



Christ and His Law Lesson 11 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

Here is another email I received:

Just wanted to share with you what a wonderful GOD-inspired work you are doing, spreading the true, benevolent and consistent message about the character of Jesus Christ and the Father. The Christian world is due up for a revolution, and this would be one of the truths that MUST come to the fore...that GOD is love, in His Character, thought and deed - and that it is all consistent.

I am a middle-forties male who has been a Seventh-Day Adventist all my life. I am currently a Sabbath School "guide/instructor", a Pathfinder Counselor, a Deacon, and a proud & happy father of 3 beautiful children married to a God-given wife described in Proverbs 31. I am blessed in so many ways, I cannot begin to describe. I, however, harbored a struggle deep within. A conflict that had me challenging the very tenets of my faith, and had me tongue-tied when talking to my children about a God that loves us but yet was an apathetic Judge ready to pronounce judgment on sins. The struggle that nearly overwhelmed me was this image that I had of God the Father. It is the image that pervades Christendom thinking today, even in our own beloved Seventh-Day Adventist Church. This imposing, imperial dictatorial construct of a



God just did not fit with the God who would send His Own Son to die in my place, even were I the only sinner on earth! It just did not work, this ideology of what I had been taught versus a God of Love who would do anything to redeem me.

After some friends suggested that I take note of your [Bible Study] Classes on-line, I must admit that it was like torrents of water to a parched and thirsty land. I soaked up the image of a God who Loves me and whose character is consistent. Love engenders love, and I began to fall in love with my Lord and Savior once again. This message has saved my marriage, my family, my life if you will.

Here in California, the message of a Transformational God of Love is taking hold in the social and religious circles that I inhabit. It is just too bad that there is so much resistance in our own SDA Church to this message of a Truly Loving God. I feel that many Christians resist because they want to worship a God that is in many ways like themselves, ready to judge others for their sins. All the while they can justify this as not being judgmental because their God had already pronounced judgment on those they themselves are so quick to condemn. While obviously this is a deception that many of us live with, it is sad that we attribute to God the Father the exact opposite of what He really is. We do so much more damage in His Name we might as well advertise that we sell Indulgences or have red crosses on our tunics.

I am excited to share with others the message that I am learning and loving of my God who transforms my life into something that I never would have thought possible. Truly we serve a wondrous, glorious God who is worthy of all praise and honor.

Thank you once again for your message of a transformational God of Love, the true picture of how our God really is.

No more Conflicts in Northern California

The Apostles and the Law

SABBATH

Read first paragraph, “With so much evidence...” How many of you read your lesson for the week? What evidence did the quarterly cite for the continued validity of God’s law?

The title of this week’s lesson gives a clue. They cite the fact that the Apostles didn’t argue for doing away with the law. Over and again the fact that the Apostles didn’t mention doing away with the law is the evidence they use.



Now, this is certainly true – the Apostles definitely did NOT ever suggest God’s law is done away with. But, is this the best evidence available?

What kind of evidence is this? It is the evidence of another’s testimony, of another’s understanding, of another’s opinion. It is the evidence of basing your faith on what another has experienced and understood.

The purpose of the testimony of the Apostles is to stimulate us to study, reason, evaluate the evidences for ourselves and come to understand God and His methods for ourselves.

But to use the testimony as the determining evidence undermines your own thinking, your own mental development. It is valid to take the opinions and perspectives of other but then one needs to examine the evidence and come to their own conclusion, but it is dangerous, and even damaging, to just believe because another said so.

Using Scripture like this makes mental cripples. This is NOT what God nor His true representatives want or do.

God wants us to have the mind of Christ, to grow up into the full stature of sons and daughters of God, to be renewed in our characters, to develop our own ability to discern right from wrong, not to rest on the conclusions of others, but to use those conclusions to learn the reasons for ourselves and thus the conclusions become ours.

It is a weak argument to say, red and yellow mixed together make orange, BECAUSE an artist instructor told me it does, even if your artist instructor was Michael Angelo. It is much better to say, my artist instructor taught me this, but I have actually mixed the colors myself and know from experience this is true. Or, I observed the colors being mixed and saw for myself they make orange. Or, I have studied light and the wavelength of visible light is between 400-700 nm. Red is 650 nm, yellow is 570 nm, and orange is 590 nm, so I know when you mix the red and yellow you get orange.

Here are some quotes from one of our founders:

Every human being, created in the image of God, **is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator-- individuality, power to think and to do.** The men in whom this power is developed are the men who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character. **It is the work of true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought.** Instead of confining their study to that which men have said or written, let students be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for **research in nature and revelation.** Let them contemplate the great facts of duty and destiny, and the mind will expand and strengthen.



Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions. {Ed 17.2}

Does God want us to have our faith based on what others have thought out? Here is another historical quote, from 1888:

We say decidedly, every minister of Jesus Christ must bind himself to the Source of all light and power and he must not follow in the shadow of any other living man, because there is Christ to whom he must become attached, and he should not bind his heart to any human being and **let man do his thinking for him**. He is not filling his position in society or in the world if he simply accepts what his father has said and what his father, or some great and good man in past generations, has done, and sinks himself, his individuality, in them. **Some who think that they preach the gospel are preaching other men's ideas. Through some means they have come to the decision that it is no part of a minister's calling or duty to think diligently and prayerfully. He accepts what other men have taught without asserting his individuality...** {1888 834.2}

Now Satan has his hand in all this work to narrow down the work of God. Ministers of Jesus Christ are to be constantly receiving light from the Source of all light. **They are not to be simply receivers of other men's thoughts**, they themselves not plowing deep into the mines of truth. If a minister is not a worker himself, digging for the truth as for hidden treasure to find the precious jewels of truth, he is forfeiting his God-given privileges. **He is not to put any human mind, any human intelligence, between his soul and God**. There is to come no authority from human minds that will in the least degree interpose between him and God's authority to lead, to guide, and to dictate. **The ministers of Christ should gather up every ray of light, every jot of strength and illumination from other minds whom God has blessed, but that is not enough. They must go to the Fountainhead for themselves. God has given men reasoning minds and He will not hold them guiltless if they trust in man or make flesh their arm**. He wants you individually to come to Him, to draw from Him, **to use the ability God gives to understand the living oracles**. If one man can see light in examining the Scriptures, so may every true Christian have the right to read, to examine, to search the Scriptures with unabated interest, and gather light therefrom. {1888 834.3}

As I have said in here over and again, I am not to do your thinking for you, or tell you what to think. But I am here to challenge each of you to think for yourselves, to understand God, His design and methods and be able to tell the difference for yourselves.

What is the danger if we believe based on what others have concluded, without thinking things through for ourselves and understanding for ourselves the reasons for things?



This next quotation describes a natural law, a natural process that happens in the mind when we surrender our thinking to others, and it destroys the individuality, it corrupts the person and obstructs their salvation. Listen to this:

If we mistake the wisdom of man for the wisdom of God we are led astray by the foolishness of man's wisdom. Here is the great danger of many in -----. **They have not an experience for themselves.** They have not been in the habit of prayerfully considering for themselves, with unprejudiced, unbiased judgment, questions and subjects that are new and that are ever liable to arise. **They wait to see what others will think.** If these dissent, that is all that is needed to convince them that the subject under consideration is of no account whatever. Although this class is large, it does not change the fact that **they are inexperienced and weak-minded through long yielding to the enemy, and will always be as sickly as babes, walking by others' light, living on others' experience, feeling as others feel, and acting as others act. They act as though they had not an individuality. Their identity is submerged in others; they are merely shadows of those whom they think about right. Unless these become sensible of their wavering character and correct it, they will all fail of everlasting life; they will be unable to cope with the perils of the last days. They will possess no stamina to resist the devil, for they do not know that it is he. Someone must be at their side to inform them whether a foe or a friend is approaching.** They are not spiritual, therefore spiritual things are not discerned. They are not wise in those things which relate to the kingdom of God. Neither young nor old are excusable in trusting to another to have an experience for them. Said the angel: "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm." A noble self-reliance is needed in the Christian experience and warfare. {2T 129.2}

What happens when we surrender our thinking to another, rather than be stimulated to think for ourselves?

Why is the person who does this cursed? What is the curse? It is the curse of consequence, the curse of losing one's ability to think for oneself, the curse of losing one's individuality, one's personhood. This is not an infliction, but the natural result of choosing to squander the gifts God has given.

So, having said all this, what is better evidence that God's law is not annulled nor ever shall be than the fact the Apostles never said it was?

Understanding the nature of the law itself and then testing it in action, having experience with it.

First, what type of law is God's law – design or imposed?

Give examples of God's laws:

- Law of love – principle of giving – life is built upon this, examples?
- Law of liberty – love only exists in freedom, what happens when violated
- Law of worship – by beholding we become changed – examples



- Law of sowing and reaping – examples
- Law of truth – truth heals and sets free – examples
- Laws of health – examples
- Laws of nature – examples
- Law of strength acquired by effort or exercise - examples

When we understand God’s laws, what difference does this make for us?

So why is God’s law not done away with? Because it is the parameters upon which the cosmos is built.
To do away with the law would be destroy the universe!

