



Christ and His Law Lesson 8 2Q 2014 The Law of God and the Law of Christ

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

May 16/17: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Auburn SDA Church, in Auburn CA. Friday Evening – The Model of the Mind; and Saturday – The God and Your Brain Seminar

June 21 Saturday – Jfest: Come and Reason Ministries will have a booth at J103's Jfest at Camp Jordan. We will give away our materials. **We will still have class on June 21 at our regular time.**

NEW: JUNE 27, 28: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakeport, CA Community Church, at 1111 Park Way, Park Way & Hill Road, Lakeport, CA 95453. Friday Evening – The Model of the Mind; and Saturday – The God and Your Brain Seminar.

CORRECTION July 11-13 is the date NOT June as in previous notes: Dr. Jennings will be presenting at the *Rethinking Hell Conference: The Legacy of Edward Fudge and the Future of Conditionalism* in Houston, TX To find our more visit: <http://www.rethinkinghellconference.com/2014/>

Oct 2-4: Dr. Jennings will be at the American Association of Christian Counselors National Convention in Branson, MO. He and Dr. Curt Thomson, Christian Psychiatrist and author of *Anatomy of the Soul*, will be conducting an 8-hour workshop entitled, **Neurobiology and the Treatment of Mood and Anxiety Disorders**. Dr. Jennings will also be a plenary speaker and Come and Reason Ministries will have a booth to give away our materials.

Oct 24/25: Dr. Jennings will be at Loma Linda University presenting a Spiritual Emphasis Weekend for the psychiatry residents and students. The Friday evening meeting will be open to the public

AMAZON Smile: Amazon now has a program that a percent of all your purchases will be donated to support a charity. Come and Reason Ministries is a registered Charity. So, you can select us, and whenever you shop in their smile.amazon.com site a portion of your purchase will benefit this ministry.

NOTE: WARNING: There is another ministry with a similar name called "Come Reason Ministries" and they are located in California. Please be sure and select **Come AND Reason Ministries Located in Collegedale TN.**

TV BROADCAST: We have given permission to broadcast our DVD seminars on BETV an independent ministry that has satellite broadcasts over Glorystar, The Internet, RUKU, and broadcasts in North America, Parts of South America, The Middle East, North and South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. They were broadcasting in India, and may still be.

Before we start the lesson I wanted to share a few emails I have received over the last couple of weeks.

I am so pleased with the response your message is receiving at my church from the middle age and young adults. I have given out 100 copies of the first two seminars and there are more requests every Sabbath. One of my Sabbath School brothers came to me after viewing the series grateful, impressed with how easy the message was retained. He had been a Seventh day Adventist in fear all his life, and felt like the scales were removed from his eyes after viewing the seminars. I am so impressed by the change I see in members who have received this message, we are in one accord. I am saddened by the negative response of the older people in my church. I am verbally attacked anytime I talk about imposed laws, but I believe my mission is to enlighten everyone I can. I watch your Sabbath School Class on you tube every Friday night and I feel like I am apart of the class. All of you are in one accord and I am so blessed to



have found you. I pray that all of you continue to spread this message and I am committed to doing my part.

Can you please send me fifty more copies of the 3 Seminar DVDs and fifty of the truth love and freedom bible study guides. A lot of the members of my church are from other countries and I am told this study guide is much easier to understand. Many of the people I meet in the community receive this study guide more easily than amazing facts. MA

Christie and I have been praying that God would bring more people to help share this message and this week I received the following email:

I want to start off thanking you for the work that you do, and the blessing of the seminar "God and Your Brain". It was inspiring and I immediately started sharing it with the people I know. I'm a Bible worker and belong to a network of Bible workers all across the country. I have told them about your seminar and would like them to distribute them where they are as well. I'm not sure how many to ask for because combined we have thousands of Bible students every week. So I hope I'm not asking too much.

