



## Christ and His Law Lesson 12 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

**Nov 16:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the First Baptist Church in Frisco Texas. Speaking for the three church services Sunday morning and then a seminar Sunday afternoon.

**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](http://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.**

I received this email recently:

I am writing to request a case each, if possible, of the free dvd's *God and Your Brain*, *Healing the Mind*, and *Modern Medicine*. I would also like any other recommended materials to saturate our library with!

They have been a wonderful blessing to me and my family and circle of friends! I had recently put out a case of your *God and Your Brain* dvd's at our church, and they are gone! We have about 300-400 regular attending members... I hope to bless them with your free materials that truly are sharing the Gospel Message!

Just a note- When I read your *God Shaped Brain* book, I was so impressed that this was the best (simplistic, logical, and well laid out) version of the good news I had ever heard! I had our late Administrative Pastor (who was diagnosed with Cancer and Parkinson's) read over just the part about Job and suffering and miracles. This 86 year old man who loved the church more than anything ...wept! It was such a blessing to me to know he REALLY got it before he passed!!! Thank you!!! My husband bought a case and we have been handing them out ever since.

I won't bore you with the stories, but they are more and more frequent. Praise God!



Thank you again for your part in HIS ministry and may God continue to bless and grow it for His Kingdom! FL

## Christ's Church and the Law

### SABBATH

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Read memory text: "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Rev 14:12).

What does this mean? What are the commandments of God?

Does it have anything to do with God's law? What law?

Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Jn 13:34,35

Is this what our memory verse is talking about, those who love each other and trust Jesus?

This is from an old Journal article, printed in 1893, consider how our church used to look at this issue:

**It is through the mighty agency of the Holy Spirit that the government of Satan is to be subdued and subjected. It is the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin, and expels it from the soul by the consent of the human agent. [what does this mean?] The mind is then brought under a new law, and that law is the royal law of liberty. [Which law is this? Is it the 10 Commandments or something more? How is the law liberating?] Jesus came to break the shackles of sin-slavery from the soul; for sin can triumph only when the liberty of the soul is extinguished. [what does this mean? How does sin take our liberty?] Jesus reached to the very depth of human woe and misery, and his love attracts man to himself. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit, he lifts the mind up from its degradation, and fastens it upon the eternal reality. Through the merits of Christ man may be able to exercise the noblest powers of his being, and expel sin from his soul... {RH, April 25, 1893 par. 2}**

It is essential that we who are fallen through sin, shall put on the robe of Christ's righteousness which has been prepared for us. [what does this mean? COL 311] The Holy Spirit was to convince "of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." [By whom? Who has judged the prince of this world? And what evidence was most persuasive? Who needed this evidence in order to judge correctly?] **The unfallen worlds have watched the conflict and trial of the Son of God in behalf of humanity. They have seen the crooked working of him who was once highly exalted of God, but who was expelled from heaven with a large number of angels, who has made this world the stage of his action, the field of his controversy against God.**



**In heaven he complained against the law of God, declaring it unnecessary and arbitrary.** [And according to this author, how did Satan describe God's law? Satan wanted anarchy without consequence. To be able to do anything without consequence, why was this not possible? Because of God's design law, but what did Satan do? He twisted the law in the minds of beings, and alleged God is the punisher. "Every sin must meet its punishment urged Satan." DA 761] **He misrepresented the Lord Jehovah, and the high Commander of heaven.** He claimed that he was above law, and maintained that right was upon his side; [what kind of law would it be for one to claim to be above it? Does anyone claim to be above the law of respiration, gravity etc? So again, Satan's view of God's law is a law imposed, not the protocols upon which life is built] **but he has fully made manifest that the principles he advocated were evil and injurious.** [Why are Satan's way injurious? Satan would have you believe because they get you in legal trouble and God must injure you with His divine power to punish you. Is this right? Then why are Satan's ways injurious? Because they deviate from the protocols God has built life to operate upon] **It has been proved that** "the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honey-comb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward." [How has this been proved? Has it been proved to you?] {RH, April 25, 1893 par. 4}

