



2024 4Q Themes in the Gospel of John Lesson 6 More Testimonies About Jesus

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

During Q&A #4 last week, I mentioned that EGW had made comments about men of means helping God's cause. Several asked me for references. There are more, but here are a couple:

- The Lord will work upon human minds in **unexpected quarters. Some who apparently are enemies of the truth will, in God's providence, invest their means** to develop properties and erect buildings. In time, these properties will be offered for sale at a price far below their cost. Our people will recognize the hand of Providence in these offers and will secure valuable property for use in educational work. They will plan and manage with humility, self-denial, and self-sacrifice. Thus **men of means are unconsciously preparing auxiliaries that will enable the Lord's people to advance His work rapidly.** (Counsels on Health 227, emphasis mine).
- The Lord has made men his stewards, and has entrusted to them the means to carry forward his work. When the poor have done all they can to advance the cause, **the Lord will bring in men of means to carry on the work.** (Gospel Worker 298, emphasis mine).

SABBATH

The Memory Text is John 12:32, but let's read verses 31 and 32:

- “Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” (John 12:31-32 NIV84).

What is the event to which Jesus is referring? His crucifixion.

His crucifixion is the event, yet Jesus said that this event is the “judgment on this world.” How is His crucifixion the judgment on this world?

- At the crucifixion do we find a heavenly court being held with books being opened, legal processes happening, forensic evidence being presented, judicial rulings?
- Are the people of the world, including His crucifiers going through a heavenly judgment process?
- Even for those who claim that God's judgment is like ours a legal courtroom, do they teach that the court was set and the books were opened at the cross or at a later date?

- So how is Jesus' crucifixion the time of the judgment of this world?

Consider Paul's position on the judgment:

- If some did not believe, does their unbelief nullify the faithfulness of God? Absolutely not! Let God be proven true, and every human being shown up as a liar, just as it is written: "*so that you will be justified in your words and will prevail when you are judged.*" (Romans 3:3-4 NET, emphasis original).

What type of judgment is going on? Is this a legal process, an external authority reviewing arguments and making a ruling? Or is this the judgment of intelligent beings in regard to whom they will believe and whom they will trust?

Is this not the judgment Jesus was referring to, that the liar and deceiver had cast a spell over the minds of men and had confused the angels in heaven and the only way to destroy the lies of Satan was to reveal the truth and expose the lies; and the lies to be destroyed are the lies about God and thus only God could reveal the truth about Himself.

And the lies about God are centered upon God's law, by getting beings to believe God's law is arbitrary and imposed we misconstrue the character of God and teach that God is the source of pain, suffering, and death.

At the cross all of this was revealed to be a lie. God did not lay a hand on Jesus. God did not use power to harm His Son. God surrendered Jesus to His choice to be our Savior, and stopped using power to protect Jesus; He set Jesus free to reap what Jesus' had freely chosen. And Jesus had chosen to be our substitutionary Savior, to take our place, to confront every temptation, to suffer abuse, to face the shame of sin and despise it and destroy it through choosing supreme infinite love.

And the character of the Father and Son, their methods and principles, their eternal design laws for life are all revealed at the cross—because they are in operation at the cross, because they are lived out by Jesus at the cross.

And Satan is exposed as a liar, as the source of pain, suffering, and death and we are empowered with the evidence and truth to make a **judgment**, to decide, we can choose to reject the lies of Satan and embrace the truth and thus cast Satan out of our hearts and minds by choosing to trust Jesus and opening our hearts to Him.

Thus Jesus brings judgment by revealing the truth for this is how reality works. When the truth is revealed every person who becomes aware of the truth must decide how they will respond to it. Every person makes a judgment in response to the truth do they believe it and follow it or deny it and reject it and continue to follow the lie. This is what Jesus did at the cross.