Please send 50 seminars to _____ CO and 100 to _____ CA

Thank you in advance. These are two of our hubs and therefore can get them out into the field with the other Bible workers. If there is any other literature we can pass out that will help you guys out as well please sent it along. Anything I can do to help advertise and help your ministry I would like to do. CA

I received this from another individual in MN:

We have shared close to 150 of the new DVD presentation. We shared the DVD with friends from his last district near the Twin Cities. They shared them for vespers and they were so well received. After the first one was shown over twice as many folks attended the second wk, and they had wonderful discussions, and folks were excited about the message. [Our pastor] happened to be visiting his past district during the 4th session. Up to that point he had not seen the DVD, however gave strong caution on it when it was shared with folks at our church, which caused many never watch it:(. Please remember this congregation and us in your prayers. I will be putting together food for thought with our friends there. Satan cannot stand the truth of God's character coming to light, and as you well know the battle is on. If there are some things in particular that I should not leave out in sharing with our friends please share. [Our pastor] will not be moved from his stance, he preaches that penal subt model theology more than ever. Makes our hearts so sad, and makes it VERY difficult to share truth in our congregation. We have small congregations up north here, and many miles in between churches. Most of all we covet your prayers!! MN



Thoughts? Let's remember this group, and all our friends around the world who are meeting similar opposition when they try and teach the truth about God as revealed by Jesus – and their opposition is not from atheists, but from theologians and pastors and church members. But this is not new, listen to this:

- When Jesus left there, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, waiting to catch him in something he might say. Luke 11:53, 54
- But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me. 1Co 16:8,9
- Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. Philippians 1:27,28

Why is there ongoing opposition to this message?

- Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. 2Thes 2:3,4

Just as our listener wrote, we are in a war, a war over the truth about God and His character and methods of love. But the gates of hell cannot prevail against the truth. So, don't be discouraged wherever you are, keep presenting the truth, patiently, in love, and hearts and minds will be set free!

SABBATH

What do you think about the title of this week's lesson? Are there two laws? Do God and Christ have two different laws?

Read first paragraph, "In most nations..." Any concerns with this paragraph? Any fundamental flaws that foundationally undermine our ability to correctly understand God and His government from this paragraph?

Yes! This paragraphs uses kingdoms of the world as the template, model, example, comparator for us to learn about God's kingdom – why is that a problem? Why is that fundamentally flawed?

- 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." JN 18:36
 - What does this mean?
 - His kingdom is not like earthly kingdoms, if it were then His followers would use the methods of the world, fighting, power over. This is Satan's method, Satan is the prince of this world. The kingdoms of the world represent Satan's methods of governing.
 - But, God's kingdom operates upon a different law.



- Yet, our lesson uses the kingdoms of Satan as a template to teach God's kingdom – but in so doing misrepresent God and His kingdom and prevent the church from maturing to be ready to meet Christ.
- Here is what our church used to teach about God's kingdom:
 - 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 takes away the sin of the world."** John 1:29. **[His government heals, actually removes sin, cleanses, renews]** **In His plan of government there is no employment of brute force to compel the conscience. [which means there is no use of brute force that threatens to destroy those who refuse to be healed, why? Because God's kingdom is built upon design law and deviations are destructive to the deviant]** **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. **[in other words they made rules, imposed laws]** **But Christ implants a principle. By implanting truth and righteousness, He counterworks error and sin. {COL 77.1}**
 - What do you learn from this description?
 - Earthly governments are based upon imposed rules requiring external coercion and force
 - God's government is based on design principles, and grows naturally in the heart
 - Christ takes away sin – not pays for sins
 - The Jews 2000 years ago and many Christians today, look for God to establish a government in the same way humans do, by the use of force to punish and destroy His enemies.
 - But Jesus works by implanting the principle of love, which transforms the character and heals the person back into unity with God

Have you wondered why Christ hasn't returned yet? Because the church has not made herself ready to meet Him. And the church will continue to fail to be ready as long as it presents God's government to be like human governments.

Read second paragraph, "As the Supreme Head..." What does it mean "established laws for all of His creatures"?

Does it mean God made rules we must follow or else we will be legally guilty of breaking the rules and God, in order to be just, must impose punishments?

Or does it mean, God who is love, built His universe to operate upon principles that are in harmony with His nature, and deviations from these principles are incompatible with life?



Here are some quotes:

- In the **way of righteousness there is life**; along that path is immortality. Pr 12:28
 - Why?
- He who pursues **righteousness and love finds life**, prosperity and honor. Pr 21:21
 - Why?
- The **law** of the Lord is perfect, **reviving** the soul. Ps 19:7
 - How does the law or the Lord revive the soul?
 - If you had a plastic bag over your head and were about to pass out, what happens if we remove the plastic bag and put you back in harmony with the law of respiration?
 - Harmony with God's law is restorative rejuvenating to the soul – why? Because it is God's design for life
 - And what is that law?
- Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore **love is the fulfillment of the law**. Romans 13:10
- The **entire law** is summed up in a single command: "**Love** your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14
- If you really keep the **royal law** found in Scripture, "**Love** your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. James 2:8
- Jesus replied: "**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: '**Love** your neighbor as yourself.' **All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**" Matt 22:37-40