We are exhorted in the inspired records to "receive with meekness the ingrafted word, which is able to save your soul." [How does the ingrafted word save? Save means to heal, the word is truth, truth destroys lies, restores trust, opens the heart to love, which drives out fear] A mere casual faith in the word is not enough; **it must be received into the heart, ingrafted in the very character.** It is only when this is the case that we have that faith which works by love, and purifies the soul. Then open wide the door of the heart for the entrance of sacred, solemn truth. The psalmist says, "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." **It is as we render obedience to the command of God that we have light and peace.** [What is genuine obedience? Is it blindly following rules, or understanding cooperation?] **As we make the testimonies of God our delight, we have guidance and counsel. We then eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God,** and find that his words are spirit and life. [What does it mean to partake the blood? Is the blood literal? Symbolic of what? Christ's life, NOT death, which is commonly taught in the penal view] {RH, April 25, 1893 par. 5}

**As we walk in the commandments of God,** we follow on in the way cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in. The faithful of all ages have walked in this path, and they have shone as lights in the world. In this age the light transmitted from them has been shining with increased brightness upon the path of those who are walking in darkness. Some have received the truth, believed and obeyed it. **The light of the third angel's message has penetrated into many a darkened mind.** [what is the light of the third angel's message?] The light of the wisdom, the



goodness, the mercy, and love of God has been shining forth through his holy word. [Is this the third angel's message?] **We are not in the place where our fathers were. Advanced light is shining upon us in these last days. We cannot be accepted of God; we cannot honor him by rendering the same service, doing the same work that our fathers did. [Why not?] In order to be accounted guiltless before God, we must be as faithful in our time in following and obeying our light, as they were faithful in following and obeying the light that shone upon them... Every soul should place himself where the light will shine upon him. He should treasure every ray, that he may brighten and bless the souls of others with the heaven-sent radiance.** {RH, April 25, 1893 par. 6}

The darkness of the world is great, and individually we shall have light just to the degree to which we improve it. [what does this mean? Why is it so? Because only by thinking it out for ourselves, understanding it, comprehending it, studying it, do we develop the neural circuitry necessary to expand our understanding and grow in the light. Just as with any other endeavor. How does one grow in musical skill? By practice, by working the songs, my trying various compositions etc and in so doing the neural circuitry expands and ability and creativity and insight and ideas expand. So too in spiritual truth, if we want to grow we must exercise the faculties in studying these themes for ourselves! This is not an arbitrary edict on God. God doesn't choose to make one smart in spiritual things and another ignorant, God's truth is shining, the question is are we comprehending?] **We are to keep the commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," by disseminating the light of truth that has blessed our souls, to those who sit in darkness. [Is this the commandment represented in the Rev 14 text?] Every soul is accountable for the talents intrusted. As a church, as individuals, we are to stand upon the elevated, holy ground where the truth has placed us. We are to represent to the world in character and unity the accumulated light which shines upon us in these last days...** {RH, April 25, 1893 par. 7}

What does it mean to keep the commandments of God? To love others such that we share the truth about God to them for the healing and redeeming of their souls!

What about the other major text that often goes along with the Revelation 14 text, Revelation 12:17:

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

What does Keep the commandments mean? To love God and others more than self and live seeking to save the lost, and what about hold to the testimony of Jesus?

Revelation 19:10 says:

I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.



Some interpret the passage and to mean the gift of prophecy, i.e. someone with the prophetic gift is a member of your organization. What is the problem with this interpretation?

First, the text is not talking about a single individual with the gift of prophecy, but about a group of people who all hold to a certain viewpoint, live by that view and share that same view or testimony, and that is the testimony Jesus gave about His Father. "If you've seen me you've seen the Father." Jesus said.

Consider this quotation:

**The health reform is as closely related to the third angel's message as the arm to the body; but the arm cannot take the place of the body.** The proclamation of the third angel's message, **the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus, is the burden of our work.** The message is to be proclaimed with a loud cry, and is to go to the whole world. **The presentation of health principles must be united with this message, but must not in any case be independent of it, or in any way take the place of it. . . . There must be a well-balanced, symmetrical development of the work in all its parts. . . {CM 138.1}**

Thoughts? What does this mean? Why is the health message to be the right arm of the third angel's message, which is taken by people who hold to the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus?