Sadly, Satan understood the truth revealed at the cross exposed him before the onlooking universe. This is why all sympathy for him was lost in heaven, why he was cast out of all the affections of the

angels, why no angel would listen any longer to anything Satan would say. And he knows that when the truth of the cross is rightly understood it frees human hearts and minds, this is why he has worked so hard to pervert the meaning of the cross into a legal payment. The same lie he used on angels, that God's law is imposed and requires God to punish, he has used on Christianity. Christianity Romanized when it accepted Rome's idea of law, that God's law is imposed and sin is a legal problem and requires external punishment. The final message is to reset all the Bible truths, but especially the truth about God and what Jesus accomplished at the cross back into Creator worship, back into the design law reality of our Creator God.

One other point is that in the Greek the word "men" is not in the text as inspired by the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not say that He would draw all "men" to Him at the cross, but that He would draw all to Himself, meaning all the intelligences in heaven and on earth.

- For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth **or things in heaven**, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Colossians 1:19-20 NIV84, emphasis mine).

To present the work of Christ as only for human beings restricts the full extent of His work and accomplishments and makes it easier for people to misconstrue the sin problem as a legal one. When we see the biblical truth that Jesus was not only saving humanity through His life, death, and resurrection, but was simultaneously destroying him who holds the power of death that is the devil (Hebrews 2:14) and securing the unfallen angels in their loyalty, we recognize something much more significant was happening than making legal payments. Consider this commentary:

- But the plan of redemption had a yet **broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man**. It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might **regard the law of God as it should be regarded**; but it was to **vindicate the character of God before the universe**. To this result of His great sacrifice—its influence upon the intelligences of other worlds, as well as upon man—the Saviour looked forward when just before His crucifixion He said: "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all unto Me." John 12:31, 32. The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to men, but before **all the universe** it would **justify God** and His Son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. It would establish the **perpetuity of the law** of God and would reveal the nature and the results of sin. (Patriarchs and Prophets 68, emphasis mine). [The sin problem began in heaven with angels and spread to earth. God's plan through Christ deals with the entire sin problem not just the human sin problem. While the angels in heaven remained loyal, all the lies of Satan had not been exposed and refuted. Thus, in saving humanity from sin, Jesus simultaneously reveals truth that destroys Satan's lies and solidifies the angels in their loyalty thus preventing the spread of distrust and fear when Satan and sin are finally eliminated. And the issue is over God's law—how do we understand law? Satan alleged God's law is arbitrary, made up rules, requiring God to use power to punish and this confused the angels in heaven, and the death of Christ revealed the truth about God's law. Sadly, Satan has infected Christianity with his same lie that God's law functions like human

law and almost all of Christianity teaches that God's law requires God to use God's power to inflict death on Jesus as legal punishment for sin, which is contrary to the evidence of what transpired.]

From the first the great controversy had been upon the law of God. Satan had sought to prove that God was unjust, **that His law was faulty**, and that the good of the universe required it to be changed. In **attacking the law** he aimed to overthrow the authority of its Author. In the controversy it was to be shown whether the divine statutes **were defective and subject to change, or perfect and immutable.** (Patriarchs and Prophets 69, emphasis mine). [How did Satan attack God's law? The same author, in other places, explains her understanding, does this add up, does it make sense? Is it reasonable? Is it consistent with Scripture?]

In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the **law of God** could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. **Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan;** and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. (*The Desire of Ages*. p. 761, emphasis mine). [What kind of law requires the infliction of punishment? Imposed law, the types of law that creatures make up. God is Creator and His laws are design laws, the protocols reality functions upon, to transgress them causes the harm, brings the suffering, separates from the source of life and results in death unless healed by our Creator. Consider another quote:]

But in heaven, service is not rendered in the spirit of legality. When Satan rebelled against the law of Jehovah, the thought that there was a law came to the angels almost as an awakening to something unthought of. In their ministry the angels are not as servants, but as sons. There is perfect unity between them and their Creator. Obedience is to them no drudgery. Love for God makes their service a joy. So in every soul wherein Christ, the hope of glory, dwells, His words are re-echoed, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Psalm 40:8. (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*. p. 109, emphasis mine). [What kind of law is in operation and beings are in harmony with it but they don't even know about it? Consider when Isaac Newton discovered the law of gravity and told his friends about the law—how many would say, gravity is a law, huh, never considered that it is just how things work. This again is a description of design law, not imposed law. You may disagree with this author, but she is consistent in her presentation. God's laws are design laws. Sin transgresses the laws upon which reality is built and results in ruin and death unless healed by our Creator, and that was the mission of Jesus. Satan, a creature, alleges God's law and government are no different than of a creature. Thus the same author wrote the following in the opening of the book *The Great Controversy*:]

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 (EGW, *The Great Controversy*, p x.1, emphasis mine).