Here is how our church started out teaching this:

- In living for self he [man] has rejected that divine love which would have flowed out in mercy to his fellow men. Thus he has rejected life. **For God is love, and love is life**. COL 258
- Our only definition of sin is that given in the word of God; it is "the transgression of the law;" **it is the outworking of a principle at war with the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government**. GC 493
 - Sin is more than a behavior it is a principle opposed to love
- **The law of love being the foundation of the government of God**, the happiness of all created beings depended upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. GC 493
 - Why? Because God will make you miserable if you don't comply? Or because happiness is a result of healthiness, and deviations from the laws upon which life is built undermine health, thus destroying happiness
- As the Supreme Ruler of the universe, God has ordained laws for the government not only of all living beings, but of all the operations of nature. Everything, whether great or small, animate or inanimate, **is under fixed laws which cannot be disregarded. There are no exceptions to this rule; for nothing that the divine hand has made has been forgotten by the divine mind**. But while everything in nature is governed by natural law, man alone, as an intelligent being, capable of understanding its requirements, is amenable to moral law. To man alone, the crowning work of his creation, God has given **a conscience** to realize the sacred claims of the divine law, and **a heart capable of loving it as holy, just, and good**; and of man



prompt and perfect obedience is required. Yet God does not compel him to obey; he is left a free moral agent. {ST, April 15, 1886 par. 2}

Thoughts? Did you notice the last quote, as Supreme Ruler God has ordained laws, but what kind of laws did He ordain? Every one of these quotations and Scripture references reveal that the Creator builds, designs, constructs and His laws are the protocols upon which the fabric of the cosmos is built.

Satan has infected minds with the lie that God's laws are rules, which require imposed punishment. This is what Jesus came to reveal. Jesus didn't come to reveal a new law, but to educate humanity about the reality of what God's law really is. To elevate human thinking away from slave mentality of rules and punishment to the reality of our Creator God of love, whose universe is built upon the protocols of love!

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "Some believe..."

Do you see the struggle for the authors as they operate through the lens of imposed law. They forget their own teaching, in last week's lesson they pointed out that the law was only given to expose sin, to be a diagnostic instrument, but this week they are arguing for the importance of keeping the law. Do you notice how they are behavior focused?

This is infancy, not Christian maturity:

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!¹³ **Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.**¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have **trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.** Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of **repentance from acts that lead to death...** Heb 5:11-6:1

Notice – the immature, the infants, still don't experience righteousness, they still live in fear, in insecurity, specifically focused on "repentance from acts that lead to death." They are focused on the do's and don'ts they haven't figured out yet it isn't about behavior, it is about character.

God is longing for His church to mature, to grow up, to develop character like His, to die to self, to love like He loves. But this cannot happen when our teachings misrepresent God, misrepresent His government and methods, and incite fear and focus people back on themselves and their behavior etc.

We must reject the imposed law and embrace the Design law, the protocols of love!



Read second paragraph, "In the context..." Did the 10 Commandments contain the covenant of God? Or were the 10 Commandments given to expose sin and expose the desperate need of the Israelites for the covenant of grace?

Here is what our church used to teach, does it still?

As the Bible presents two laws, one changeless and eternal, the other provisional and temporary, so there are two covenants. [What are those two laws? Which is the eternal and which is temporary? If one law is not eternal but temporary, then it was added later. What law was added?] **The covenant of grace was first made with man in Eden**, when after the Fall, there was given a divine promise that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. **To all men this covenant offered pardon**, and the assisting grace of God for future obedience through faith in Christ. It also promised them eternal life on condition of fidelity to God's law. Thus the patriarchs received the hope of salvation. {FLB 77.2}

This same covenant was renewed to Abraham in the promise, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Gen. 22:18. This promise pointed to Christ. So Abraham understood it, and he trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. It was this faith that was accounted unto him for righteousness. The covenant with Abraham also maintained the authority of God's law. The Lord appeared unto Abraham, and said, "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." The testimony of God concerning His faithful servant was, "Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." Gen. 17:1; 26:5. . . . {FLB 77.3}

The Abrahamic covenant was ratified by the blood of Christ, and it is called the "second," or "new," covenant, because the blood by which it was sealed was shed after the blood of the first covenant. {FLB 77.4}

The covenant of grace is not a new truth, for it existed in the mind of God from all eternity. This is why it is called the everlasting covenant. {FLB 77.5}

There is hope for us only as we come under the Abrahamic covenant, which is the covenant of grace by faith in Christ Jesus. The gospel preached to Abraham, through which he had hope, was the same gospel that is preached to us today. . . . Abraham looked unto Jesus, who is also the author and the finisher of our faith. FLB 77.6

What is the law that is eternal? What law was added?

