



The Teachings of Jesus 3rd Q 2014

Lesson 11: The Sabbath

I received this letter this week:

Your ministry has been a great blessing to our family. We discovered Come and Reason Ministries during a web search and have watched all of the material which is available through streaming.

We are SDAs living in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Our church is small and shares a pastor with two other churches. We have three daughters in college. We have watched your lectures and Sabbath School lessons on Sabbath afternoons and during the week. We have experienced several "ah ha" moments as your presentations of the Gospel has brought into focus God's love and true character.

Our church has agreed to begin to show your lectures as vesper programs extending over several weeks. We believe that both the church members and community will be blessed. Thank you for your ministry.

Yesterday evening a friend on The Designer's Friends Down Under Facebook page posted this quote from Christ's Object Lessons:

The great storehouse of truth is the word of God—the written word, the book of nature, and the book of experience in God's dealing with human life. Here are the treasures from which Christ's workers are to draw. In the search after truth they are to depend upon God, not upon human intelligences, the great men whose wisdom is foolishness with God. Through His own appointed channels the Lord will impart a knowledge of Himself to every seeker. – {COL 125.2}

Amazing, finding quotes that support the method we are using is exciting.

SABBATH

Read memory text: "And He said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath'" (Mk 2:27,28 NKJV)

What does this text mean?

From my paraphrase:

MK 2:27 After a moment to let them think he said, "The Sabbath was created as a gift for humanity, to be a blessing for human beings. Human beings were not created as a gift for the Sabbath. 28 Understand this clearly, the Son of Man doesn't serve the Sabbath, it serves him.



Does the Sabbath serve Jesus? How? What is the purpose and function of the Sabbath?

Jesus was speaking to the Jews when He said the Sabbath was made for man, was the Sabbath, the earth even, made only for the benefit of man?

For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings. 1Cor 4:9

Is this earth a theater to the entire universe? Then does what happens here benefit intelligences beyond earth?

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Col 1:19,20

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,¹¹ according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Eph 3:10,11

Here is an historical SDA perspective:

By coming to dwell with us, **Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels.** He was the Word of God,--God's thought made audible. In His prayer for His disciples He says, "I have declared unto them Thy name,"--"merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,"--"that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them." **But not alone for His earthborn children was this revelation given. Our little world is the lesson book of the universe.** God's wonderful purpose of grace, the mystery of redeeming love, is the theme into which "angels desire to look," and it will be their study throughout endless ages. **Both the redeemed and the unfallen beings** will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song. It will be seen that **the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven; that the love which "seeketh not her own" has its source in the heart of God;** and that in the meek and lowly One is manifested the character of Him who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto. DA 19, 20

Was earth, and what has happened on earth only for humans? Or is there a larger reality being impacted by what is transpiring on earth?

What about the Sabbath? It was made for humankind to be sure – why? Why was it necessary? What benefit is there in the Sabbath? What is its purpose? How does the Sabbath serve God?



The Sabbath is a sign – a sign of what? Exodus tells us a sign that God makes us holy, but what does this mean?

If one holds to reformation theology, the ideas from some great men, but men who were burdened my millennia of tradition, then one struggles. Luther, a great man of God, who broke from tradition and gave the Bible to the people, but he only gave 62 books. He didn't find value in Revelation, Jude, Hebrews and James, and thus Luther didn't know about a controversy over God's character. Therefore, reformation theology tends to be legal, narrow, and misses the larger view of the war which began in heaven over God's trustworthiness. Some people operate in this narrow setting and present the Sabbath as an arbitrary test of obedience, and in so doing misrepresent God, misrepresent the Sabbath and support Satan's allegations against God.

But in the setting of the war between God and Satan, over God's character, government of love and methods of love, what does the Sabbath reveal?

It reveals God's character – that He doesn't use power to coerce, that He leaves us free. Thus, Sabbath observance is about the free exercise of our power of choice to acknowledge God and live in harmony with Him.

Remember the Sabbath because God created – what does this direct our minds toward?