Because the health message operates on what kind of law? And when we give commandments of health, thou shall not smoke, it is understood to mean what?

Also, the health care team is never represented as being against the patient, even the patient who refuses treatment. And the cause of death for the patient who refuses treatment is from the unremedied disease not the doctor.

Likewise, the plan of salvation is the plan of healing. God's law is the law of life, the principles upon which life is constructed to operate. God is seeking to heal and never works to destroy his patients, even the unruly ones. But unremedied sin in the sinner will destroy them.

Has Christianity at large, and the SDA church in particular, given this message or has the message of the three angels, which our founders over and again said, "is the burden of our work" been corrupted by severing the gospel message from the health message and replacing natural/design law with an imperial imposed law construct which distorts God's character and actually promotes Satan's lies about God?

**The sad thing in our churches today, is that Jesus is misrepresented in the character of those who profess to be his followers.** Many claim to believe in and love Jesus, while they do neither. They advocate the law of God, but are transgressors of its precepts. The first four commandments require supreme love to God. **Parents, children, wife, husband, houses, lands, or any other earthly treasure, whether of friends or property, are not to be loved selfishly, and thus become an idol to divert the mind, the time, the service, from God.** He



that loves and serves mammon, cannot love and serve God supremely... "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." **Here idolatry is plainly revealed, as existing in those who claim to worship God.** The pure, refined, ennobling love is buried up by the love of carnal things. This the True Witness represents as a fearful loss in experience and character-building -- the loss of the first love... **Mercy and the love of God are the attributes of his throne. While claiming to be the subjects of the kingdom of God, and yet refusing to be converted from their selfish love, their stern, iron will, their own perverse ways, many are constantly bearing a false testimony of Jesus Christ.** {The Home Missionary, December 1, 1894 par. 13}

What does it mean to be part of God's last day people, to keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus?

Read second and third paragraph, "God's church is..." thoughts?

The problem is that the church today is carrying the wrong baton, ever since Constantine, the church has been carrying the false view of God's law. It has been representing God's law as imposed, and God as the supreme judge and imposer of penalties. Thus, the church has failed to prepare the world for Christ's return because the true gospel of the kingdom of love has not gone to the world.

## SUNDAY

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The lesson asks us to read the account in Genesis where God instructs Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and warns if he does he will die, and then the temptation and fall.

The lesson then asks, "What test was given to Adam and Even? Why would such a test be needed for perfect beings?"

It was a test of trust, of willingness to think, reason and choose. And why was it necessary?

- Was it necessary for God to know something?
- Was it necessary so God could know whether they would be loyal or not?
- No, God knows the future and God knew what they would do before they did it.
- Then why provide the test?
  
- What did God want for them?
- Did God want His children to suffer and die?
- Or did God want them to be eternally healthy, happy, and secure?
- What would be necessary for Adam and Eve to be eternally secure, beyond any possibility of choosing to deviate from God's design?





- To think through the issues for themselves and choose the truth and reject the lies. This could only be accomplished by their actually having an opportunity to make such a choice.

Thus the tree was in the garden for their development, their advancement, their solidification into holiness and perfection of character.

Here is a quote from one of the founders of our church, how she saw it:

Our first parents, though created innocent and holy, were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing. . . . They were to enjoy communion with God and with holy angels; but before they could be **rendered** eternally secure, **their loyalty must be tested**. At the very beginning of man's existence a check was placed upon the desire for self-indulgence, the fatal passion that lay at the foundation of Satan's fall. **The tree of knowledge, which stood near the tree of life in the midst of the garden, was to be a test of the obedience, faith, and love** of our first parents. While permitted to eat freely of every other tree, they were forbidden to taste of this, on pain of death. **They were also to be exposed to the temptations of Satan;** but if they endured the trial, they would **finally be placed beyond his power**, to enjoy perpetual favor with God. . . . {CC 13.2}

**God might have created man without the power to transgress His law;** He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automation. **Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character.** . . . It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan's charge of God's arbitrary rule. {CC 13.3}

What is Satan's power? Lies, then what places one beyond Satan's power? Being so settled into the truth nothing can move one from it.