What happens when we violate these laws? What does God do?

The lesson states, “As a result, they claim the Ten Commandments are not obligatory for those under the New Covenant.” Are the commandments obligatory to those who are under the New Covenant?

What do you make of Paul’s comments to Timothy?

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹ We also know that **law is made not for the righteous** but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹ that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me. 1Tim 1:8-11

The next paragraph states, “Second, others are so convinced that the Sabbath is not binding on Christians that, in order to justify this position, they claim that all the commandments have been crucified with Jesus on the cross.”

What have they done with these two ideas?

They have substituted the truth of God’s law of love, the blessing of freedom with imposed law ideas and given false reasons for the law that abuses and injures people who believe the lie.

What does obligation mean? How do you hear it?

Does obligation connote a sense of coercive pressure, a burden, do it or else?

This is an historic view, what our church used to know about our relationship to God’s law:

The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely--because he is required to do so--will never enter into the joy of obedience. He does not



obey. When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. **True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God.** The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right--because right doing is pleasing to God. {COL 97.3}

A sullen submission to the will of the Father will develop the character of a rebel. By such a one service is looked upon as drudgery. It is not rendered cheerfully, and in the love of God. It is a mere mechanical performance. If he dared, such a one would disobey. His rebellion is smothered, ready to break out at any time in bitter murmurings and complaints. Such service brings no peace or quietude to the soul. {ST, July 22, 1897}

It is true we are “obligated” to breathe if we want to live, but if we view the law of respiration as an obligation, an order we must do or else, our attitude about breathing changes, rather than a natural and enjoyable function we might come to resent it, why should I have to breathe. Why cant I just live without the need to breathe, it is so restrictive, I can’t go underwater, I can’t go out into space....

When we accept the lie that God’s law is like human law, imposed rules that must be enforced, then we oblige people to keep them, and we take the truth and turn it to a lie. We cheat people from the blessing of the Sabbath and rather than a day of freedom, a day of delight, we make it and the rest of God’s law into a burden that enslaves, burdens and grinds down, to the point of causing people to rebel.

Only by understanding God’s law in its right light, the design protocols for life, do we set people free to be transformed by God’s grace.

If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you **call the Sabbath a delight** and the Lord’s holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,¹⁴ then you will find your joy in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.” Isa 58:13,14

SUNDAY

Read Romans 3:28: “For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.”

Romans 6:14: “For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”

Romans 7:4: “So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.”

Romans 3:31: “Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.”



What do these texts mean?

Read last paragraph, “For those who don’t...” Can someone explain justification by faith?

Here is a definition found on Wikipedia:

Justification, in Christian theology, is God’s act of removing the guilt and penalty of sin while at the same time declaring a sinner righteous through Christ’s atoning sacrifice. In Protestantism, righteousness from God is viewed as being credited to the sinner's account through faith alone, without works.

Thoughts? This sums up the classic view very nicely and notice this view is the view that comes when one accepts the false view of God’s law. Thus much of our own theology has been tainted through a wrong understanding of God and His law.

Here is a description of genuine justification, taught by one of the founders of our church:

Christ came to save fallen man, and Satan with fiercest wrath met him on the field of conflict; for the enemy knew that when divine strength was added to human weakness, man was armed with power and intelligence, and could break away from the captivity in which he had bound him. Satan sought to intercept every ray of light from the throne of God. He sought to cast his shadow across the earth, that men might lose the true views of God's character, and that the knowledge of God might become extinct in the earth. He had caused truth of vital importance to be so mingled with error that it had lost its significance. **The law of Jehovah was burdened with needless exactions and traditions, and God was represented as severe, exacting, revengeful, and arbitrary.** He was pictured as one who could take pleasure in the sufferings of his creatures. **The very attributes that belonged to the character of Satan, the evil one represented as belonging to the character of God.** Jesus came to teach men of the Father, to correctly represent him before the fallen children of earth. Angels could not fully portray the character of God, but Christ, who was a living impersonation of God, could not fail to accomplish the work. **The only way in which he could set and keep men right was to make himself visible and familiar to their eyes.** That men might have salvation he came directly to man, and became a partaker of his nature. {ST, January 20, 1890 par. 6}

Where was justification mentioned in this passage? Setting right. This is what justification truly means, setting people right with God.

What is wrong that needs setting right? The heart, mind, character of humans, primarily about God, and secondarily our underlying motives of selfishness.

Christ came to set us right in our minds and hearts about God, and in that renewed trust relationship, we are restored to right character. Thus the only way to set and keep us right was to destroy the lies



that cause mistrust, reestablish trust, which is faith, and in that trust we open the heart and experience the filling of the Holy Spirit, which takes all Christ achieved and reproduces it in us. Thus we become partakers of the divine nature and it is no longer our sinful selves that live, but Christ lives in us. We are set right, actually, literally, with God and His universe of love again.

