

Announcement:

October 13, 2012 our first annual **Modern Medicine, Biblical Technology and Your Brain, Seminar**. The event will go from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. and our lectures will be:

**The Balance in Healthcare – Jim Marcum, M.D.**

The time to use modern medicine, the time to use lifestyle changes will be explored. Also, the role of the Great Physician in healing will be emphasized. Dr. Marcum will give an update on the latest technology and show non-traditional ways to change the chemistry. The importance of understanding an optimizing brain function will be introduced.

**The Developing Brain – Timothy R. Jennings, M.D.  
FAPA**

Experience changes brain structure and function. Beginning before conception, continuing in utero and through life, explore how environment, experience and choice alter human DNA and impact brain structure and function. The human brain is pliable and changeable and our experience causes our brain to change. This change begins in our parents genes prior to our conception, continues in the womb and persists throughout life. In this presentation we will explore how parental choices affect the developing brain and follow that through into childhood to explore how healthy nurturing, traumatic experience, diet, addictive substances, television, and even belief in God alter our, genes, brain structure and brain function.

**The Science of Belief – Timothy R. Jennings, M.D.  
FAPA**

Our brains are in a constant state of flux. Moment by moment new connections are forming, idle tracks are being pruned back and brain circuits are changing.

Discover how our beliefs change our brain wiring, our physical health, and even which genes are turned on or turned off. Could our belief in God actually make a difference? Are some God constructs healing while others are harmful? Do your beliefs matter – more than you ever knew.

### **Prolonged Exposure – Jim Marcum, M.D.**

This lecture will enlighten the audience on the cause of disease. We will show how the lectures given by Dr. Jennings is unique in modern medicine and how the brain is at the base of treatment as well as cause of illness. We will discover why 1:4 have mental health problems and how medicines may not be the answer.

### **Depression - Timothy R. Jennings, M.D. FAPA**

Depression – Have you ever been depressed? Or known someone who was depressed? Did you know depression is a complex disorder with alterations in both brain and body, loss of brain volume with altered brain circuits and even change in genetic expression? Come discover how you can minimize your risk of depression, drug free interventions that can treat depression, and changes in your daily routines that can protect your brain.

### **The Aging Brain – Timothy R. Jennings, M.D. FAPA**

What happens to the brain as we age? Are we doomed to lose our memories and become senile? Are there choices we can make to protect our brain from the ravages of time? Come discover science-based, Biblically sound, interventions which will protect your brain and diminish your risk of dementia.

## Evangelism and Witnessing Lesson 13 2Q 2012

### A Perpetual Ministry

Read Memory text, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches." (Luke 13:18,19, NKJV)

Thoughts?

What does this parable tell you about God's kingdom? One of the founders of our church commenting on this verse and said in the book Christ Object Lessons page 77:

The germ in the seed grows by the unfolding of the **life-principle which God has implanted**. Its development **depends upon no human power**. So it is with the kingdom of Christ. It is a new creation. **Its principles of development are the opposite of those that rule the kingdoms of this world. Earthly governments prevail by physical force**; they maintain their dominion by war; but the founder of the new kingdom is the Prince of Peace. The Holy Spirit represents worldly kingdoms under the symbol of fierce beasts of prey; but Christ is "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. **In His plan of government there is no employment of brute force to compel the conscience**. The Jews looked for the kingdom of God to be established in the same way as the kingdoms of the world. To promote righteousness they resorted to external measures. They devised methods and plans. **But Christ implants a principle. By implanting truth and righteousness, He counterworks error and sin.** {COL 77.1}

Thoughts?

What is the principle of life? The law of love! Which emanates from where?

What are the methods of the world? What are the methods of God's kingdom?

What is God seeking to do in order to create mankind anew? To implant something in the heart, what is it? Can it be put there by force or might? If force and power, or threat and coercion are used to try and put truth/love into the heart, what gets put into the heart instead?

What does this truth do to all the theories of an angry, vengeful and punishing God? Why do so many insist that God will use the methods of Satan, coercion, force, power to punish the wicked? Continuing from Christ Object Lessons:

Not only is the growth of Christ's kingdom illustrated by the parable of the mustard seed, but in every stage of its growth the experience represented in the parable is repeated. **For His church in every generation God has a special truth and a special work.** The truth that is hid from the worldly wise and prudent is revealed to the child-like and humble. It calls for self-sacrifice. It has battles to fight and victories to win. **At the outset its advocates are few. By the great men of the world and by a world-conforming church, they are opposed and despised.** See John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, standing alone to rebuke the pride and formalism of the Jewish nation. See the first bearers of the gospel into Europe. How obscure, how hopeless, seemed the mission of Paul and Silas, the two tentmakers, as they with their companions took ship at Troas for Philippi. See "Paul the aged," in chains, preaching Christ in the stronghold of the Caesars. See the little communities of slaves and peasants in conflict with the heathenism of imperial Rome. See Martin Luther withstanding that mighty church which **is the masterpiece of the world's wisdom.** See him holding fast God's word against

emperor and pope, declaring, "Here I take my stand; I can not do otherwise. God be my help." See John Wesley preaching Christ and His righteousness in the midst of formalism, sensualism, and infidelity...{COL 78.2}