What kind of law does the Creator use to create? It points us to design law, protocols upon which life is built, and away from imposed rules that created beings make. Thus the Sabbath is evidence that God doesn't make rules, He creates reality.

Why, in the end of time, does Sabbath and Sunday stand as signs of two opposing methodologies?

How did Sabbath come into existence? It was created as a day of rest. Thus, its purpose is to stop work, rest, reflect, relate, rejoice, celebrate, worship, adore, and value the Creator who built His universe to operate upon the law of love. Thus the Sabbath, the day God rested His case, and gave the universe freedom to consider for themselves, represents how the Creator rules – by truth, love, freedom and His laws are the design laws upon which life is built.

Sunday as a day of rest and worship, however, – was declared to be holy by an act of arbitrary power of human beings – thus Sunday represents how created beings rule, by imposed rules. A completely different type of rulership.

The Designer rules by love, and those who transgress His law are transgressing the protocols life is constructed to operate upon and thus are destroying themselves. Our God of love has been using every agency in His power to heal the deviant, in order to save, lest death ensue.



But the imposed law method teaches that God must inflict death upon the wicked, thus those who teach this idea about God – that justice require God to torture, punish and kill, regardless of which day they worship upon, are actually represented by Sunday the day of arbitrary power, not by Sabbath.

Conversely, for those who teach the truth about God, the Sabbath is a sign for them regardless of which day they *currently* worship upon. When governments begin enforcing worship upon pain of punishment, those who are like Jesus in character will not go along with such enforcement and will leave that style of worship and join with all those who honor God and His methods of truth, love and freedom

In C.S. Lewis' last book of the Narnia series Lewis describes a Calormene soldier named Emeth and his encounter with Aslan the lion. Emeth was a worshipper of Tash, and as a result was terrified when he came face to face with Aslan. This is that encounter from the book:

I fell at his feet and thought surely this is the hour of death, for the Lion will know that I have served Tash all my days and not him.

But Aslan's response?

Son thou art welcome. But I said, alas Lord I am no son of thine but the servant of Tash. He answered, Child all the service thou hast done to Tash I account as service done to me.

I questioned the Glorious One: Lord, is it then true that thou and Tash are one? The Lion growled and said, It is false. Not because he and I are one, but because we are opposites, I take to me the services which thou hast done to him. For I and he are of such different kinds that no service which is vile can be done to me, and none which is not vile can be done to him. Therefore if any man swear by Tash and keep his oath for the oath's sake, it is by me that he has truly sworn, though he know it not, and it is I who reward him. And if any man do a cruelty in my name, then, though he says the name Aslan, it is Tash whom he serves and by Tash his deed is accepted".

Emeth questions once more:

Lord, I have been seeking Tash all my days.

Beloved, said the Glorious One, unless thy desire had been for me thou shouldst not have sought so long and so truly. For all find what they truly seek.

Will this be true regarding the day of worship? Are those who worship on Sabbath, but represent God as Satan alleges servants of Satan, while those who worship on Sunday, but represent God rightly servants of Jesus Christ?

Is it ultimately about the Sabbath, or the Lord of the Sabbath?

Then how does the Sabbath serve Jesus?



Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy. Exodus 31:12,13

How does the Lord make us holy? Is there any part we have to play in that process? Do we have choices to make? Do our choices have any impact in our development?

Can God make someone holy while they choose to rebel against Him? Can a person make themselves holy by the power of their own choice separate from God?

- We are laborers together with God. This is the Lord's own wise arrangement. **The cooperation of the human will and endeavor with divine energy is the link that binds men up with one another and with God.** The apostle says, "We are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:9). **Man is to work with the facilities God has given him.** "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," He says. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12, 13).--MS 113, 1898. {2MCP 694.3}
- **There are two grand forces at work in the salvation of the human soul. It requires the cooperation of man with the divine agencies--** divine influences, and a strong, living, working faith. **It is in this way only** that the human agent can become a laborer together with God. **The Lord does not sanction in any one of us a blind, stupid credulity. [credulity - readiness/willingness to believe with little evidence]** **He does not dishonor the human understanding,** but, far from this, He calls for the human will to be brought into connection with the divine will. **He calls for the ingenuity of the human mind, the tact, the skill, to be strenuously exercised in searching out the truth as it is in Jesus. . . .** Ye are labourers together with God. {OHC 310.5}

Then, is there something, some type of choosing that is involved in our transformation? What?

