



Christ and His Law Lesson 10 2Q 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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.**

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.

July 11-13: 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.

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.**

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

I just finished two trips where I have been sharing your books and videos successfully and am about to leave for yet another one in PA where I hope to share more. However this is being financed, please offer our deepest gratitude to the supporters. I wish we were in a position to provide more ourselves, but the generosity of those who do have means it making it possible for many who do not have resources to be able to spread the good news to many who would not be able to hear it otherwise. IL

I woke up this morning at 3am and God impressed my mind to watch your DVD "God and your



Brain Seminar" which was handed to my wife from a friend yesterday. I watch all the four seminars in one setting. It was a phenomenal blessing to me and I'm so excited to give it to my church members and friends. I am planning to have a seminar in my church on your DVDs too.

With this impact from your heaven-sent presentation, I would like to avail your free DVDs so I could reach out others starting from my family, my congregation, friends and neighbors in the community. Thank you very much and God bless you more abundantly. Canada

Christ, the Law and the Covenants

Read memory text: "For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance – now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant." (Hebrews 9:15 NIV)

Thoughts?

Read first paragraph, "God's eternal..." Do you hear any legal interpretation of the memory text?

I received this from Jim Harris in an email this week:

Thomas Lindsay in his book *A History of the Reformation* page 168.

The great men who built up the Western Church were almost all trained Roman lawyers. Tertullian, Cyprian, Augustine, Gregory the Great (whose writings form the bridge between the Latin Fathers and the Schoolmen) were all men whose early training had been that of a Roman lawyer,—a training which moulded and shaped all their thinking, whether theological or ecclesiastical. They instinctively regarded all questions as a great Roman lawyer would. They had the lawyer's craving for exact definitions. They had the lawyer's idea that the primary duty laid upon them was to enforce obedience to authority, whether that authority expressed itself in external institutions or in the precise definitions of the correct ways of thinking about spiritual truths. NO BRANCH OF WESTERN CHRISTENDOM HAS BEEN ABLE TO FREE ITSELF FROM THE SPELL CAST UPON IT BY THESE ROMAN LAWYERS OF THE EARLY CENTURIES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Do you agree? How does the false legal lens impact our interpretation of our memory text?

Here is my paraphrase of Heb 9:15:

Heb 9:15 For this reason – because he is the source of all truth and love – Christ is the administrator of the true healing plan, so that all those who desire may receive the promised recreation, healing and eternal life. He died to provide the ransom of the truth necessary to free



our minds from the lies about God and the perfect Remedy to heal our characters from fear and selfishness, which continued unabated during the little theater of the first covenant.

Do you notice the difference between reading through imposed law and design law?

When we conceive of God’s government like human governments we get all types of legal confusion and distortions of God’s character.

Imposed Law

Mediator - one who pleads your case to a magistrate or judge

Covenant - legal contract

Inheritance - legal property or rights

Ransom – legal price

Sins – bad deeds

Thoughts?

Design Law

One who intervenes in the disease process to administer remedy (truth and love: truth to restore trust in God and thus heal our relationship with God, and God’s law/character of love reproduced within us to restore us to God’s design to live in God’s presence)

Agreement between Doctor and patient

State of being

What is necessary to free from bondage (truth frees from lies, love from selfishness)

Sin - condition of being out of harmony with God’s design

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, “Covenants are based...” Can God make covenants without our agreement?

- Flood – never to destroy the world again
- Send Messiah to save this creation
- Provide Remedy to our condition

God can covenant or promise what He will do, but what is our responsibility in God’s covenant to save sinners?



Oswald Chambers *My Utmost for His Highest*

The Bible does not say that God punished the human race for one man's sin, but that the nature of sin, namely, my claim to my right to myself, entered into the human race through one man. But it also says that another Man took upon Himself the sin of the human race and put it away — an infinitely more profound revelation...

Sin is something I am born with and cannot touch— only God touches sin through redemption. It is through the Cross of Christ that God redeemed the entire human race from the possibility of damnation through the heredity of sin. God nowhere holds a person responsible for having the heredity of sin, and does not condemn anyone because of it. Condemnation comes when I realize that Jesus Christ came to deliver me from this heredity of sin, and yet I refuse to let Him do so. From that moment I begin to get the seal of damnation. "This is the condemnation [and the critical moment], that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light." (John 3:19)

What is our responsibility? To accept and partake the remedy He has provided.

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, "Although..." Does the Abrahamic covenant require those males who participate to be circumcised physically?