What was the law in Eden which Adam and Eve violated? Is there any inspired evidence that the 10 Commandments were in existence in Eden?

Did they break the law of love and trust? Yes, why? What caused the breach? Believing a lie:

Eve believed the words of Satan, and **the belief of that falsehood in regard to God's character, changed the condition and character of both herself and husband. They were changed from good and obedient children into transgressors...** {RH, January 5, 1886 par. 8}

- Lies believed break the circle of love and trust
- Broken love and trust result in fear and selfishness
- Fear and selfishness result in acts of sin
- This is a terminal condition



## MONDAY

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The lesson reviews the condition of the world from Noah to Abraham, how wicked the people were before the flood and how quickly after the flood they degenerated back into wickedness.

In Genesis 6 the Bible says that the sons of God married the daughters of men, which means that converted people, those with the law of God written on their hearts, married people who were selfish and were not converted. What is the problem with this?

What would you say of these ideas, which were written more than 100 years ago:

What the parents are, that to a great extent the children will be.

The physical conditions of the parents, their dispositions and appetites, their **mental and moral tendencies**, are to a greater or less degree reproduced in their children.--MH 371 (1905). {1MCP 138.5}

The nobler the aims, **the higher the mental and spiritual endowments, and the better developed the physical powers of the parents, the better will be the life equipment they give their children.** In cultivating that which is best in themselves, parents are exerting an influence to mold society and to uplift future generations.... {1MCP 139.1}

Through the indulgence of appetite and passion their energies are wasted, and millions are ruined for this world and for the world to come. Parents should remember that their children must encounter these temptations. **Even before the birth of the child, the preparation should begin that will enable it to fight successfully the battle against evil.** {1MCP 139.2}

Especially does responsibility rest upon the mother. She, by whose lifeblood the child is nourished and its physical frame built up, imparts to it also **mental and spiritual influences that tend to the shaping of mind and character.**--MH 371, 372 (1905). {1MCP 139.3}

In past generations, if mothers had informed themselves in regard to the laws of their being, they would have understood that their constitutional strength, **as well as the tone of their morals and their mental faculties, would in a great measure be represented in their offspring.** Their ignorance upon this subject, where so much is involved, is criminal.--HL (Part 2) 37, 1865. (2SM 431.) {1MCP 142.4}

- Grandfathers who grew up in famine conditions conferred greater risk of mortality on grandsons, while grandmothers who grew up in famine conditions conferred greater mortality risks on granddaughters Eur J Hum Genet. 2006 Feb;14(2):159-66. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/163>
- Men who smoke before the age of 11 confer greater mortality risks to their sons Eur J Hum Genet. 2006 Feb;14(2):159-66. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/163>





- Maternal stress during pregnancy alters the developing brain such that the child will be less capable of calming self and suffer with greater anxiety than they otherwise would have Medina, J. *Psychiatric Times*, April 2010, p. 16
- Experiences in adolescence can alter brain DNA expression which can pass down to the offspring. Study done on mice with gene defect for bad memory revealed those mice with healthier adolescence altered the defective gene expression passing along better memory to their offspring. Junko A. Arai, Shaomin Li, Dean M. Hartley, and Larry A. Feig **Transgenerational Rescue of a Genetic Defect in Long-Term Potentiation and Memory Formation by Juvenile Enrichment** *J. Neurosci.*, Feb 2009; 29: 1496 - 1502 ; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5057-08.2009
- A recent study of over 4000 mothers and their children, followed for over 18 years found that if the mother had negative, pessimistic, depressive thinking patterns when pregnant, then her child was much more likely to have such thinking patterns 18 years later. This association remained after accounting for maternal and offspring depression. The thought patterns of the mother accounted for 21% of the association between maternal and child depression. (*Am Journal of Psychiatry* 2013; 170:434-441).
- Recent research in PTSD individuals found that Cognitive Behavioral Therapy CBT resulted in positive gene expression changes in the hippocampus of the brain, turning on genes associated with neuroplasticity. PTSD individuals experience loss of volume in the hippocampus and orbital frontal cortex. They also have loss of gene expression of the gene *FKBP5*, which modulates the glucocorticoid receptor, i.e. stress hormones. Thus, they lose the feedback to reduce the stress hormones, which results in the brain tissue volume loss. CBT resulted in increased expression of this gene, with increased number of receptors, and thus reduction of stress hormones, with increased volume in hippocampus and orbital frontal cortex. CBT is a form of therapy which focuses on the truth, teaching people how to understand, deal with and apply the truth. Thus, the truth is healing and restorative. **Biological Psychiatry Volume 74, Issue 11** , Pages 793-800, 1 December 2013