It is in choosing to trust God, choosing to value what He values, choosing to say yes to what He reveals to us, choosing to apply to our lives what He convicts us of, choosing to spend time with Him, choosing to believe the evidence Jesus gave, choosing to study His word, choosing to say no to the lies of Satan. Why is this necessary?

Because God doesn't want robots programmed by Him, He wants free intelligent beings operating in harmony with Him, and *the only way to heal us and retain our individuality is with our freewill cooperation.*

This is what God wanted Adam and Eve to do in the beginning. In Eden, sinless as they were, they were capable of making choices in harmony with God in their own strength and developing perfect character. But, in our fallen state, we are not. Thus Jesus came to do this for us, and in a united



relationship with Him, (we don't make choices alone, we don't fight battles alone), we yoke up with Christ, and with the yoke of love, we experience not only wisdom but divine power to strengthen us to make those healthy choices.

But, back to Eden, this is why the Tree of Knowledge was placed there, to give Adam and Eve an opportunity to exercise their own freewill and develop character in harmony with God. This is from one of the founders of our church:

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 was the purpose of the Tree of Knowledge? Was it to trip them up, or provide a way for them to solidify their characters upon the law of love and loyalty to God?

What about the Sabbath – in the setting of the Great Controversy, with the Sabbath as evidence of God's methods, pointing us to His law of love, and being a sign that God makes us holy, is there a similar purpose that God knew we would need?

Does the Sabbath provide evidence of God's character of love, freedom, truth?

Does the Sabbath also provide us opportunity to choose to stop promoting self, to rest from all aspects of self-indulgence, whether seeking wealth (work for gain), whether pleasure seeking, or trying to save self by working hard to keep the rules, including the Sabbath? That we rest in trust in God and choose to set self aside in pursuit of God?

How does Satan corrupt the Sabbath and cheat us of this opportunity to experience genuine transformation and development of character in a love-yoked relationship with Jesus Christ?



By infecting our minds with imposed law constructs – regardless of which day.

If we worship on any day, including the Sabbath, but we worship a god who imposes rules to test us, and if we fail the test, then that god uses his power to punish and destroy, such obedience is coerced and is based on fear. This breeds the character of a rebel and we become people who would murder the Creator of the Sabbath and want Him off by sunset to keep the day. We become a people who make rules for behavior on Sabbath and then begin enforcing our rules on others, and then bring pressure to bear on those who don't follow our way of Sabbath keeping, we become judges and spies watching for breaks in the Sabbath rules and then gossip and malign those who are not behaving like us.

The effort to earn salvation by one's own works inevitably leads men to pile up human exactions as a barrier against sin. For, seeing that they fail to keep the law, they will devise rules and regulations of their own to force themselves to obey. **All this turns the mind away from God to self. His love dies out of the heart, and with it perishes love for his fellow men.** A system of human invention, with its multitudinous exactions, will lead its advocates to judge all who come short of the prescribed human standard. **The atmosphere of selfish and narrow criticism stifles the noble and generous emotions, and causes men to become self-centered judges and petty spies.** {MB 123.1}

Read second paragraph, “Today we are confronted...” What is the problem with resting on Sunday? Is there any problem? Do you find any instruction from God that says, “thou shall not rest on Sunday?” “Sunday shall not be used as a day to think about me, or meditate upon my creation, or sing hymns to me, or adore me or worship me.” Do we find this anywhere?

So what is the problem with worshipping God on Sunday? There is nothing wrong with worshipping on Sunday, or Wednesday night prayer meeting, or Thursday or Tuesday, the problem is failure to choose God and His methods of truth, love, freedom as represented by the Sabbath. The problem is in forgetting the Sabbath – Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy...