A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹ No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God. Rom 2:28,29

Turn to Friday and read first four paragraphs for a historic perspective:

This same covenant [of grace] 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. . . . {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... FLB 77.6

As we come under the Abrahamic covenant must we be circumcised physically to benefit from this covenant of grace? Then why did they circumcise it in the OT? Why infants?

Because they were acting out the plan of salvation in theater, it is the reality that the theater taught that all must experience. Everyone doesn't have to act out the symbolic theater, but all have to experience the reality to which the symbols pointed.

When we are first converted we are considered babes, and it is then we are to experience the work of the Holy Spirit in cutting away ties to the world. In fact, until those ties are cut away, we would still be spiritual babes even if we have been Christians for fifty years.

Read second paragraph, "Because they detailed..." thoughts?

The lesson points us to Jeremiah and Hebrews and asks in what ways these passages "uphold the everlasting nature of God's law in the New Covenant?"

Is the lesson equating the 10 Commandments with the law written upon the heart in the New Covenant? Is it the same?

"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord.
I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." Heb 10:16

Is this text talking about the 10 Commandments?

Here is the paragraph left out of the quotation from Friday's lesson, in fact this starts the original quotation:

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}

What is the eternal law and what is the temporary one? Which one was given at Sinai? What did the children of Israel do when they received it? They said they would obey and keep it, and what happened? They broke it. This is the first covenant – the law written on stone, which was given as a diagnostic tool but which the children of Israel said they would keep.



The new covenant is the full law, not the distilled codified version, the complete, full law and character of God reproduced in the believer.

Read third paragraph, “Under the Old Covenant...” Is this true? Were animal sacrifices necessary for the forgiveness of sins?

What is the problem with teaching animal sacrifice was necessary for the forgiveness of sins?

- God needs to be appeased
- Forgiveness is not freely given
- Christ’s death is superfluous, if sin could be forgiven with animal sacrifice, then why the death of Christ?

Did the sacrifices actually do anything to contribute to the forgiveness of sins?

With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸ He has showed you, O man, what is good. **And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.** Micah 6:6-8

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you have prepared for me ; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. Ps 40:6

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, O God.’” Heb 10:5-7

For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. Hosea 6:6

The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are **outwardly clean.** ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, **cleanse our consciences** from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! Heb 9:13,14

Notice the blood of animals “outwardly” cleansed, in other words, within the drama it acted out the cleansing of conscience, heart, mind that comes when we partake of Jesus.



Any examples of people in the OT times being in right relationship with God without animal sacrifices – at least without the ongoing, lifelong animal sacrifices, so no record of regular animal sacrifices for forgiveness of sin?

- Naaman
- Nebuchadnezzar
- Joseph in Egypt
- Daniel and the three worthies in Babylon
- Esther in Persia
 - Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶“Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.” Es 4:15,16

The sacrifices were NOT required for forgiveness they were only required for the play, the drama, but not the reality.

Christianity has been corrupted by the influence of Roman lawyers, and legal ideas, not in Scripture, have infected every aspect of our doctrines. God is waiting for a people who will see Him for who He really is and be in awe of Him, and with their lives glorify Him, because the hour in earth’s history has come for people to make a right judgment about who God is. We are to worship the Designer and reject this dictator view of God!

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, “There were strong...” Why were they cut off from the people? Because they were going off script and what happens in reality when one goes off script i.e. leaves God design for life? They cease to exist, so to act that out the actors would have to leave the stage never to return, thus cut off from the people.

What about the curses in DT 27:11-26, how do we understand them? Is God threatening to inflict suffering, or describing reality?

¹¹ On the same day Moses commanded the people:

¹² When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin. ¹³ And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce curses: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali.

¹⁴ The Levites shall recite to all the people of Israel in a loud voice:

¹⁵ “Cursed is the man who carves an image or casts an idol—a thing detestable to the Lord, the work of the craftsman’s hands—and sets it up in secret.”

Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

¹⁶ “Cursed is the man who dishonors his father or his mother.”

Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”



- ¹⁷ “Cursed is the man who moves his neighbor’s boundary stone.”
Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”
- ¹⁸ “Cursed is the man who leads the blind astray on the road.”
Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”
- ¹⁹ “Cursed is the man who withholds justice from the alien, the fatherless or the widow.”
Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”
- ²⁰ “Cursed is the man who sleeps with his father’s wife, for he dishonors his father’s bed.”
Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”
- ²¹ “Cursed is the man who has sexual relations with any animal.”
Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”
- ²² “Cursed is the man who sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.”
Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”
- ²³ “Cursed is the man who sleeps with his mother-in-law.”
Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”
- ²⁴ “Cursed is the man who kills his neighbor secretly.”
Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”
- ²⁵ “Cursed is the man who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person.”
Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”
- ²⁶ “Cursed is the man who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out.”
Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

Why are they cursed? What is the curse?

