

Proverbs 1Q 2015 Lesson 9

Words of Truth

SABBATH

Read first two paragraphs, “Some of this week’s...” Were the truths not divine revelations until Solomon wrote them? If the same truth were written by an Egyptian philosopher would it be less divinely inspired?

Here is what one founder of the SDA church wrote:

The wise men from the East were **philosophers**. They belonged to a large and influential class that included men of noble birth, and comprised much of the wealth and learning of their nation. Among these were many who imposed on the credulity of the people. Others were upright men who studied the **indications of Providence in nature**, and who were honored for their integrity and wisdom. Of this character were the wise men who came to Jesus.

The light of God is ever shining amid the darkness of heathenism. As these magi studied the starry heavens, and sought to fathom the mystery hidden in their bright paths, **they beheld the glory of the Creator.** Seeking clearer knowledge, **they turned to the Hebrew Scriptures.** In their own land **were treasured prophetic writings that predicted the coming of a divine teacher.** Balaam belonged to the magicians, though at one time a prophet of God; by the Holy Spirit he had foretold the prosperity of Israel and the appearing of the Messiah; and **his prophecies had been handed down by tradition from century to century.** But in the Old Testament the Saviour's advent was more clearly revealed. The magi learned with joy that His coming was near, and that the whole world was to be filled with a knowledge of the glory of the Lord. {DA 59.3}

Is truth less inspired if it comes from a non-Christian source?

One of the criticisms of some of the immature in Christ, is to criticize the source, rather than look at the message itself.

Some time ago, when I first became familiar with Kohlberg and his six levels of moral development and presented them, one of the legally minded critics of ours argued that I was using human philosophers rather than inspired sources.

Do, you see the foolishness of such arguments? If it is truth, then it is inspired for all truth comes from God. But people argue this as a way of devaluing and ignoring the truth and rejecting something that doesn't fit with their view of things.

I have seen this same method done with Ellen White, someone is concerned she plagiarized something – so they don't want to read her writings. Misses the entire point – I give them this analogy:

Imagine your wife had cancer, an oncologist published a new treatment in the Archives of Internal Medicine, which works, and puts the cancer into remission for all who take it. But, you discover he plagiarized, i.e. copied his research from someone else, would you then not provide the treatment for your wife?

The question isn't whether something was plagiarized but whether it is true!

Likewise, if you are talking to non-SDAs regarding EGWs writings, and they ask if they are inspired, what do you say? This is my response:

Isn't it true that spiritual things are spiritually discerned? And that the carnal mind cannot understand spiritual truth without the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit? Then to the degree any human writes spiritual truth, whether Billy Graham, Max Lucado, Martin Luther or Ellen White, they are only able to do so because that truth was revealed to them by the Holy Spirit. Don't get distracted arguing whether she was inspired or not, instead focus on what she wrote and decide if it contains truth or not.

Have you developed the ability to recognize truth without someone else telling you that it is true?

Can you recognize Bible truths without an Ellen White statement that supports it?

- All truth, whether in nature or in revelation, is consistent with itself in all its manifestations. {CE 193.3}
- In the pursuit of knowledge, he is searching for truth; and all truth comes from God, the source of truth. {CE 246.1}

When we think of the levels of moral decision-making, what level does one have to achieve to discern what is true?

Level five is the minimal level – level four and below are what Paul describes as immature, those who are not acquainted with righteousness and haven't developed the ability to discern the right from the wrong.

Level five loves others more than self and determines what is true and right by whether it helps others, is healing, is in their eternal best interest.

Level four, is much more preoccupied with factual correctness, defined doctrines, creeds, fundamental beliefs, correct rituals, precise definitions, agreement in cognitive understanding and behavioral conformity. Even if it hurts others to achieve it.

Just look at the Reformation and how people were willing to burn people at the stake because they believed differently about sacred relics, or the role of the church, or the validity of the Pope as vicar of Christ etc. The immature must enforce adherence to a way of thinking rather than promoting freedom of conscience.

Why did persecution of people who believe differently stop? Was it because the religious people matured and granted freedom, or the states stepped in and stopped the religious from having control of political power?

What is happening with some segments of Islam today? Where Islam gains control of governments what transpires? Why? Would Christians do better?

What about today, do some struggle with the ability to discern truth for themselves today? What kind of law would be recognizable as truth to all people, whether believers and non-believers?

Design law – examples?

SUNDAY

What do you think of the title, the knowledge of truth? Is there a difference between knowing something or someone and knowing about something or someone? What is the difference?

So what is the knowledge of truth? It is not mere awareness, but experience with the truth.

What do you think about this description of knowledge and education?

"The **highest education** includes the knowledge of the word of God, and is comprehended in the words of Christ, "That **they might know thee, the only true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

The **highest class of education is that which will give such knowledge** and discipline as will lead to the best **development of character**, and will fit the soul for that life which measures with the life of God... The **highest education** will be that which will teach our children and youth, our teachers and educators, **the science of Christianity**, that will give them an **experimental knowledge of God's ways**, impart to them the lessons which Christ gave to his disciples of the paternal character of God. {RH, April 28, 1896}

What does this mean? It means God is Creator and His laws are the design parameters of life, which are scientific, have cause and effect, and can be tested. And we are to move past superstitious beliefs, to scientific ones in regard to our understanding of God, His character of love, the nature of sin, and how sin deviates from design and damages the deviant and how God's method heal.