How do we do that? Is it really the Sabbath that is kept holy by our choices or is it ourselves that is kept holy?

What percentage of the world's population do you think observes the Bible Sabbath each week? 7 billion people, do you think 70 million people? That would be 1%, let's be generous and say 70 million people, that means 99% of the world is not observing the 7th day Sabbath – so does that mean the Sabbath is no longer holy? If these people are not “keeping” it holy is it no longer holy?

Of course not, the Sabbath is holy, it was created holy and we can do nothing to change that. Thus in keeping the Sabbath holy, we are not keeping the Sabbath holy, we are keeping ourselves holy.

We keep the day set apart, separate, distinct, and thus keep our minds set apart, separate distinct from the world of selfishness, separate from the lies of Satan. Rightly understood, the Sabbath safeguards us from the imperial dictator view of God, and we keep our minds focused on our God of love and His



methods. Thus, when one comprehends the meaning and purpose of the Sabbath, why it was created, one wants to participate in it, choosing to align oneself with the Creator God who uses such methods.

Here is the problem regarding days of worship, of which Sunday is a sign:

But when the decree shall go forth **enforcing** the counterfeit sabbath, **and** the loud cry of the third angel **shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image**, the line will be clearly drawn **between the false and the true**. **Then** those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.--Ev 234, 235 (1899). {LDE 225.4}

Notice it is not about Sunday, but the “enforcing” about the use of arbitrary power to coerce, in a setting in which God’s true character is made known, that one rejects the principles of God for the methods of coercion – this is beastly. This is Satan’s way.

Here is a historic view:

"Whereunto," asked Christ, "shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?" Mark 4:30. He could not employ the kingdoms of the world as a similitude. In society He found nothing with which to compare it. **Earthly kingdoms rule by the ascendancy of physical power; but from Christ's kingdom every carnal weapon, every instrument of coercion, is banished.** {AA 12.2}

God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; **but He did not do this. Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order.** His authority rests upon **goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power.** {DA 759.1}

What is the mark of the beast – not going to church on Sunday – but Sunday ENFORCEMENT or the enforcement of any other religious practice. Right now in the Middle East as Taliban and others gain political power they are enforcing religious practices on pain of death – this is beastly. This is the mark of the beast, even if they are enforcing Friday.

The quotation said, “But when the decree shall go forth **enforcing** the counterfeit sabbath, **and** the loud cry of the third angel **shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image**, the line will be clearly drawn **between the false and the true.**” When the line will be clearly seen between the false and the true what? Days of worship or what the days of worship are a sign or symbol of?

One of Satan’s strategies is to take God given signs, symbols, metaphors and have people focus on the symbols and lose sight of what the signs or symbols represent, thus darkening the mind.

Classic examples:



- cleansed by the blood – where the blood is seen as literal shed blood, rather than understood as a symbol of the perfect life of Christ, which the righteous internalize
- robe of righteousness – where it is thought to be an actual element that obscures the Father's ability to see us, instead of realizing it is the character of Christ reproduced in us
- And now Sabbath – a sign – Sunday a mark – of two methods, two laws. The law of God, which is the law of love, truth, liberty, the principles the Creator constructed life to operate upon – of which the Sabbath is a sign - is contrasted, at war with, arbitrary power, imposed rules by an enforcing authority of which Sunday is a sign in certain circles, but others Friday enforcement is a sign.

Consider these statements:

Why are men not interested to know what constitutes the mark of the beast? Exodus 31:12-17. The Sabbath question will be the issue in the great conflict in which all the world will act a part. [How does the entire world act a part? Will Muslims give up Friday and start worshipping on Sunday? What about agnostics and atheists? Or, is it these two days stand as signs of something more, and everyone will choose one or the other of two methods, of which these days stand as symbols?] Revelation 13:4-17. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 3}