- The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more Rom 5:20
- What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. Gal 3:19

So, what law was added to help us see sin more clearly? The 10 Commandments!



So many people want to make the 10 Commandments the eternal law and the ceremonial system the added law – but think? Where was the 10 Commandment law kept? In the ark, which was the heart of the *ceremonial* system!

What did our church used to teach about this?

- If man had kept the law of God, as given to Adam after his fall, preserved by Noah, and observed by Abraham, there would have been no necessity for the ordinance of circumcision. And if the descendants of Abraham had kept the covenant, of which circumcision was a sign, they would never have been seduced into idolatry, nor would it have been necessary for them to suffer a life of bondage in Egypt; they would have kept God's law in mind, and there would have been no necessity for it to be proclaimed from Sinai or engraved upon the tables of stone. And had the people practiced the principles of the Ten Commandments, there would have been no need of the additional directions given to Moses. {PP 364.2}
- I am asked concerning the law in Galatians. **What law is the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ? I answer: Both the ceremonial and the moral code of ten commandments...** "The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:24). In this scripture, the Holy Spirit through the apostle is **speaking especially of the moral law.** {ISM 233, 234}

The eternal, changeless law is God's character of love, which is the foundation upon which life is constructed. The 10 Commandments are a codification of this law especially adapted to the needs of human beings in sin. Thus the 10 Commandments were ADDED, and part of the temporary system, NOT the eternal system.

TUESDAY

The lesson asks us to read 1Co 9:19-23:

Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Read second paragraph, "Ultimately, all who..." What about those who refuse to be part of His kingdom, will they not be subject to His laws?

Why will Paul's desire to save people not allow him to compromise God's law?

For the same reason a doctor's desire to save people will not allow him to compromise the laws of health. A doctor must move the patient back into harmony with the laws of health if he wants to save them.



If a doctor wants to destroy his patient then he teaches them to violate the laws of health. Likewise, religions that teach imposed law, undermine God's plan to heal because they are teaching people to practice methods outside God's design, thus they are, as Jesus told the Jews, making their converts twice the son of hell – they have their sin which is damaging them, and now they have a false law construct blinding them.

Here is 1Cor 9:19-23 from my paraphrase:

1Cor 9:19 Although I am free and not required to live by the rules of others, I freely choose to identify with everyone's plight and become a servant to all in order to inoculate as many as possible with the Remedy to sin and selfishness. 20 When I am with Jews I respect their customs and traditions in order not to offend so their hearts may open to be inoculated with the truth about Christ. When I am with legalists, who adhere to many rules, I respect their rules (even though I know they provide no remedy to sin), in order not to offend so that their hearts may be opened and inoculated with the truth about Christ. 21 When I am with those who don't know about God's law of love or his methods that heal, I respect their customs and don't act in ways that will make them feel inferior or condemned (but I continue to live in harmony with God's law of love as revealed in Christ), in order not to offend so their hearts may be opened and inoculated with the truth about God as revealed in Christ. 22 To the weak in faith I empathize with their weakness in order to win them to the truth about God as revealed in Christ. I meet all people where they are in order to open their hearts to the Remedy Christ has procured and thereby save as many as possible. 23 I do this for God and His kingdom of love, as one who is renewed and empowered by that love.

Read last paragraph, "We can also..." What do you think of the phrase the law of God and the law of Christ?

Why do the two work harmoniously? Because they are actually one and the same. The law of God he refers to is the written diagnostic instrument, the 10 Commandments. The law of Christ is the full revelation of love in action.

The law of love is a living law – not a code of conduct. Mankind was created as the repository of God's law of love – man was made in God's image, to operate upon God's law of love and to develop character like God's.

When man sinned, the law of love was replaced with fear and selfishness, i.e. the law of sin and death. Christ restored the law of God back into the human being, God's temple, God's showcase for His living law.

What is the new covenant in Hebrews? Writing the law on the heart and mind. Here is an historic view:

The life of Christ is to be revealed in humanity. Man was the crowning act of the creation of God, made in the image of God, and designed to be a counterpart of God; but Satan has labored to obliterate the image of God in man, and to imprint upon him his own image. Lift Him Up 48.