The imposed law model would have us believe it is an infliction by God to cause pain and suffering to punish those who rebel.

Natural law understands the reality that it is the result of being out of harmony with God’s design, the curse of sin itself. Such acts sear the conscience, warp the character, damage the reason, increase guilt, fear, shame, destroy peace, rob one of happiness, corrupt relationships, and life becomes a curse.

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” Gal 3:10

An historic view:

The fall of man filled all heaven with sorrow. The world that God had made was blighted with **the curse of sin** and inhabited by beings doomed to misery and death. PP 63

Why were they doomed to misery and death? As Oswald Chambers said, because of the inheritance of sin, because the curse of being out of harmony with God’s design.



As the Israelites indulged the spirit of discontent, they were disposed to find fault even with their blessings...{PP 428.2}

Moses faithfully set before the people their great sin. It was God's power alone that had preserved them in "that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water." Deuteronomy 8:15. **Every day of their travels they had been kept by a miracle of divine mercy...PP 428.3}**

Because they had been shielded by divine power they had not realized the countless dangers by which they were continually surrounded. **In their ingratitude and unbelief** they had anticipated death, and now **the Lord permitted** death to come upon them. The poisonous serpents that infested the wilderness were called fiery serpents, on account of the terrible effects produced by their sting, it causing violent inflammation and speedy death. **As the protecting hand of God was removed from Israel**, great numbers of the people were attacked by these venomous creatures. {PP 429.1}

What happened? God granted them what they had chosen, freedom from Him, and what happens disconnected from our Creator, the Designer, the Sustainer? Curses – no infliction, but the natural result of deviation from harmony with God.

What happens in the character of those who do all the things described in DT above?

Questions?

Read second paragraph, "Heb 9:15-28" What does it mean Jesus is mediator of a new covenant?

Here is my paraphrase of these verses:

Heb 9:15 For this reason – because he is the source of all truth and love – Christ is the administrator of the true healing plan, so that all those who desire may receive the promised recreation, healing and eternal life. He died to provide the ransom of the truth necessary to free our minds from the lies about God and the perfect Remedy to heal our characters from fear and selfishness, which continued unabated during the little theater of the first covenant.

Heb 9:16 Consider the example of a will, in order for the true contents of the will to be known the one who made it must have died, ¹⁷ because the will of a person is revealed only when he has died; it is never made known while the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸ This is why even the symbolic stage play was not started without blood. ¹⁹ When Moses had read the entire script to the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the script and all the people. ²⁰ He said, "This is the blood of the symbolic healing plan, which God has given you to act out." ²¹ In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and all the props used in the play. ²² In fact, the script requires that nearly everything be symbolically cleansed with blood, because without the



shedding of blood there could be no restoration to God's original ideal – without the death of Christ we would not know the true loving character of God and could not be restored to God's original ideal for mankind.

Heb 9:23 For the script to be accurate it was necessary that the earthly model of God's heavenly temple be purified with these animal sacrifices, but the heavenly designed Spirit temple needed purifying with the truth and righteousness only Christ's self-sacrifice could provide. ²⁴ For Christ did not enter a man-made stone and mortar sanctuary that was only a copy of the true heavenly temple designed and built by God; he entered heaven itself, and now appears as the representative from earth in God's great heavenly counsel – in the living sanctuary built by God from the billions of intelligent loyal beings surrounding his throne. ²⁵ And he did not enter heaven to be sacrificed over and over again, the way the earthly high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with animal blood. ²⁶ Absolutely not, for that would mean he would have to die repeatedly since the creation of the world. But he appeared at the proper time and only needed to sacrifice himself once in order to reveal the truth about God, expose the lies of Satan, develop the Remedy and bring all things into unity with God. ²⁷ Just as each man is destined to die once and reap the eternal destiny he has chosen, ²⁸ so Christ sacrificed himself once to restore trust in God and purge selfishness from the hearts and minds of as many people as are willing; and he will come again a second time, not to remove selfishness from the heart and mind, but to remove the last residual traces of death, disease and the scars of sin and restore to complete perfection those who are waiting for him.

Read third paragraph, “In verse 16...” Why does the “covenant” require the death of each sinner? What are the possible reasons? Which are consistent with God and His character? How has imposed Roman law constructs perverted this idea?

What is the covering? How is this metaphor true and how is it perverted to misrepresent God and His kingdom?