"Christ died to save sinners, not in their sins, but from their sins. [Imposed law constructs all teach that we are saved in our sins, from the legal penalty, but not saved from our sins, that we continue live sinfully until Christ returns. The truth is that God actually transforms us here and now and we stop living for self, and live loving God and others more than self] The warning given in Revelation shows us the terrible consequence of transgression. By lips that will not lie, God's law is declared to be holy, just, and good. **Our duty to obey this law is to be the burden of the last message of mercy to the world.¹ God's law is not a new thing. It is not holiness created, but holiness made known. It is a code of principles expressing mercy, goodness, and love. It presents to fallen humanity the character of God, and states plainly the whole duty of man.** {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 4}

"'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.' This command contains the principles of the first four precepts. And 'thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Upon these two great principles, the Word of God declares, hang all the law and the prophets. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 5}

"These **principles** are made known by the third angel's message, which declares that **the Creator has always required and always will require obedience to his royal law.** [Why

¹ It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth... The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them. {COL 415}



does the Creator require obedience? Why does the Creator require we breathe? Because that is how life is built to operate. Remember the law is not holiness created but holiness made known. The commandments did not impose a law, but made the law known] But this law has been disregarded and transgressed, and is now being ignored by the churches. **Human enactments are placed where God's law should be.** Sunday, a child of the Papacy, has taken the place of God's holy Sabbath. As Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image, and set it up to be worshiped by all, so Sunday is placed before the people to be regarded as sacred. This day bears not a vestige of sanctity, yet it is held up to be honored by all. {RH, April 27, 1911 par. 6}

So what is the problem in which day of worship? The laws that they symbolize – this means a person worshipping on the seventh-day Sabbath of the Bible, but teaching that it is an imposed law by God to test our obedience and that God uses coercive pressure and will inflict punishment upon the wicked in the end, is receiving the mark of the beast, even though they have the right day. This is evidenced by the Jews in Christ's day.

Here is a quote from more than 100 years ago, how one of the founders of our church thought of it:

The time has come for the true light to shine amid moral darkness. The third angel's message has been sent forth to the world, **warning men against receiving the mark of the beast or of his image in their foreheads or in their hands. To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the word of God.** {RH, July 13, 1897 par. 5}

FRIDAY

"Wherefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." These words are full of instruction and comfort. Because the Sabbath was made for man, it is the Lord's day. It belongs to Christ. For "all things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made." John 1:3. Since He made all things, He made the Sabbath. **By Him it was set apart as a memorial of the work of creation. It points to Him as both the Creator and the Sanctifier.** It declares that He who created all things in heaven and in earth, and by whom all things hold together, is the head of the church, and that by His power we are reconciled to God. For, speaking of Israel, He said, "I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them,"--make them holy. Ezekiel 20:12. **Then the Sabbath is a sign of Christ's power to make us holy. And it is given to all whom Christ makes holy. As a sign of His sanctifying power, the Sabbath is given to all who through Christ become a part of the Israel of God.** {DA 288.2}

It is a sign of those who choose to participate in God's methods of truth, love and freedom, because it is evidence of God's methods, created by God for this very purpose, and by choosing to rest in God,



by choosing to stop self-indulgence, trusting God, we yoke up with Him to experience transformation of character to be like Him.

Can a person do this on Sunday – yes until the time that “enforcement” of Sunday takes place, then one can no longer, because such methods are contrary to God’s character of love and those who are like Jesus will say no to arbitrary enforcement of manmade rules.

SUNDAY

Read third paragraph, “The same God...” Did Adam and Eve before sin have a need for physical rest?

Well if it was anything like the new earth, perhaps not:

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Rev 22:3-5

Doesn’t sound like we will have the same biorhythms in a world bathed totally in God’s life giving glory.

Now God did cause a deep sleep to come upon Adam, but it wasn't on Sabbath, it was on Friday and Eve came of that experience.

Was there a different rest that the Sabbath was created to provide for humans, as a protection, that the angels had not needed?

What abilities did Adam and Eve possess that angels did not? Procreation and authority to rule other living beings – the animals and the planet earth. Could this lead one to believe they were more than created beings? Thus the Sabbath, ever week, entering into rest with God, acknowledging Him as Creator, and self as a created being, and all one’s abilities as stemming from God would be a protection against pride, arrogance, self-exaltation. What a blessing the Sabbath provides.