[When we substitute imposed law for design law we are led to worship a creature rather than the Creator. The special message that is to lighten the world at this time in history is a message that calls people back to Creator worship, but we have thus far failed to do so because we have presented our doctrinal truths through Satan's imposed law lens and that lie distorts everything and obstructs the truth about God. Thus the message necessary to complete the mission is resetting it all in the setting of Creator worship, which is design law.]

The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the **long-standing controversy concerning the law of God**. Upon this battle we are now entering—a **battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah**, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition (*The Great Controversy* p. 582, emphasis mine).

Continuing on with the quote from *Patriarchs and Prophets*:

- **From the first the great controversy had been upon the law of God**. Satan had sought to prove that God was unjust, **that His law was faulty**, and that the good of the universe required it to be changed. In **attacking the law** he aimed to overthrow the authority of its Author. In the controversy it was to be shown whether the divine statutes **were defective and subject to change, or perfect and immutable**. (*Patriarchs and Prophets* 69, emphasis mine).

When Satan was thrust out of heaven, he determined to make the earth his kingdom. When he tempted and overcame Adam and Eve, he thought that he had gained possession of this world; “because,” **said he, “they have chosen me as their ruler.”** He **claimed** that it was **impossible that forgiveness should be granted** to the sinner, and therefore the fallen race were his **rightful subjects**, and the world was his. But God gave His own dear Son—one equal with Himself—to bear **the penalty of transgression**, and thus He provided a way by which they **might be restored** to His favor, and brought back to their Eden home. Christ undertook to redeem man and to rescue the world from the grasp of Satan. The great controversy **begun in heaven** was to be decided in the very world, on the very same field, that Satan **claimed** as his. (*Patriarchs and Prophets* 69, emphasis mine). [What do you hear? Notice, Satan makes claims, assertions, allegations, proclamations, and they have a legal frame. He claims humans chose him as their ruler, as if our choice could change reality and make Satan into our creator and the sustainer of our being. He claims that forgiveness is impossible. He claims we are his rightful or legal subjects. And notice that Jesus bears the penalty of transgression, not the penalty of God, but the penalty that naturally comes from breaking design law in order to restore humans back into harmony with heaven.]

It was the marvel of **all the universe** that Christ should humble Himself to save fallen man. That He who had passed from star to star, from world to world, superintending all, by His providence supplying the needs of every order of being in His vast creation—that He should **consent** to leave His glory and take upon Himself **human nature**, was a mystery which the sinless intelligences of other worlds desired to understand. [1 Corinthians 4:9 we are spectacle a theater to angels] When Christ came to our world in the form of humanity, all were intensely interested in following Him as He traversed, step by step, the bloodstained path from the manger to Calvary. Heaven marked the insult and mockery that He received, and **knew that it was at Satan's instigation**. They marked the **work of counteragencies** going forward; **Satan constantly pressing darkness, sorrow, and suffering upon the race, and Christ counteracting it**. They watched the battle between light and darkness as it waxed stronger. And as Christ in His expiring agony upon the cross cried out, “It is finished” (John 19:30), a shout of triumph rang through every world and through heaven itself. The great contest that had been so long in progress in this world was now decided, and Christ was conqueror. **His death had answered the question** whether the Father and the Son had sufficient love for man to exercise self-denial and a spirit of sacrifice. **Satan had revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer**. It was seen that the very same spirit with which he had ruled the children of men who were under his power, he would have manifested if permitted to control the intelligences of heaven. With one voice the loyal universe united in extolling the divine administration. (Patriarchs and Prophets 69, emphasis mine). [Satan is the author of pain, suffering, and death. Satan is the murderer from the beginning. Hebrews 2:14 tells us that Jesus destroys him who holds the power of death that is the devil, and that Jesus destroys our last enemy death. Yet most of Christianity, believing the lie that God’s law functions like human law, imposed rules, teaches that God, not Satan, holds the power of death and that God wields death and inflicts death upon the disobedient as just punishment. Some even teach that God killed Jesus on the cross. And in so doing they teach Satan’s lies and prevent people from coming to a true knowledge of God and experiencing the salvation so freely offered.]