**The great leaders of religious thought in this generation sound the praises and build the monuments of those who planted the seed of truth centuries ago. Do not many turn from this work to trample down the growth springing from the same seed today?** The old cry is repeated, "We know that God spake unto Moses; as for this fellow [Christ in the messenger He sends], we know not from whence he is." John 9:29. **As in earlier ages, the special truths for this time are found, not with the ecclesiastical authorities, but with men and women who are not too learned or too wise to believe the word of God.** {COL 79.1}

Wow! Did you get all of that from the parable of the mustard seed? Thoughts?

Should we be discouraged if ecclesiastical authorities don't value what we are doing, but instead accuse us of contradicting 500 years of Christian thought?

Are we presenting a message consistent with God's kingdom as represented by the mustard seed? Or, are we acting like those who reject the advancing truth, the truth for this generation?

SUNDAY

First sentence states, "It must be emphasized again that witnessing and evangelism must continue as long as there are people who need salvation."

Let's break witnessing and evangelism up and evaluate them separately – first, what about witnessing and the idea that it must continue as long as people need salvation?

Is that long enough? Will there be a purpose, a need, for witnessing beyond the time people need salvation? What need and what purpose for witnessing after the earth is made new and what evidence do we have that it will go on?

Here is one Bible commentator, from the book *Great Controversy*, see if you agree with this, remembering that much symbolic language is used:

Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire,—so resplendent is it with the glory of God,—are gathered the company that have “gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.” [Revelation 15:2.] With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, “having the harps of God,” they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men; and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, “the voice of harpers harping with their harps.” [Revelation 14:1-5; 15:3; 7:14-17] And they sing “a new song” before the throne, a song which **no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb,—a song of deliverance.** None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; **for it is the song of their experience**,—an experience such as no other company have ever had. “These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.” These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as “the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb.” “These are they which came out of great tribulation;” [Revelation 14:1-5; 15:3; Revelation 7:14-17.] they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God's judgments. But they have been delivered, for they have “washed their robes, and

made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” **“In their mouth was found no guile; for they are without fault” before God.** “Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.”  
 [Revelation 14:1-5; 15:3; Revelation 7:14-17.] {GC88 648.3}

What song are they singing? What does it mean to stand without an intercessor? What is the traditional explanation? What is your explanation?

Why are they without fault before God?

- Does their song, the song of their experience give witness to anything?
- Does their being without fault before God give witness to anything?
- To what does their song, their experience, their lives give witness?
- To whom does their lives give witness?
- Are they giving witness to those who need salvation?
- What is the purpose for witnessing for God at this time?

Consider this quotation from Desire of Ages page 26:

Of His people God says, "They shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land. For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty!" Zechariah 9:16, 17. **The exaltation of the redeemed will be an eternal testimony to God's mercy.** "In the ages to come," He will "show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." "To the intent that . . . unto the principalities and the powers in the heavenly places might be made known . . . the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Ephesians 2:7; 3:10, 11, R. V. {DA 26.1}

**Through Christ's redeeming work the government of God stands justified.** The Omnipotent One is made

known as the God of love. Satan's charges are refuted, and his character unveiled. **Rebellion can never again arise. Sin can never again enter the universe. Through eternal ages all are secure from apostasy.** By love's self-sacrifice, the inhabitants of earth and heaven are bound to their Creator in bonds of indissoluble union. {DA 26.2}

Why can sin never rise again?

- Is there something about Christ's work that precludes sin from ever rising again?
- Does our witness have any purpose in demonstrating the effectiveness of Christ's work?
- Are we to be witnesses for God throughout eternity future of the horrors of sin and the incredible grace and goodness of God?
- Does our witness have some part to play in inoculating the universe from sin ever arising again?
- Might we travel the universe giving our witness of what God has done for us?
- Will it be a witness to those in need of salvation?

What about evangelism – as long as there are any people who need salvation it must continue?

- Will there come a time when people will not longer need salvation? When will that time be?
- What causes that time to happen?

Read second paragraph, "It seems..." thoughts? What do you think of this formula?

- How do we get people's attention about God and the gospel message?
  - Super Bowl ads?
  - Billboard about the mark of the beast?
  - Protesting abortions or homosexuals?
  - News releases that God is punishing sin every time a natural disaster strikes?