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, “Deuteronomy...” Why were such specific instructions written at all? Because the law of love was not written in the heart.

Imagine you had a field, and your son lived nearby and had his own fields. When your son came to visit would you be concerned at all if he pulled some heads of grain from your field to eat – or would you be glad to let him, because you love him and want to share what you have with him. And your son, who loves you, would he come with a sickle to steal your harvest? Of course not.



These types of instructions were written for selfish people who would begrudge someone picking some heads of grain as they walked by, and others who would not plant their own fields, but come in and steal someone else's harvest.

But the Pharisees in Christ's day also operated with selfish hearts and didn't love, thus they viewed the rules as something to be enforced and missed the entire purpose of the need God had in giving the rules in the first place.

So Christ takes them to Scripture and recounts how David at the showbread, which was only for the priests –why? Because preserving his life was more important than a symbolic act.

Read last paragraph, "After citing..." What about the last sentence, "Therefore, He alone had the authority to free the Sabbath from these man-made laws."

That doesn't make sense to me – if they are man-made laws, then doesn't any man, who loves God and embraces the truth have the authority to free the Sabbath from these rules?

TUESDAY

First paragraph states, "The word Luke uses in verse 16, *custom*, comes from a Greek word related to habits constant in time and practice. In other words, Jesus regularly attended the synagogue every Sabbath that he could."

I agree – and my personal view is it was because Jesus was the creator of the Sabbath, understood its purpose and meaning and enjoyed all the methods and principles of God for which the Sabbath was created to reveal and loved this day of the week which says so many good things about God.

But be prepared for the critics to say – of course He did, He was trying to reach the Jews and where were they on Sabbath, and what kind of influence would He have had had He not gone to synagogue on Sabbath?

So, while it is true that it was His habit, and my belief is because of the highest motives, this particular argument isn't necessarily persuasive regarding the value and validity of the Sabbath.

WEDNESDAY

Miracles on the Sabbath – why did Jesus heal chronic conditions on the Sabbath?

What laws are in operation in healing? Design law, laws of health, and the principle of giving, as "virtue" goes out from God and flows into the sick to heal and transform, the law of love in action. This is exactly what the Sabbath was created to reveal.



But, the Jews had burdened the Sabbath with manmade regulations and rules and made it appear as an arbitrary day of imposed behavioral conformity. Thus the Sabbath, created as the greatest evidence and experience of freedom, the devil turned to the day of greatest restriction and enslavement.

Do we struggle with this today? What is the root problem? Accepting the lie about God's law being imposed.

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, "Many Christians..." In my experience most Christians don't go to church on Sunday for any theological reason – they do so primarily out of habit, routine, consensus of family and friends and lifestyle is built around that.

When pressed they will recite a number of theological reasons, but in my experience those are not the motivating reason – the motivating reason is comfort, convenience, routine, habit.

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions 2,4,5,6

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Distribution: Our materials now are available in South Africa. To request materials in South Africa email comeandreason.sa@gmail.com Thanks to Samuel Jacobs who manages distribution for us. And in Australia or New Zealand email australia@comeandreason.com and Thanks to Simon Harrison who manages our ministry down under. Dr. Jennings will be going back to Australia/New Zealand spring 2015. If you are interested in Dr. Jennings speaking at your group please contact Simon at this email address.

Sep 27: Class Potluck Picnic 1:00 P.M. – At the Pavilion at Student Park in Collegedale. Plates, eating utensils, napkins and drinks will be provided, please bring food, friends, and lawn chair. Many of our class have responsibilities at local churches and don't often make it to class, but don't let that keep you away from the potluck – We want to see you!

Oct 2-4: Dr. Jennings will be at the American Association of Christian Counselors National Convention in Branson, MO. He and Dr. Curt Thomson, will be conducting a 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 10,11: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Vallejo SDA church in Glendale, CA.

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

Sunday 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. (Dr. Jennings will be teaching his class Saturday November 15)