate new life with. As Paul wrote to Timothy: “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV). We did not get a spirit or life of fear and selfishness from God, we inherited that from Adam. From God we are reborn with a new spirit of power and of love that comes from Jesus.
- Jesus was born of Mary, and through Mary He inherited the spirit of fear and selfishness. This is how He was like us in every way (Hebrews 2:14 and 17). And how He could be tempted like us in every way (Hebrews 4:15). And we are tempted by our own evil desires (James 1:14). And we see this in Jesus in Gethsemane when He experienced the strong desires of fear and selfishness tempting Him to avoid the cross.
- But while Jesus was like us in every way—He was also different from us. While Jesus inherited the spirit of fear and selfishness from His mother Mary, the Father of His humanity was not human. He did not inherit a spirit of fear and selfishness from His Father. His Father was the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18-20). And thus Jesus was born with the spirit of power and

of love and a sound mind. Thus, as a human Jesus could be tempted in all points like we are, but as a human He could choose to resist every temptation and instead of being animated, motivated, and energized by fear and selfishness He was animated, motivated, and energized by love and trust. In this He was not exactly like Adam in Eden, as Adam did not have a spirit of fear and selfishness to tempt him; and he was not exactly like us until after we are converted and reborn with a new and right spirit. Then, we also have to animating life forces motivating us—fear and selfishness versus love and trust and we have the ability to choose which spirit we are aligned with.

- At the cross, when His humanity was tempted to act to save self, Jesus instead chose to love others more than self and thus at the cross the spirit of fear and selfishness was destroyed, eradicated, crucified, killed and Jesus rose in a humanity that He purged, cleansed, purified, and restored to God's original ideal. Jesus became, through His objective achievements the second Adam, the new head of humanity. Jesus not only perfectly revealed the truth about God, but Jesus objectively fixed humanity, purged the infection of fear and selfishness and restored God's life, God's pure Holy Spirit, as the only animating energy in the humanity He took upon Himself.
- Now, through restored faith and trust we can be reborn and receive the indwelling Holy Spirit who takes what Christ accomplished and reproduces it within us. We become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4) and as Paul said, it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me (Galatians 2:20).
- With this new animating energy of love and trust we then choose to live as Jesus calls us to live and are transformed to be more like Jesus every day.

This is reality—it is actual accomplishment.

Read third paragraph,

- Irony often contains three components: (1) two levels of meaning, (2) the two levels are in conflict or contrast to each other, and (3) someone does not see the irony and does not recognize what is happening and does not know that he or she is the one who will suffer the consequences. (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2024, The Book of Mark p. 96).

This is quite a profound statement, with truth that indicts the false legal system—what do you think the two levels of meaning are based upon and the cause of the irony?

It is the two different understandings of law—design law versus imposed law and the irony is that those who see things through the human imposed-law lens, falsely believing that God's law functions like human law, their desire to be law-keeping blinds them to how they are actually breaking God's law and working against Him. It is a sad irony—the legalists in the camp who are so zealous to be loyal to God and obey His law are the ones breaking His law and warring against Christ.

We will see this recur throughout the lesson

So, let's review our questions:

- Why did Jesus have to die in order to provide salvation to human beings?
 - It was the only way to remove the death causing principle and restore the life causing principles. God could have made new sinless humans out of dirt like He did Adam, but they would not have been part of the creation He made in Eden. They would not be part of the family of Adam. The only way to save the humanity He created in Eden was to partake of it and eliminate the infection of fear and selfishness.
- Why couldn't another human die as our savior?
 - Because death doesn't fix the sin problem; only restoring the righteous spirit, the righteous life of God in humanity, does. And only Jesus who partook of the life inherited from Adam and who also had a pure life from God could fix the problem.
- Why couldn't an angel be our substitute?
 - If an angel would have come and died selflessly for us, we would learn about the angel and its love for us. But we would not learn that God is love. In fact, we would learn that God is willing to sacrifice others to protect Himself, which would sustain Satan's charges and the rebellion would spread.
- What did the death of Jesus accomplish?
 - It revealed the truth about God, God's role in the death of the wicked, why death comes, the character of God, that God is safe with all power and that Satan lied, and thus it destroyed the lies of Satan about God and wins all who love truth to trust.
 - And it destroyed from the humanity that He partook the infection of fear and selfishness and restored the spirit of love and trust into humanity, thereby restoring the species to God's original ideal.
 - It also revealed that Adam's sin was not due to a manufacturer's defect. Christ was able to live sinlessly with disadvantages that Adam did not have. Thus Adam's sin is Adam's responsibility and not because of some fault in how God created him.
- Was Jesus' death only for humans or did the unfallen angels in heaven also need the benefits of the Cross?
 - The Bible tells us that all things in heaven and earth are reconciled to Christ at the cross. (Colossians 1:20)
- How is it that Jesus' death helps sinners be restored to unity with God?
 - Truth wins to trust and in trust we receive the Holy Spirit who imparts to us the spirit or life of Christ, we become partakers of the divine nature, no longer our old fear driven self living but Christ lives in us.
- Was Jesus' death a legal requirement?
 - Not in the sense of imposed law or legal payments but it was the fulfillment of the law, the law of life, the law of love, the laws of health, fixing what was wrong to restore humanity back to harmony with God's design law for life—the only way we can have eternal life is to be restored to harmony with God and His design laws for life.
- What would happen to humanity if Jesus had not become our substitutionary Savior?
 - They would die from sin—as Scripture teaches, because life cannot exist out of harmony with God and His design laws; without Jesus God would still be forgiving and loving but the sinner would have no remedy to their terminal condition.