Here true justification is stated more clearly in the book Desire of Ages:

The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character[why?]; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, **Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character**, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. **Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ.** God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."... Romans 3:26. {DA 762.2}

So what Paul is saying is this, the law is the protocols upon which life is built, we are born out of harmony and thus terminal. The written law was given to help us realize our condition, to diagnose us as such. Those, who have accepted the truth about God as revealed by Jesus, and in trust open the heart, are reborn with Christ's motives, methods and principles in their hearts; thus they are set right with God and are no longer out of harmony with Him. They are justified. Therefore, the law no longer condemns them because they live in harmony with it.

So, how did Christ take away the law's condemnation? By curing the condition which it condemns.

What does the law of respiration say about a person who hangs themselves with a noose? The law of respiration condemns them to death. What is necessary to take away the condemnation? Remove the noose and put them in harmony with the law.

Will having some other person hung by a noose take away the condemnation of the person you find hanging by a noose?

This idea of penal substitution is a lie and needs to be rejected. The church corrupts the gospel and obstructs the final message of mercy by misrepresenting God with this false teaching.

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, "John is the second..." Why does the lesson go on and on about how the Apostles did not set aside God's law?



Because they consider it imposed rules. Would the authors go on and on about how the Apostles never argued that gravity was done away with, any other natural law?

Here is an historic perspective, note God's law in this passage:

By the laws of God in nature, effect follows cause with unvarying certainty. The reaping testifies to the sowing. Here no pretense is tolerated. Men may deceive their fellow men and may receive praise and compensation for service which they have not rendered. **But in nature there can be no deception. On the unfaithful husbandman the harvest passes sentence of condemnation. And in the highest sense this is true also in the spiritual realm. It is in appearance, not in reality, that evil succeeds.** The child who plays truant from school, the youth who is slothful in his studies, the clerk or apprentice who fails of serving the interests of his employer, the man in any business or profession who is untrue to his highest responsibilities, may flatter himself that, so long as the wrong is concealed, he is gaining an advantage. But not so; **he is cheating himself. The harvest of life is character, and it is this that determines destiny, both for this life and for the life to come.** {Ed 108.2}

The harvest is a reproduction of the seed sown. Every seed yields fruit after its kind. **So it is with the traits of character we cherish. Selfishness, self-love, self-esteem, self-indulgence, reproduce themselves, and the end is wretchedness and ruin.** "He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Galatians 6:8. **Love, sympathy, and kindness yield fruitage of blessing, a harvest that is imperishable.** {Ed 109.1}

What law is described? Why is it that Apostles don't argue that God's law was set aside? Because they knew what this author knew, that God's law is the design template and deviations are destructive to the deviant.

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, "There is only one book..." Could Jesus abrogate the divine law?

Not and have the universe continue, destroying the law destroys the very fabric of reality and thus destroys everything. This is what many Christians fail to realize.

Thus they have arguments about whether Christ intended to abrogate or destroy the law or not – the entire argument is already in the wrong playing field, because when one finally agrees Christ didn't set aside the law they are still in a false mental world where His law could have been set aside, i.e. an arbitrary imposed law maintained by the authority or force of the cosmic ruler.

Read last paragraph, "Misunderstanding Paul's..." What is the understanding of the relationship between faith and works?



The reason so many groups struggle is because they misunderstand the law as imposed. If my penalty is paid, and nothing I can do adds to the payment, then my salvation is obtained totally by grace, and I access it through faith. If I say I must do good works to achieve salvation then I am adding something to what Christ has done for me.

This is the confusion that results from operating on the false law lie.

Come back to the truth of God's law being the design upon which life is constructed and it all makes perfect sense.

Christ singly and alone revealed the truth about God which destroys the lies of Satan and wins to trust and He procured the remedy which cures and heals all who take it.

Yet, we still have to accept the truth, choose to trust God, partake the remedy and follow the treatment plan of our Savior.

- In accepting the truth are we the source of truth?
- In choosing to trust God are we generating His trustworthiness?
- In taking the remedy do we create the remedy? Do we add to the remedy? When taking the remedy does it do something in us we cannot do for ourselves?
- In choosing to follow the treatment plan, have we created the plan? Is it our human strength that enables us to follow through with the plan?
- Do we save ourselves? Absolutely not!
- Yet, is there a work for us to do in partaking what Christ has achieved and applying it to our lives? Thus we work out our salvation with fear and trembling, in the same way a patient works out their healing by taking their prescription and doing their therapy, but the patient doesn't create the cure nor do they save themselves.