- Ideas?
- How do we secure their interest?
  - Do we have anything to offer that is actually interesting?
  - Is it interesting to discover how the universe runs?
  - Is it interesting to discover the truth about God, the GC, how mankind came into being, what happened to God's design, the infection that brings devastation, and God's healing solution?
  - Are there mysteries of the universe that we have answers to?
- Do we offer anything that people actually desire?
  - Do the answers to the mysteries we provide supply an actual need of people today?
  - Does the gospel message we present, if applied, actually transform lives for the better? Or, does the message do as Christ told the Jews in his day, make the convert twice the son of hell?
- What undermines or decreases people's desire for the gospel message?
  - Preconceived ideas – been there, done that, doesn't work?
  - Dislike for the gospel they have heard?
  - Business of life – no time?
  - Gospel they have heard isn't relevant to their lives?
  - Failure to appreciate their need?
  - Failure to appreciate what is being offered?
  - Already found something mysterious, and believe they already have secret knowledge, but have believed falsehood?
- How do we avoid getting drowned out by the background noise of so many other "gospels" being presented?
  - Present evidence based, testable truths that leave people free to think
  - Love people who disagree
- How can we present the message of God in a way that it rises above so many other messages? Or do we believe all messages are equally valuable and there isn't anything really different about what we are presenting?

- The message we present must be reasonable, evidence based, understandable, and applicable.
- The message must have a real, transforming impact on the lives of people.
  - In other words, it must be real and substantive.
- We must demonstrate the power of God's kingdom of love in our lives so that others can see the difference, in love, forgiving hearts, kindness, mercy, grace, gentleness, meekness, goodness, truthfulness, and the subsequent peace, joy, happiness, healthiness that we experience.
- People are hurting, afraid, lonely, suffering. Sin is painful, scary, and cruel. The world is hungering for something real to deliver them from the misery of this world – do we have something that is real and brings peace?
- Then we must tell people.

Bottom paragraph states, “In the end, although we are called to help people in whatever situation we find them, and to minister to their needs however we can, we must never forget that their greatest need is salvation in Jesus.” Thoughts?

How does this relate to the health message?

- What is the purpose of the health message?
  - Is it primarily to help people live a few years longer?
  - No, it is to teach the plan of salvation through the laws of health, and by living in harmony with the laws of health maintaining greater mental efficiency and usefulness for God's cause
  - What is the danger in presenting the health message disconnected from the gospel?
  - What is the danger in presenting the gospel disconnected from the health message?
- I recently heard a program which presented many scientific facts about the dangers of eating high

cholesterol foods, animal products etc, but never really connected it with our relationship with God.

- Did the antediluvians have a problem with high cholesterol, Diabetes, obesity? No! They had a problem with their relationship with God. This is the primary issue!
- If we hold to an imposed law construct does it impact how we present the health message? How?
- Will there be people in heaven who ate pork regularly, throughout their lives, even drank wine regularly?
- Will there be vegans who won't be in heaven?
- Then what is the importance of the health message? Learning how God's laws work, how He designed life to operate, and then choosing to live in harmony with His design. But if we choose to live healthfully, but misunderstand the divine character as an imposer of law and punisher of lawbreakers then we have missed all the health message is designed to teach.

## MONDAY

Read first paragraph, "A vital part..." thoughts? What gets in the way of nurturing people who come into the church?

- Could it be misunderstanding of what the church is to do in the lives of people?
- Could the church struggle with intolerance?
- Could there be an idea that we must get conformity?
- Could the church, be like the Jews 2000 years ago, and believe God practices principles of coercion, therefore do likewise?
- Does the church ever exert pressure upon people to change, a pressure that if one doesn't conform they are not accepted?
- Do we ever send messages that our love for people is conditional based on their willingness to live by what we believe is the right way for them to live?

- Will we love people just as much if they don't go to church on Saturday or Sunday – say Friday?
- Will we love people just as much if they are gay?
- Will we love people just as much if they eat meat, or like contemporary music, or wear jewelry?
- Or do we send signals that say, you are tolerated, but not appreciated? You can attend but cannot contribute until you conform? Until you remove your jewelry we can't have you on platform?

What is the balance between loving people unconditionally and calling sin by its right name?

How would we treat someone who was blind, deaf, who was struggling with cancer, tuberculosis, HIV, tobacco addiction, drug addiction?