- What would God do to sinners if Jesus did not become our substitutionary Savior?
 - He would do nothing to them—sin would be the cause of harm. But because God is love, God could not sit by and do nothing. Love compels and therefore God took action to save sinners. But the penal model, based on Satan’s lie that God’s law functions like human law, teaches that God would be required to use power to torture and kill sinners if Jesus did die as our Savior. Thus the penal model has God as the source of death, but the Bible teaches that Jesus came to destroy him who holds the power of death that is the devil (Hebrews 2:14) and that Jesus destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light (2 Timothy 1:10) and that through Jesus the last enemy, death is destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:26).
- What would have happened to the rest of the universe if Jesus had not become humanity’s substitutionary Savior?
 - The fear and distrust of God would have continued to spread as the lies about God would not have the evidence revealed to refute them.

SUNDAY

Read third paragraph,

- The irony is that Jesus is both the Messiah and the King of the Jews. His convictions for blasphemy and sedition were mistaken; He should have received homage and worship instead. Yet, Jesus still acts in a kingly manner. His response to Pilate, “ ‘You have said so’ ” (Mark 15:2, ESV), is noncommittal. He does not deny the title or affirm it. This response may suggest that He is a king but of a different sort (compare with John 18:33–38). (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2024, The Book of Mark p.97).

What is the basis of the two levels of meaning and the cause of the irony?

What is the basis of human rulership, the basis of the authority of human kings and queens? How do they govern?

Human governments all operate upon imposed laws and external punishments and human ruler’s authority is the authority of office, of position, and power to force their way, to impose their rules.

The lesson rightly points out that Jesus is a king of a different sort of government, John 18:36-37:

- Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

“You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” (John 18:36-37 NIV84).

If Jesus’ kingdom were of this world His servants would use the methods of this world to advance it, the methods of force, might, violence, threat; they would fight—because human governments function by external enforcement. But Jesus is King of kings, He is Creator. His laws are the laws life and reality exist and operation upon—breaking His laws harms all who break them; breaking away from Jesus severs one’s connection to life. It would be like a fetus cutting its own umbilical cord. In God’s kingdom the King uses power to save, heal, restore, redeem, not to harm.

In Luke 17:20-21, again differentiating legal rules and behaviors from reality, Jesus describes His kingdom:

- “The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:20-21 NIV84).

What does it mean that the kingdom of God is within you?

Jeremiah and Hebrews says that,

- This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. (Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10 NIV84)

What kind of law can be written upon hearts and minds? Can rules be imposed upon one’s heart and mind? No, only design laws, the laws of truth, love, liberty.

And how does God write His laws upon our hearts and minds?

Can God get His truth, His love, His character into a sapient/sentient individual through external might and power? Why or why not?

This is why the God says,

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

Might and power can intimidate people into behavioral conformity, but it also destroys love, incites rebellion, causes further sin and separation, and destroys individuality.

God has the power to intrude Himself into any heart and mind and make changes against that person’s will or desire, but if God were to do that, then He would destroy the unique individuality of the person

and either create a robot or a new individual. Further, if God were to do that then He would be exactly the untrustworthy manipulator and abuser of power that Satan alleges that He is.

The only way that God can save an individual from sin is with the freewill choice and cooperation of the individual. We must be won to trust, to love, and then we must choose to act in love and trust, to trust God with how things turn out as we choose to fulfill our duties to Him.

This is the working of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and love, not might and power.

MONDAY

The lesson focuses on the condemnation, beating, abuse, mocking, torture, and execution of Christ.