Thoughts? So, if a person has been traumatized, this will likely negatively affect their gene expression, and they will pass along such changes to their children. However, if they deal with the trauma appropriately, CBT for instance, positive gene expression occurs, and we have every reason to believe these positive changes will be passed along to their children.

Science is confirming what Scripture and other Bible writers have said.

## TUESDAY

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Read first paragraph, “After the Flood...” Why the Flood? Was it punishment inflicted by God for sin? Was it punishment that sin itself brings? Was it an act of mercy on God’s part? Was it an act of vengeance on God’s part? Or something else?

Two explanations given are reasonable for the Flood:



- The hearts of human beings closed completely to God and the HS was slowly withdrawn from the earth and Satan gained more and more access to the laws of nature and things ran amuck and the Flood came. When the wicked died and only Noah and his family were left, the majority of people were again open to the Holy Spirit, who stabilized the laws of nature and things improved. God foresaw and thus forewarned and provided a way of escape for all who would take it.
- God acted in love to keep open the channel for the Messiah. Satan was working to prevent Jesus from coming to earth by destroying every righteous person and getting everyone to permanently close their hearts to God. At this time in earth's history only one righteous man and his family remained, thus God's action at the flood was a mercy to save, to keep open the channel for Messiah to come.
- Why can we be certain the flood was not God using His power to inflict pain, suffering and death?
  - The people died the first not the second eternal death and all will rise again
  - God wants love and love cannot be achieved through the exercise of force
  - Coercive pressure is used only under Satan's government
  - God's law is the design law upon which life is constructed and God doesn't need to inflict punishment for deviations, the deviations bring their own punishment. However, God in love will often provide therapeutic interventions designed to heal and restore

What happened when God used power, therapeutically, in an attempt to redirect, excise, save, restore...

- Flood – Babel
- Carmel – Rebellion back into idolatry
- 10 Plagues of Egypt – Golden Calf
- 185,000 Assyrians – back to rebellion and eventual captivity

Thus Zech 4:6 “not by might nor by power but by the way the Spirit works” and as we read in the earlier commentary, it is only through the power of the Holy Spirit we can defeat Satan. And the Spirit is the Spirit of love and truth. These are the weapons to be used. God cannot win with power and might, because it is not a battle over power and might. It is a battle over love and trust!

Read second and last paragraphs, “God called Abraham...” “Abraham was not...” thoughts? Then what was the purpose of Israel?

## WEDNESDAY

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Read first paragraph? “Though ancient law...” Was Israel's primary purpose to be stewards of God's true law? Or was their primary purpose something else, for which God's true law was necessary for them to have, understand, and apply?



I would suggest their primary purpose was to prepare a people for the advent of Jesus, and thus the law, diagnosing us as terminal, was important to let people know only through the coming Messiah would our condition be cured.

The second paragraph points out Israel was to be a kingdom of priests – what does this mean? What were they to do?

Are we a royal priesthood? What does it mean? What are we to do?

## **THURSDAY**

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Read third paragraph, “Unfortunately...” No question the Reformation was the beginning of returning to the truth about God, but what remnants of the infection remain?

The distortion of God’s law as imposed and the resultant distortion of God’s character and theology that it brings.

## **FRIDAY**

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Read second paragraph, “The theme of greatest...” thoughts?