If the law could be changed, man might have been saved without the sacrifice of Christ; but the fact that it was necessary for Christ to give His life for the fallen race, **proves that the law of God will not release the sinner from its claims upon him**. It is demonstrated that the **wages of sin is death**. When Christ died, the destruction of Satan was made certain. But if the law was abolished at the cross, as many claim, then the agony and death of God's dear Son were endured only to give to Satan just what he asked; then the prince of evil triumphed, his charges against the divine government were sustained. The very fact that Christ bore the **penalty of man's transgression** is a mighty argument to **all created intelligences that the law is changeless**; that God is righteous, merciful, and self-denying; and that infinite justice and mercy unite in the administration of His government. (Patriarchs and Prophets 70, emphasis mine). [God’s laws are design laws and cannot be changed. Like the law of respiration. If someone jumps into the ocean with weights tied around their legs, the law cannot be changed to meet them in their drowning state. The only way to save them is to put them in harmony with the law. Thus God works through Jesus to restore His living law into humanity, not to pay a penalty to Himself or the law. But there is a penalty that comes from the broken law, and Jesus at the cross experienced that penalty, the separation from His Father,

which was necessary for Him to die, and He had to die to destroy the infection of fear and selfishness, the corrupted life that we all inherit from Adam and replace it with His pure, sinless, life that He received as a human at his incarnation from His Father the Holy Spirit. There was and is nothing penal/legal doing on. It is all reality, design law, restoration to God's original design for life.]

Thus when Jesus was lifted up, He not only revealed the truth to destroy the lies, He accomplished in His humanity the Remedy to the human sin condition and Hebrews says:

- “Once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” (Hebrews 5:9 NIV84).

Wasn't He always perfect? He was always sinless, but biblical perfection is maturity of character and character cannot be created it must be developed. And Jesus developed a perfect and mature sinless human character.

All of this reality based thinking, understanding design law, understanding the setting of the Great Controversy, here is how I paraphrased John 12:31-32:

- “Now is the time for the infection of selfishness and sin in this world to be fully diagnosed and revealed as destructive; now, Satan — the prince of this selfish world — will be driven out into the open, out of the shadows, out from behind his lies and distortions about God and God's methods, out where all can see him as the murderer he truly is, and thus out of the hearts of all who love me. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all intelligences throughout the universe to me.” (John 12:31-32 REM).

SUNDAY

Read last paragraph,

- John 3:31–36 continues the comparison between Jesus and John, showing the superiority of the Messiah over His forerunner. With John's testimony pointing toward Jesus, the idea of witness is again emphasized. Those who receive that testimony and believe in Jesus have eternal life. Those who do not receive Him remain under **the wrath of God**. That's what the text says. God loves the world and sent His Son to redeem the world (John 3:16, 17). But **those who refuse the gift** offered them will have to **pay the penalty for their own sins—eternal death**. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2024, Themes in the Gospel of John p. 47, emphasis mine).

What is the message you hear in this paragraph?

What law lens are you understanding these words through?

The lesson is referring to John 3:36, in which reads:

- Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him. (John 3:36 NIV84).

What does this mean? What is God's wrath?

Our understanding of wrath depends on our understanding of God's law. If we believe God's law functions like human law, made up rules that require judicial oversight and enforcement through external penalties, then we believe God's wrath is the use of God's power to inflict pain, suffering, and death as punishment. But this method is the method of Satan. Satan's wrath is that of using external power to cause harm.

When we understand the truth that God is Creator and His laws are the laws reality itself is built to operate upon, then we understand that God's wrath is the opposite of Satan's—it is NOT when God uses power but when God ceases to use His saving power that He has been using to hold at bay the pain, suffering, and death that sin causes. God's wrath is when God let's go and allows people to reap what they insist upon.