Read the third paragraph,

- The irony in the scene is evident to the reader because Jesus really is the King, and the mocking words of the soldiers proclaim this truth. The action of the soldiers was a parody of how soldiers hailed the Roman emperor with the words “Hail, Caesar, Emperor!” Thus, there is an implicit comparison to the emperor. (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2024, The Book of Mark p. 98).

What is the basis of the irony? Do you see two types of law in conflict?

Were the soldiers acting illegally, or were they acting within the legal framework of their Roman government? What type of law and authority were the soldier’s acting upon?

Was Jesus also acting with authority, but His authority was the authority of God’s design laws that He exercised in governance of Himself—He was living the truth, living our His love for His Father and for you and me, and He left us free. Jesus practiced the laws of truth, love, and liberty in action.

So the irony is that those who were condemning Jesus were doing so legally while they were simultaneously breaking God’s laws and condemning themselves by solidifying into their own characters/hearts/minds the methods and principles of evil. This is what Jesus meant when He said,

- “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34 NIV84).

They thought they were doing what the law required, condemning and executing a heretic. They thought that Jesus was legally condemned by them and God by hanging Him on a tree; they thought that they were destroying Jesus, but they were actually destroying their own souls.

This is what happens to people when they accept the lie that God’s law functions like human law. They end up breaking God’s law while they falsely believe they are being loyal to God by keeping His law.

- This is what the Jews did to Stephen, and what they wanted to do to the woman caught in adultery—enforce the law but in so doing they were actually breaking God’s law
- This is what Saul of Tarsus did before Damascus Road when he used the power of the state to arrest and imprison those who disagreed with their religious laws
- This is what the church of the Dark Ages did
- This is what the beastly system of Revelation is going to do
- People will be deceived to participate with the beast of Revelation when laws are passed that are framed as doing good, as benefitting others, as saving lives, as God’s will, and all but the elect will be deceived. All those who believe God’s law functions like human law will go along because they want to be law abiding citizens. Do you see the irony.

FRIDAY

Read second paragraph, a quote from *The Desire of Ages*:

- “Upon Christ as our substitute and surety was laid the iniquity of us all. He was counted a transgressor, that He might redeem us from the condemnation of the law. The guilt of every descendant of Adam was pressing upon His heart. The wrath of God against sin, the terrible manifestation of His displeasure because of iniquity, filled the soul of His Son with consternation. All His life Christ had been publishing to a fallen world the good news of the Father’s mercy and pardoning love. Salvation for the chief of sinners was His theme. But now with the terrible weight of guilt He bears, He cannot see the Father’s reconciling face. The withdrawal of the divine countenance from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man. So great was this agony that His physical pain was hardly felt.” (The Desire of Ages, p. 753).

How do you understand this? What law lens? How would you explain it?

- “Upon Christ as our substitute and surety was laid the iniquity of us all. [human law lens interprets this as all the bad deeds; all the illegal acts; all the crimes; all the long list of sins committed by every human through history. The design law view interprets this to mean our sin condition, our terminal state of fear and selfishness that He inherited through Mary that tempted Him in all points like we are tempted.] He was counted a transgressor, that He might redeem us from the condemnation of the law. [The legal view interprets this to mean He was counted legally to be legally guilty of our sin and legally condemned forensically to suffer our inflicted death penalty. The design law view recognizes that He became a real human being, partook of our fallen, infected humanity through His mother and thus is a real member of our sin-fallen family, yet He was Himself without sin. Thus He is counted as one of us because He actually is in reality. The condemnation is not a legal one but a lethal one, we are born in sin conceived in iniquity—and He took this iniquity upon Himself. We are born terminal, dead in trespass and sin, and we are condemned by the reality of the condition that is out of harmony with God’s design laws for life.] The guilt of every descendant of Adam was

pressing upon His heart. [The legalist interpret this to mean legal guilt. We understand it to be the experiential guilt that sin brings. The natural result of sin is internal guilt and shame and Jesus as our sin-bearer experienced this horrible internal suffering of emotional guilt and shame that was not His own in both Gethsemane and at the cross when His unity with the Father was broken up. But as Scripture says, He despised the shame for the joy set before Him and endured the cross.] The wrath of God against sin, the terrible manifestation of His displeasure because of iniquity, filled the soul of His Son with consternation. [The legalists interpret this to mean God acted against His Son to vent His anger and wrath and punish His Son. This is pagan and a lie. Design law understands as we just explained that God and His Son were in perfect unity and cooperation to save humanity and that is all based on design law and thus the Father had to let go of Jesus in order for Jesus to be tempted in all points, to be tempted with fear and selfishness, the desire to save self, and to choose with His humanity to love fully and supremely thus destroying the fear and selfishness contaminating humanity and restore God's living law of love fully into humanity. Thus Jesus at the cross destroyed death and brought life and immortality to life.] All His life Christ had been publishing to a fallen world the good news of the Father's mercy and pardoning love. Salvation for the chief of sinners was His theme. But now with the terrible weight of guilt He bears, He cannot see the Father's reconciling face. [Here the author confirms our view that this is not legal guilt but experiential guilt that sin itself brings into the heart and mind of sinners.] The withdrawal of the divine countenance from the Saviour in this hour of supreme anguish pierced His heart with a sorrow that can never be fully understood by man. So great was this agony that His physical pain was hardly felt." (The Desire of Ages, p. 753).