And from the book *The Desire of Ages*:

The fullness of the time had come. **Humanity, becoming more degraded through ages of transgression**, called for the coming of the Redeemer. Satan had been working to make the gulf deep and impassable between earth and heaven. **By his falsehoods** he had emboldened men in sin. It was his purpose to wear out the forbearance of God, and to extinguish His love for man, so that He would abandon the world to satanic jurisdiction. {DA 34.4}

Satan was seeking to shut out from men a knowledge of God, to turn their attention from the temple of God, and to establish his own kingdom. His strife for supremacy had seemed to be almost wholly successful. It is true that in every generation God had His agencies. **Even among the heathen there were men through whom Christ was working to uplift the people from their sin and degradation. But these men were despised and hated.** Many of them suffered a violent death. The dark shadow that Satan had cast over the world grew deeper and deeper. {DA 35.1}

Through heathenism, Satan had for ages turned men away from God; but he won his great triumph in perverting the faith of Israel. By contemplating and worshiping their own conceptions, **the heathen had lost a knowledge of God, and had become more and more corrupt. So it was with Israel...** {DA 35.2}

The people whom God had called to be the pillar and ground of the truth had become representatives of Satan. They were doing the work that he desired them to do, **taking a course to misrepresent the character of God, and cause the world to look upon Him as a tyrant.** The very **priests** who ministered in the temple had lost sight of the significance of the service they performed. **They had ceased to look beyond the symbol to the thing signified.** In presenting the sacrificial offerings they were as actors in a play. **The ordinances which God Himself had appointed were made the means of blinding the mind and hardening the heart.** God could do no more for man through these channels. The whole system must be swept away. {DA 36.2}

The deception of sin had reached its height. All the agencies for depraving the souls of men had been put in operation... Satanic agencies were incorporated with men. **The bodies of human beings, made for the dwelling place of God, had become the habitation of demons.** The senses, the nerves, the passions, the organs of men, were worked by supernatural agencies in the indulgence of the vilest lust. **The very stamp of demons was impressed upon the countenances of men.** Human faces reflected the expression of the legions of evil with which they were possessed. Such was the prospect upon which the world's Redeemer looked. What a spectacle for Infinite Purity to behold! {DA 36.3}

Sin had become a science, and vice was consecrated as a part of religion. Rebellion had struck its roots deep into the heart, and the hostility of man was most violent against heaven. **It was demonstrated** before the universe that, apart from God, humanity could not be uplifted. **A new element of life and power must be imparted by Him who made the world.** {DA 37.1} [not



a legal payment, an appeasement was NOT needed. Man was terminal, our condition out of harmony a new element of life and power needed to infuse the species human]

With intense interest the unfallen worlds had watched to see Jehovah arise, and sweep away the inhabitants of the earth. And if God should do this, Satan was ready to carry out his plan for securing to himself the allegiance of heavenly beings. He had declared that the principles of God's government make forgiveness impossible. [how much of Christianity teaches this satanic lie? How, when they teach Jesus died to pay the penalty of our sin, or offers His blood or pleads His blood to the Father. Think about it, if someone stole \$10,000 and couldn't pay it back, and then their brother comes along and pays the \$10,000 debt, does the one who received the payment say, "I forgive your debt?" When we teach Jesus paid our legal debt we represent God as unforgiving] Had the world been destroyed, he would have claimed that his accusations were proved true. He was ready to cast blame upon God, and to spread his rebellion to the worlds above. **But instead of destroying the world, God sent His Son to save it.** Though corruption and defiance might be seen in every part of the alien province, **a way for its recovery was provided.** At the very crisis, when Satan seemed about to triumph, the Son of God came with the embassy of divine grace. **Through every age, through every hour, the love of God had been exercised toward the fallen race.** Notwithstanding the perversity of men, the signals of mercy had been continually exhibited. And when the fullness of the time had come, the Deity was glorified by pouring upon the world a flood of healing grace that was never to be obstructed or withdrawn till the plan of salvation should be fulfilled. {DA 37.2}

Satan was exulting that he had succeeded in debasing the image of God in humanity. Then Jesus came to restore in man the image of his Maker. None but Christ can fashion anew the character that has been ruined by sin. He came to expel the demons that had controlled the will. He came to lift us up from the dust, to reshape the marred character after the pattern of His divine character, and to make it beautiful with His own glory.
{DA 37.3}

Do you see it? The plan of salvation is healing, restoring, recreating humanity back to God's original ideal. Making us like Him! This is accomplished only through rejecting the lies about God, accepting the truth that Jesus revealed, and in trust opening the heart to become a Temple for the Holy Spirit who will take all Christ as achieved and reproduce it in you!