Read last paragraph, “Then we shall...” How does the blood of Christ cleanse? Notice in the quote the cleansing is happening to and in the believer, not their records or the eyes of God.

Read bottom pink section, “God Himself...” thoughts? What is the punishment? Did Jesus bear it? Is the punishment for sin the second eternal death?

If it is the second eternal death did Jesus die that death? So when Jesus confronted death, who won, Jesus or death?

Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2Tim 1:10

The death Christ died is not the same event the wicked experience in the end:



- Christ died trusting the Father – Luke 23:46
The wicked die distrusting the Father – Revelation 6:16
- Christ died longing to see the Father – Mark 15:34
The wicked die hiding from the Father – Revelation 6:16
- Christ died when the Father’s presence was hidden – Mark 15:34
The wicked die when the Father is fully revealed – 2 Thes 2:8
- Christ died less than 72 hours – Luke 24:1-8
The wicked die eternally – Malachi 4:1-3, Romans 6:23, James 1:15, 2Pet 3:10-12
- Christ died when love overcame selfishness – John 3:16, 10:17,18, 1John 3:16
The wicked die overcome by selfishness – Revelation 21:8
- Christ had His individuality preserved in death (Acts 1:11)
The wicked have their individuality destroyed in death

Those who hold penal models must undermine the beauty and reality of what Christ did accomplish. It is much more profound to realize Christ destroyed death than to teach He was destroyed by death, or He died the second death.

How is death destroyed? By life – and life originates in God and is constructed to operate upon the law of love. Death ensues from deviations from the design upon which life is constructed to operate. One destroys death by restoring things i.e. humanity, back to the right way, i.e. righteousness, or harmony with the law of love. Christ accomplished this in His human brain, when He loved perfectly and surrendered voluntarily to death, refusing to act in selfishness. Thus, He destroyed death and rose again in a humanity He perfected!

The Scripture says that “he was made to be sin though he knew no sin that we might become the righteousness of God.” 2Cor 5:21

What is the punishment for sin? Eternal non-existence – Christ DID suffer in our place, but NOT as a legal punishment for sin. Christ suffered in our place as the means to destroy death, destroy the devil and restore the image of God in man. In other words, Christ suffered in order to destroy sin and save man, not be punished for man’s sin.

19th Century Theologian and Evangelist George MacDonald:

The Lord never came to deliver men from the consequences of their sins while those sins yet remained ... Yet, feeling nothing of the dread hatefulness of their sin, men have constantly taken this word that the Lord came to deliver us from our sins to mean that he came to save them from the punishment of their sins. This idea has terribly corrupted the preaching of the Gospel. The message of the Good News has not been truly communicated. Unable to believe in the forgiveness of the Father in heaven, **imagining him not at liberty to forgive, or incapable of forgiving forthright**; not really believing him God who is fully our Savior, but a God bound — either in his own nature or by a law above him and compulsory upon him — **to exact some**



recompense or satisfaction for sin, a multitude of religious teachers have taught their fellow men that **Jesus came to bear our punishment** and save us from hell. But in that they have misrepresented his true mission. George MacDonald, *Discovering the Character of God*, Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1989, p. 39.

THURSDAY

Read second paragraph, “Think, for instance...” What is the problem with this idea?

Can people follow the 10 Commandments without being reborn? And once reborn where is the law of love written? In the heart, so living in harmony with it is an outgrowth of renewed motives and purified character, not something we work to achieve.

In fact, attempting to work to keep the Commandments actually worsens the condition making prideful self-righteous hard-hearted people, who are like those who crucified Christ.

I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.¹¹ For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. Rom 7:10, 11

My paraphrase:

I discovered that the very commandment given only to diagnose my condition, I had unwittingly attempted to use as a cure and thus my condition only worsened.¹¹ For selfishness, taking advantage of the fact that the commandment could only diagnose and not cure, deceived me into thinking I could be cured by working to keep the commandments, but instead my terminal state only worsened.ori

Example: Teach a child to brush teeth, grows up and now does it to keep the rules and not get punished, or not upset mommy. While their teeth would benefit, their minds and characters wouldn't and they would likely criticize and be intolerant of those who didn't brush their teeth.

Likewise, not committing adultery, or not stealing, while one may benefit from avoiding diseases and prison etc., if the reason one avoids these behaviors is to keep the rules, to avoid punishment, etc. but not from an enlightened love of God and His methods, then one's character is still not transformed and a person is still not righteous. Heb 5-6.

FRIDAY

Read question 2 and discuss