TUESDAY

Any questions about the cross, what Jesus' achieved, why He had to die to be our Savior that we haven't already addressed?

Read last paragraph,

- One of their mocking statements stands out. In Mark 15:31, they say, “ ‘He saved others; he cannot save himself’ ” (ESV). To make their point about His helplessness on the cross, they indicate that He did help others (the Greek verb can mean “save,” “heal,” or “rescue”). Thus, ironically, they admit He is the Savior. The irony goes further—the reason He could not, or would not, save Himself was because at the cross He was saving others. (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2024, The Book of Mark p. 99).

Why could Jesus not save Himself and save others? What is the explanation given through human law lens? What is the reality through design law?

WEDNESDAY

Forsaken by God—what does this mean?

Was Jesus actually forsaken by His Father? Or was God in the Son reconciling the world to Himself? (2 Corinthians 5:19).

So in what way and why was Jesus abandoned by His Father upon the cross?

What was Jesus here to accomplish? The eradication of sin and the saving of humanity.

In order to save humanity what must happen? The infection of fear and selfishness must be purged and love and trust restored. Another way to say this is the spirit breathed into Adam, the life given to Adam, Adam contaminated with fear and selfishness. That condition is terminal it distrusts God and severs our connection with God who is the source of life. So in order to save humanity that infected life source, that infected spirit of fear and selfishness, like cancerous cells, must be eradicated, eliminated and replaced with a sinless life, a sinless spirit. So Jesus became a real human taking the life given to Adam and corrupted by Adam to the cross and eliminated that life and replaced it with a holy life, a holy righteous, loving spirit that He received in His humanity at His conception by the Father of His humanity the Holy Spirit.

Thus Jesus as a human had to die in order to kill the infection and the only way He could die as a human was for His Father who is the source of life to let go. If the Father would not have let go Jesus could not have died. In the same way that Jesus stayed away from Lazarus for if Jesus would have gone before Lazarus had died Lazarus would not have died.

Thus in Jesus the Father who was perfectly pleased with His righteous Son, who had no hostility to Jesus, but who cooperated with Jesus in order for them to fulfill their joint mission to eradicate the cause of death from humanity, separated Himself from His Son. This withdrawal of divine protection, this setting completely and totally free to reap what one has chosen for themselves without any intervention from God is known as God's wrath.

And thus, God's wrath, God's removal of His healing and protecting presence, was poured out on Jesus and Jesus received what Jesus chose—to fulfill His mission to be our Savior.

In this we see what God will do to the wicked in the end. He will pour out His wrath by stepping back, by no longer using His healing and protective power and setting sinners free to reap what they have chosen for themselves. And because they have chosen rebellion they reap eternal destruction, whereas Jesus because He chose love and trust He won the victory destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light (2 Timothy 1:10).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW PODCAST LAUNCH JULY 23—Designed4More: We are excited to announce the launch of our new podcast, Designed 4 More—which is a joint effort of Come and Reason Ministries and Honey Lake Clinic. Our first show will be released Tuesday July 23, and we will release a new show every Tuesday thereafter. The focus is God’s design for the four domains of our lives, body, mind, spirit, and relationships and how we can only thrive in harmony with His design laws for life. We will explore a wide variety of topics and subjects, physical, mental, spiritual, relational, organizational etc. all seeking to understand how to apply God’s designs to our real-world, real-life decisions and actions. If you have topics or questions you would like to see a show on, you can email your question or topic to questions@designed4more.net



REVISSED SABBATH SCHOOL SCHEDULE:

Date	Speaker	In Person/ Remote	Potluck
September 14	Stanley Baldwin	In Person	No
September 21	Dr. Jennings	In Person	Yes
October 12	Linda Ojala	In Person	No
October 19	Dr. Jennings	In Person	Yes
November 2	Russell Atkins	In Person	No
November 9	Lori Atkins	In Person	Yes
November 16	Dr. Jennings	Remote	No