WEDNESDAY

Read second paragraph, "According to Paul..." Why doesn't the message taught by Christianity move people to live victorious lives more often?

Here is what Paul says about the time right before Christ's return:

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the



good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ **having a form of godliness but denying its power.** Have nothing to do with them. 2Tim 3:1-5

What does it mean having a form of godliness but denying its power?

- Are these atheists?
- Are these Christians and religious people?

What is the power they deny?

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.. Romans 1:16

What is the gospel?

The good news about what? About God, just as we read in *The Desire of Ages* quote above, it is the truth about God which sets us free and restores us to trust.

Those who have a form of godliness but deny the power, deny the truth of God's character and methods and present a false version of God, which is based on a distortion of His law. They present Him as the source of inflicted punishment and death.

Read third paragraph, "It is important..." thoughts?

Is human weakness sin? The lesson sounds like they are making it behavioral, but it is NOT, it is heart motivational, it is about character. A person who has been reborn, and has a new heart and right spirit, is still plagued by human weakness, conditioned responses, old habits, misunderstanding, confused ideas and based on all this human weakness will have moments of stumbling but this is not rebellion against God, it is manifestation of deficits not yet healed. Such a person, when aware of their shortcoming is grieved in their heart, hate the weakness in themselves and long to be purified and perfected by the Spirit so they no longer come up short.

Consider a husband and wife who are in a healthy love relationship, but they are encumbered by human weakness. Their hearts are for the other, but they get tired, fatigued, and in a moment might respond with a sharp reaction – have they given their heart to another, have they betrayed their love? And what do they do when they realize their cutting comment? They are grieved, they acknowledge their shortcoming and ask forgiveness.

So, too in our relationship with God, shortcomings for which we are grieved, repent of and long for deliverance to not separate us from God. It is only when we cherish the defect and want to retain it in our lives that we choose the sin over God.

As we walk with God in humbleness our characters are changed, our neurobiology is changed, our habits change and we come up short less and less.



THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “Although God’s law is a law...” How does this sound?

This is worded to make it sound like God has a law, and we are compared to this law for the purpose of God making a determination and judgment about us, and to which He then must either pardon, if the proper penalty is paid, or punish if not.

But the Bible text they quoted actually reveals a different idea – notice it is not an active infliction that God “judges” or “pronounces.” What is described is a doctor’s judgment, a diagnosis – “Let the condition they have chosen, the character they have formed be theirs.”

Rev 14:7 the hour of God’s judgment means what? The hour God makes a judicial decision or the hour we judge God to be trustworthy or not?

Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, “That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.” Rom 3:4 ESV

Read second paragraph, “Although Christ had laid...” thoughts?

What do you think of this, “Because Christ has become one with the human race, He is in a position to judge impartially. Given His familiarity with the human experience, Christ would not condemn a person unjustly.”

First, the entire scenario is flawed. It is based on imposed law and misconstrues the judgment to be like a human court, which it is not. But, it gets much much worse. What else are they saying? Are they saying that God would? Or that God is incapable of judging impartially? Unbelievable they would suggest this about God on the one hand on the other, would Christ, who had suffered at the devil’s hand really be an impartial judge or would he be partial to us?

What actually happens in the judgment is not what they describe it is symbolically represented in Zech 3:

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. ² The Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?”

³ Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. ⁴ The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.”

Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you.”

⁵ Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by...

⁸ “Listen, O high priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch.



Notice – there is no investigation of records, there is no judicial proceeding. The Lord says to Satan, we are not listening to you. He did the same thing when He resurrected Moses. Notice what the Lord does do; He removes sinfulness and reproduces perfection of Christlike character in the believer who trusts in Him. This is symbolic of things to come, of the Branch Jesus coming to restore His character in humanity, and symbolic of all of us who partake of it!

God's judgment is diagnosing and then healing all who will let Him.

FRIDAY

Read question 3 – can effectively do this ONLY when understand God's law as design law. As long as thinking through imposed lens will fail. Example of teacher whose husband beat her...

MONDAY

Read second paragraph, "Jesus understood..." Can love be commanded? Then why the 10 Commandments? Because they are NOT rules of love, they are a diagnostic instrument, added for our need, to reveal or sick condition and lead us to Christ for remedy.