- If someone was struggling with any of these problems would we love them less?
- Would we treat them differently? Absolutely – how?
  - Would we provide assistance to help the blind person navigate the stairs, hallways etc.?
  - Would we provide sign language translation for the deaf?
  - Would we provide isolation masks for the TB patient?
  - Would we visit those too sick to come to church, and help with meals?
  - Would we provide support groups for the addicted?
  - Would we treat them differently? Absolutely – why? Because their condition requires it!
  - And what would all our “different” treatment be focused upon doing?
- Would we exclude them from our love? Would we judge them as unworthy to be involved? Would we ostracize them?
- Would we allow them to be in ministry? If we didn't why would we not allow it? Only if their condition precluded it

and we would work to get them to a condition in which they could be involved.

- Is this how we treat those we see in sin? Why or why not?

The next paragraph states that new Christians need to be nurtured, brought up, trained, fostered, educated in the ways of the Lord. What are your thoughts about that?

- Is there a difference in educating in the ways of the Lord and educating in the ways of the church? What differences?
- What are the ways of the Lord? Would they not be the law of love, the law of liberty, the principles of truth, love, freedom? Teaching the history of the GC over God's character? Educating on the devastation caused by deviating from God's design, the truth about God's character etc?
- Is this different from educating about church ritual?
- What can our class do to help people grow in the Lord?
- We are having our first public seminar this fall, after the seminar what kind of follow up can we provide for those who want more?

Bottom pink section, "Does your church..." thoughts?

## TUESDAY

Training the trainers – who of you would be interested in helping us develop a training the trainers course/curriculum?

How many would be interested in attending a seminar designed to teach you how to teach others?

What elements would you like included in this?

- Critical thinking skills training?
- Principles of Bible study?
- God's laws?

- Public speaking skills?
- How to ask questions?
- How to hear what is not being said?
- Others?

## WEDNESDAY

The lesson is about reaching out to those who have left the church and bringing them back into fellowship.

What did you take away from the lesson?

The lesson suggests we need to create a loving and nurturing environment that will help those who join us want to stay.

The lesson also suggests that people, at times, leave over doctrine, but usually the reason they leave is not doctrinally related, but personal. Thoughts?

I question this – I think doctrine is at the core to why people leave – that we have presented a false system of heavenly legalism, with an imposed law construct, and legal payment requirements for salvation. On this foundation we have laid, Sabbath, State of the Dead, Trinity, Creation, Sanctuary, Health Message etc. A person may not leave because they no longer agree with one of these specific doctrines, but I would like to suggest, the underlying legal construct is at the root of leaving. Why?

First, because the underlying legal construct doesn't connote a loving and nurturing atmosphere, regardless of how hard they try, its foundation is imposed rules/laws with imposed punishments and the organization will eventually act this way toward those who deviate from the "rules."

Second, such constructs ultimately make the reasons for being involved in church arbitrary, there really isn't a good reason other than God and the Bible says so. This is not compelling.

Imagine teaching your children to brush their teeth, but never teaching them why, the only reason they ever know is that “mommy said so.” Will they likely keep it up after they leave home? But if they understand the natural law behind it, and the reason for it, then they are much less likely to stop brushing when they grow up.

Likewise, presenting Sabbath and other doctrines as imposed rules, with the reason no more than God says so, is unsatisfying and increases the likelihood of people leaving, however when people understand God’s law is the law upon which life is built then they are much less likely to choose to leave it.

Thoughts?

The lesson suggests we read 2Cro 5:18-20:

All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also. <sup>19</sup>Our message is that God was making the whole human race his friends through Christ. God did not keep an account of their sins, and he has given us the message which tells how he makes them his friends.

20 Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ’s behalf: let God change you from enemies into his friends! (GNT)

thoughts? How do we do this? What is the message that we have that turns people from enemies to friends?

THURSDAY

The lesson talks about people going out the back door of the church and the second paragraph states, “Discovering the back...” thoughts?

What is the back door? How would you define it?

What are reasons people leave?

- They disagree with what the organization teaches and stands for
- They have been hurt
- They have gotten busy and stay away
- They have done something and are embarrassed to return
  - Divorce
  - Addiction
  - Criminal arrest
  - Gained weight
  - Disfiguring scar
  - Lost their job, lost their home, bankruptcy
- Missed a few weeks and no one noticed or called
- Others?

How can we help people from wandering off and getting lost?

How can we keep people engaged?

The US Army is organized into: Armies, Divisions, Brigades, Battalions, Companies, Squads, Individuals. At each level there is someone assigned to account for their members, all the way down to the individual squad member. If someone is missing people notice.

Should we have a more structured organization, would you prefer greater accountability so if you are not here it is noticed, or do you prefer greater anonymity?

How do we find the balance of letting people know they are missed with they are not here, with the freedom to know that they are valued and loved and there is no pressure to be here?

FRIDAY

Asks the question how can we be sure that an evangelistic event is more than just a one time event?

What would each of you like to help you prepare for follow up of our seminar in October?

Read and discuss questions 2 and 3