Paul tells us this in Romans 1:18-26, that God's wrath is God letting go, giving up, releasing to reap what is sown. And Paul confirms this in Galatians 6:8, those who sow to the carnal nature from that nature reap destruction.

And Paul ties this all together for us in Roman 4:25 where Jesus was “delivered up” (NKJV, ESV), “delivered over” (NIV84), “handed over” (GNT, NRSV, NLT), “given over” (NET). But the Greek is the exact same as Paul uses in Romans 1:24,26,28 where it says “God gave them up.”

Jesus, as our substitutionary Savior, experienced on the cross the wrath of God against sin, and what did God do? God let Him go, gave Him up, surrendered Him to reap what Jesus freely chose and what did Jesus choose? To go through the cross in love in order to eliminate the cause of death and restore the cause of life into humanity. God did not lay a hand on His Son. God did not use power to inflict torment or death upon His Son. God ceased using His protective and sustaining power and set Jesus free to reap what Jesus had chosen and thus Jesus' own testimony “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

Consider these historical quotes, note the type of law involved, the actions of God, all consistent with Scripture

- “And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is being interpreted, My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” **The wrath of God fell upon Christ. This was the hiding of the Father's countenance.** (18 Manuscript Release 731, emphasis mine).

- David had neglected the duty of punishing the crime of Amnon, and because of the unfaithfulness of the king and father and the impenitence of the son, the **Lord permitted events to take their natural course, and did not restrain Absalom**. When parents or rulers neglect the duty of punishing iniquity, **God Himself will take the case in hand. His restraining power will be in a measure removed from the agencies of evil, so that a train of circumstances will arise which will punish sin with sin.** (*Patriarchs and Prophets* 728, emphasis mine).
- God bears long with the rebellion and apostasy of His subjects. Even when His mercy is despised and His love scorned and derided, He bears with men until the last resource for leading them to repentance is exhausted. But there are **limits to His forbearance**. From those who to the end **continue in obstinate rebellion, He removes His protecting care. Providence will no longer shield them from Satan's power.** They will have sinned away their day of grace. (*Review and Herald*, September 17, 1901 par. 7, emphasis mine). [What is the limit God's forbearance? The obstinate rebellion that sears the conscience and destroys the faculties that respond to truth and love so that no more time, mercy, love, truth, grace will have any impact, and therefore God, in harmony with the law of love and liberty, sets people free to reap what they have chosen—His wrath happens, He stops using power to protect them from what they have insisted upon]

God keeps a reckoning with the nations. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without His notice. Those who work evil toward their fellow men, saying, How doth God know? will one day be called upon to **meet long-deferred vengeance**. In this age a more than common contempt is shown to God. Men have reached a point in insolence and disobedience which shows that their **cup of iniquity is almost full**. Many have well-nigh **passed the boundary of mercy**. Soon **God will show that He is indeed the living God**. He will say to the angels, "**No longer combat Satan in his efforts to destroy**. Let him work out his malignity upon the children of disobedience; for the cup of their iniquity is full. They have advanced from one degree of wickedness to another, adding daily to their lawlessness. **I will no longer interfere to prevent the destroyer from doing his work.**" (*Review and Herald*, September 17, 1901 par. 8, emphasis mine).

What is the wrath of God? God's stopping the use of intervening power and allowing people to reap what they have chosen. We are born terminal, dead in trespass and sin. Without divine intervention our condition inherited from Adam is incompatible with life and without intervention from our Creator to heal us we will die. Thus, all those who reject the remedy remain terminal, and when they pass the point that no amount of truth or love will have any redeeming healing impact, then God will let them go to reap what they have chosen and that is His wrath, and the penalty is the result of their choice, eternal non-existence. And that penalty comes from sin, it is not inflicted by God.

MONDAY

Read first paragraph,

- The Jews looked for a Messiah to come who would deliver them from the rule of Rome. Long under oppression, the Jews believed that the Messiah would not only overthrow Rome but would establish them as a great and powerful nation. John's words, however, calling Jesus "the Lamb of God," although directly pointing to His atoning sacrifice, were probably misunderstood by the majority of people. They might have not known what he was talking about at all. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2024, Themes in the Gospel of John p. 48).