THURSDAY

The lesson, midway states, "The very mention of grace demands the existence of law, because grace would not be necessary if there were no sin (Rom 5:18-6:15).

What is sin? Transgression of the law, which means what? Being deviant from the protocols life is constructed to operate upon?

What is grace? God's goodwill for us expressed in actions to restore us back to perfection and harmony with His design, which He originates in His character of love not because we have done something to earn it or influence Him to do so.

The lesson references Rom 5:18-6:15, this is through 6:18 in my paraphrase:



^{5:18} Therefore, just as Adam's distrust infected humanity with the fatal condition of fear and selfishness, so too Christ's choice to sacrifice self achieved the life-giving Remedy for all mankind. ¹⁹ Just as Adam's choice infected the human race with a terminal condition, so too Christ's perfect life has brought the Remedy to heal all who accept it.

^{5:20} The written law was added so that the infection of distrust and selfishness could be more easily seen and diagnosed. And where the exposure of sin and selfishness increased, God's willingness to heal increased all the more, ²¹ so that, just as distrust and selfishness brought deformity and death, even more importantly God's gracious Remedy, brought by Jesus Christ, results in complete healing and life eternal.

Romans ^{6:1} What, then, should we say about this amazing healing plan? Should we spread the infection of distrust and selfishness, cause more devastation and destruction so that the power of God's healing solution may be more fully displayed? ² Absolutely not! We have taken the antidote, and the infection of distrust and selfishness has been purged from our hearts and minds; how then, can we choose to be reinfected with distrust of God and practice selfish methods again? ³ Or don't you realize that all of us who were immersed into union with Christ Jesus were immersed into selflessness and have died to self-centeredness? ⁴ We symbolically demonstrate we have joined him in dying to self by being buried in water, in order that just as Jesus arose from the dead displaying the life giving glory of the Father, we too live a new life displaying God's glorious character in our lives.

^{6:5} If we have joined him in dying to self, we will absolutely join him in his resurrection and new life! ⁶ For we know that when our old selfish hearts and fear-ridden minds trust God and surrender to be crucified with Christ, the infection of selfishness is purged, and our hearts are no longer controlled by Satanic principles – ⁷ because anyone who dies to selfishness is free from Satan's methods, principles and control.

^{6:8} Now if we join Christ in dying to self, we are confident we will live with him forever. ⁹ Because Christ was raised from the dead and cannot die again; he has secured the Remedy and has revealed the truth, and death cannot touch him again. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died once destroying Satan's lies, the infection of fear and selfishness and restoring love and trust; therefore, the life he lives, he lives to glorify God.

^{6:11} In the same way recognize you are dead to the ways of Satan and alive to the ways of God as revealed in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore do not indulge the selfish desires and participate in destructive activities. ¹³ Do not use your physical body for evil, to indulge selfishness, but rather offer your entire being to God – revealing that Satan's principles of death have been replaced by God's principles of life. So offer your entire self to God doing what is right and healthy because it is right and healthy. ¹⁴ For distrust, fear and selfishness will no longer be what controls you, because you are no longer under the law's terminal diagnosis, but have partaken of God's gracious Remedy and are under his healing care.



^{6:15} What then? Shall we indulge selfish desires because God has provided a gracious cure for our terminal condition? Absolutely not! ¹⁶ Don't you realize that when you gratify the selfish desires, you are slowly transformed and become more and more selfish destroying the very faculties that recognize and respond to God's healing truth – thus over time you lose your freedom to choose and become a slave to selfishness and lust, which leads only to self-destruction and death? Conversely if you accept God's gracious Remedy and choose his methods you are transformed and become Christlike in character. ¹⁷ Thanks be to God, that even though you used to be slaves to selfishness, you wholeheartedly accepted the truth revealed by Jesus, trusted God and practice his methods of love, truth and freedom, which you were taught. ¹⁸ Therefore, you have been freed from distrust, fear and selfishness and have been bonded to love, truth and liberty, doing what is right because it is right.

MONDAY

Read last paragraph, “When Peter referred...” What covenant were the people to be reminded to live under?

What does it mean we are a royal priesthood? What is the function of a priest?

In the old system what did the priest do? What did this symbolize? So what are we to do today?

The priests assisted people fallen down in the guilt and shame of sin to find forgiveness, restoration, peace. Symbolically, they took the shed blood and ministered it around, they ate the meat of the sacrificial offering, they ate the showbread with fellow priests each Sabbath in the Holy Place, they taught the people.

What does all this symbolize?

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, “Why should...” thoughts?