Why do you think the Jews, who were blessed with the 39 books of the Old Testament, all of which taught the truth of the coming Messiah and the nature of God's eternal kingdom, did not understand? Why did they look for a Messiah who was like a human dictator? Why did they want a Messiah who would use might and power to inflict punishments upon their enemies?

If we could go back to Christ's day and ask one of the scribes or Pharisees the following questions, what answers do you think we would get?

- Do you want the promised Messiah to come?
- Do you anticipate the Messiah doing away with sin and evil or promoting sin and evil?
- Would you like for the Messiah to do good or to do evil?
- What is the good you anticipate the Messiah will do when He comes?

And wouldn't they say something like—He will punish rebellion; He will destroy the wicked; He will reward the righteous; He will overthrow our enemies; He will establish a kingdom on David's throne and rule with a rod of iron.

And what is the basis of these ideas? What law underlies them all? It is imposed law and the use of external force to either inflict punishment or distribute rewards. It is human law; it is the government of a creature. It is Satan's methods and principles.

And do we see this same way of thinking being taught throughout Christianity today. They will say that Jesus' first coming was for the purpose of paying the legal penalty for sin, but His second coming will be for the purpose of using power to destroy sin, punish sinners, and reward the righteous. The exact same kingdom type, methods, and imposed law structure that the Jews were looking for.

But Jesus said that His kingdom is not of this world. That the kingdom of God is within us. And He had already revealed through the prophets that God wins not by might nor by power but by His Spirit, which is the Spirit of truth and love.

And truth and love destroys lies and selfishness in hearts and minds and wins rebels into loving, loyal, and trustworthy friends of God.

We have been given a special message to prepare the world for Christ's return and that is a call for people to worship God as Creator and stop worshiping Him as if He were a dictator. And that requires we reject the imposed human law lie and understand all of God's laws are design laws.

Consider this historical quote and how if we are to effectively give the special message of the three angels of Revelation 14 which calls people to worship God as Creator, we must put it in the setting of design law:

- **Men and women cannot violate natural law by indulging depraved appetite and lustful passions, and not violate the law of God.** Therefore He has permitted the light of health reform to shine upon us, that we may see our sin in violating the **laws** which He has **established in our being. All our enjoyment or suffering may be traced to obedience or transgression of natural law.** Our gracious heavenly Father sees the deplorable condition of men who, some knowingly but many ignorantly, are living in violation of the laws that He has established. And in love and pity to the race, He causes the light to shine upon health reform. He **publishes His law** and the penalty that will follow the transgression of it, that all may learn and be careful to live in harmony with **natural law.** He proclaims His law so distinctly and makes it so prominent that it is like a city set on a hill. All accountable beings can understand it if they will. ... **To make plain natural law, and urge the obedience of it, is the work that accompanies the third angel's message to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord** (Testimonies, vol. 3, p. 161, emphasis mine).

It is only when we understand God's laws are the design protocols that reality operates upon will we be able to present the truth about His character and government. As long as we cling to the lie that any part of God's government uses imposed law, we will continue to misrepresent God and distort the message of the 3 angels.

TUESDAY

Read John 6:48-56:

- I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. **I am the living bread** that came down from heaven. If anyone **eats of this bread**, he will live forever. **This bread is my flesh**, which I will give for the life of the world.”

Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you **eat the flesh** of the Son of Man and **drink his blood**, you have no life in you. Whoever **eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life**, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my **flesh is real food and my blood is real**

drink. Whoever **eats my flesh and drinks my blood** remains in me, and I in him. (John 6:48-56 NIV84, emphasis mine).

How did the Jews respond to this?

What is going on here? Where is the imagery of flesh and blood coming from? It is from the sacrificial system.

What prevented the Jews from understanding what Jesus was telling them? They thought concretely; they did not understand the reality to which the symbols were pointing.

John 1 tells us that Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, that the living thoughts of God, His character, truth, love, methods, principles, motives, self dwelt in Christ bodily; that we see the thoughts and ideas of God lived out in Jesus.

Thus, as food is taken into the body and becomes building blocks of our body's structure and provides energy to our systems, so too the truth of God, when taken into our hearts and minds becomes the building blocks of our understanding, perspectives, beliefs, values, morals and the motivating energy to our actions. As we are won to trust based on this truth, we open our hearts and receive the life of Christ, the life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11), and this is drinking the blood, partaking of the divine nature and we receive new motives, desires, and attitudes of the heart—the life of Christ.

But the Jews did not understand this because they refused to think beyond the literal to its true application in reality.

Many Adventists do this exact same thing when it comes to the heavenly sanctuary and Christ's mediatorial work for us. They think concretely; they think of literal buildings made of inanimate material; some form of parchment or record books with literal lists of bad deeds and the literal application of Jesus' blood to the books to erase the record of sin. They think of some human law system with a tribunal, review of records, weighing out what is a just punishment for the unrepentant and the eventual literal infliction of punishment by God.

All of this is caused by their failure to understand God's law is design law and that the OT Sanctuary service was theater, was symbolism, was metaphor, was designed to elevate the mind to reality of the elimination from sin, not from inanimate structures or books, but from hearts and minds of intelligent beings.

WEDNESDAY

Read last paragraph,

- As we have already seen, Jesus' hour of glory is the cross. Thus, the Father's testimony about Jesus points to the great sacrifice of the Lamb of God for the sins of the world. It is the

culmination of His earthly ministry. His death in our behalf paid the full penalty for all our sins, and in Him, by faith, we never have to face that penalty ourselves. (Adult SS Guide 4th Q 2024, Themes in the Gospel of John p. 50).

What is the penalty? To whom is it paid? What happens if Jesus didn't pay the penalty—what would the Father do?

Can anyone point out how the lesson starts with the Bible truth and substitutes the human law lie?

The second sentence points out that Jesus' sacrifice was for the sins of the world—a little ambiguous, meaning not precise, but not wrong, as it leads the mind to think of what John the Baptist said, and since we are focusing on John the Baptist's testimony this is a reasonable link and he said:

- The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29 NIV84).

So the biblical truth is that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, which could be stated as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. But the Bible is more precise, to take away the sin of the world.

The rephrasing subtly moves the focus from the sin of the world to the sins, which can lead the mind to think of deeds rather than the sin condition which is the cause of the misdeeds.

But worse, the lesson substitutes Jesus as the solution that takes away sin which is curative, healing, and replaces that with Jesus taking the penalty, but without explaining the purpose was to eliminate the cause of death and restore life. They leave it as penalty replacement, He takes the penalty so we don't have to take the penalty, which suggests the problem is the penalty which someone has to pay. Not so, the problem is the condition of sin which someone has to remove and there was no way to remove the sin condition without going through the trial, suffering, and death—which was the means of destroying or killing the infection of fear and selfishness. In other words, it was the only way to eliminate sin from humanity. And yes, if we don't accept Jesus and receive from Him a new heart, a new spirit of love, a new life, and instead cling to the life, the spirit of sin, fear, and selfishness, then from that condition we reap death. But the issues isn't one of penal legal substitution, it is one of reality, of eliminating the death causing condition and replacing it with a sinless life.

THURSDAY

Read John 7:45-49:

- Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn't you bring him in?”

“No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards declared.

“You mean he has deceived you also?” the Pharisees retorted. “Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.” (John 7:45-49 NIV84).

What is happening in this exchange?

What happened to the guards that they did not bring Jesus in as directed?

What did they hear? They heard truth. They saw with their own eyes, heard with their own ears, thought with their own minds, and they comprehended by observation, evidence, reason, and truth that Jesus was not like everyone else, that Jesus spoke with the authority of truth and manifested in action love, grace, kindness, mercy, gentleness and He was not a terrorist, a threat to good order.

What did the religious leaders do? They accused, they condemned, they name-called, and they appealed to the authority of position, office, degree, education, but not evidence, truth, and facts.

Understand, this same dynamic is happening all around us, people making claims based on the authority of their office, position, power, education that contradicts objective reality, facts, evidence, and truth.

And when people do not obey the claims and directives of those who are using their office as authority, when people instead identify with and follow objective truth, what do those who are rejecting truth do? They attack, vilify, demean, accuse and seek to use the power of the state to arrest and intimidate.

Consider what happens when people refuse the gender ideology? Or the climate change lies? Or the godless evolution propaganda? Or all the COVID scam? Or the various other hoaxes and frauds?

Minds are being attacked and people are being conditioned to stop thinking, stop reasoning, stop examining evidence, and believe based on the authority of the one who said it, and they are being intimidated with various threats, social isolation, rejection, fines, loss of jobs and privileges if they do not go along with the lies and falsehoods.

We are living right now in the middle of the Great Controversy in which hearts and minds are under assault with evil methods tempting people to collude with lies and falsehoods in order to protect and advantage self. Bow down to the idol of wokeism or be thrown in the fiery furnace of social annihilation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Melbourne: 1-3 Nov 2024

Venue for all 3 days: 40 Warrandyte Road, Ringwood, VIC Hosted by Oasis Fellowship Group

The opening of our event in Melbourne, is set to be the hub of excitement from November 1st to 3rd. This venue is a community-centric space and is perfect for people from all walks of life, offering a welcoming environment and a range of spaces designed to provide an area for all guest's needs.

Light lunch will be available on the Saturday so you may stay the whole day for all talks.

Fri 1st Nov

@7:00-8:00pm: ***The Remedy for Abuse***

Can we really Overcome the Shadows of Abuse?

Sat 2nd Nov

@10:00-11:00am: ***The Remedy for Relationships***

Healthy Love or Love Addiction?

@11:30-12:30pm: ***The Remedy for our Minds***

What is the Secret to a Healthy Mind?

12:30-2pm – Combined LUNCH BREAK (Soup and Buns)

@2:00 -3:00pm: ***The Ultimate Remedy***

What if your Belief is based on a Lie?

@3:00-4:00pm: **Q&A**

Sun 3rd Nov

@2:00-4:00pm: ***The Remedy for Deception***

How do we Guard against Misinformation and Manipulation?

Who Should Exercise Power over our Choices?

Graham Hood Interviews Dr Jennings & Q&A

Sydney: 8-9 Nov 2024

Friday - Saturday Venue: Restore Church

47 Britannia Rd, Castle Hill NSW 2154, Australia

Welcome to *Restore Church* in Castle Hill, the opening of our event in Sydney, set to be the centre of engaging talks on November 8th and 9th. This venue is designed with the community in mind, making it an ideal space for individuals from diverse backgrounds. It offers a welcoming atmosphere, and a variety of areas tailored to meet all our guests' needs. A light lunch will be provided on Saturday, allowing you to stay the entire day for all the talks.

Fri 8th Nov

@7:00-8:00pm: ***The Remedy for Abuse***

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@3:00-4:00pm: **Q&A**

Sydney: 10 Nov 2024

Sunday Venue: Concord Seventh-day Adventist Church

7 Flavelle St, Concord NSW 2137, Australia **Sun**

10th Nov

@2:00-4:00pm: ***The Remedy for Deception***

How do we Guard against Misinformation and Manipulation?

Who Should Exercise Power over our Choices?

Graham Hood Interview & Q&A

Children's Programs for both MELBOURNE / SYDNEY

The Children's Ministry program (Hosted by Master puppeteer Louis Johnson of ReLoveolution) will run during Dr Jennings' presentations.

The team at Come & Reason Australia, and its children's ministry helpers will host programming during main presentation times to most effectively give you time to listen to Dr Jennings.

All children's programs are tailored to best captivate and minister to young minds. Your kids will love the thoughtfully curated sessions that inspire creativity, healthy habits, & kindness/selflessness.

Expect a blend of fun and learning through interactive sessions that will keep the kids engaged while you enjoy the main events.

For more information and to stay updated on the events, visit Come and Reason Australia on Facebook or comeandreason.com for the latest news and resources.

Join us on this extraordinary tour in Australia, where every moment is an opportunity to create new healing pathways and lasting memories. Whether you are in the bustling city of Sydney or the tranquil surroundings of Melbourne, there's something special for everyone.

Get ready to explore, learn, and heal!