What do you think of this quote – quite profound?

Experience is said to be the best teacher. **Genuine experience** is indeed superior to mere **theoretical knowledge**, but many have an erroneous idea as to what constitutes experience. **Real**

experience is gained by a variety of **careful experiments**, made with the mind free from prejudice, uncontrolled by previously established opinions and habits. The results are marked with careful solicitude, and an **anxious desire to learn, to improve**, and to reform on every point that is not in harmony with **physical and moral laws**.

That which many term experience is **not experience at all**; it has resulted from mere habit, or from a course of indulgence, thoughtlessly and often ignorantly followed. There has not been a **fair trial by actual experiment and thorough investigation, with a knowledge of the principles involved in the action**. Experience which is opposed to **natural law, -- which is in conflict with the unchangeable principles of nature, -- is not to be relied upon**. **Superstition arising from a diseased imagination is often arrayed in opposition to reason and to scientific principles**. To many a person, the idea that others may gainsay what he has learned by experience, seems folly, and even cruelty itself. But there are more errors received and held through false ideas of experience than from any other cause. There are many invalids today who will ever remain such because they cannot be convinced that their experience is not to be relied upon. {BEcho, December 19, 1904}

Is God's law natural – the unchangeable principles of nature? What is superstition?

- Superstition is believing that if you break a mirror you have 7 years bad luck, or walk under a ladder you have bad luck, or see a black cat you have bad luck...
- Superstition is believing if you eat food offered to an idol you are under the power of the idol
- Superstition is believing if you stop and get gas in your car on Sabbath you are under Satan's power
- Superstition is believing if you go to a movie theater God's angels wait at the door
- Superstition is living in violation of God's law, i.e. design for life, and then praying for deliverance from the consequences. Smoking a pack a day and praying for healthy lungs, cheating on your spouse and praying for a happy marriage.
- Superstition is believing if you name something you have power over it
- Superstition is believing that only the King James Bible contains truth
- Superstition is believing rituals have power and must be done in the right way, or the right geographic location
- Superstition is believing one is in legal trouble with God and God requires a legal payment not to kill you
- Superstition is believing anything that requires you not to think, to shut down reasoning and to believe things that are not consistent with the evidences God has provided

What is true knowledge? It is not theoretical, cognitive, but experiential. Sadly, many Christians rest satisfied on theoretical knowledge of a superstitious nature and thus have no power and live in fear and insecurity.

With this in mind read fifth paragraph, "2. conviction..." What do you think of this definition of faith?

It is a false definition that misleads. It leads to superstition and belief in incredulous things.

Faith by definition is NOT the belief in things we don't understand, but trust in someone we know without doubt is trustworthy. Our faith is in God, not in the knowledge of the universe. And while there may be facts we don't understand, our faith is not in the facts, or the outcomes of things, but in the One who has given His life for us.

Therefore, our faith is never blind, never ignorant, never without evidence, never in something we don't understand, because God has revealed Himself to us and provided the supreme evidence of His trustworthiness.

This idea of faith in something without evidence, is one of Satan's deceptions to get people not to think and thus make them vulnerable to believe anything, and if a false believe they currently cherish is questioned, they are conditioned to fear that questioning is a lack of faith, so they continue to hold to false ideas.

But God says, "Come let us reason together..."

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, "Though it's always..." What do you hear as the reason stealing is wrong? Because God sees them and God has special concern for the helpless, i.e. because some external authority is overseeing the enforcement of law and will one day punish?

Read next sentence, "Indeed, Proverbs 22:23 implies that even if the thief gets away with no human punishment, God will repay."

At what level of maturity is this operating? Level four and below.

It is true that stealing is wrong – but why? What does it do to the thief? It sears the conscience, damages the reason, warps the character, inflames selfishness and ultimately destroys.

So how does God repay? What method does He use?

What law lens do you see this through?

Who created reality? Whose law does the fabric of the cosmos operate upon? What happens when one deviates from the design for life?

So, how does God repay? By removing His restraining hand and allowing people to reap what they have chosen.

Read third paragraph, "So, this warning..." What is suggested as the reason to be discouraged from stealing? There is an accounting and one day you will get punished for doing wrong.

What is the problem with this theology and reasoning? First, to what motive does it appeal? Selfishness, protecting self, avoiding punishment – therefore, is it appealing to a converted or unconverted heart?

This is language spoken to children, immature, infants, who according to Heb 5 are not righteous – this is what Paul says in 1 Timothy that the law was not given for the righteous but for the wicked... People whose hearts are selfish, whose minds are immature, do require being approached in this way, however, this is merely to bring them to a point of realizing what is wrong and showing them their helpless state.

So, first problem is it appeals to selfish motives what is another problem?

To obey for this reason actually creates rebels against God. People either become hard-hearted Pharisees who become petty spies and judges, seeking to behaviorally monitor and police others in their religious organization, or they reject God and leave the church.

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}

First it appeals to selfishness, second in incites rebellion and what is another problem with this type of theology?

It misrepresents God and His law as dictator like – God’s law becomes like created beings make, and God is represented as an enforcer, the source of pain, suffering and death. Thus, ultimately this theological approach undermines trust in God, obstructs the work of the Holy Spirit and keeps people trapped in religious cycles of abuse and violence – thus we have what Paul warned the end of time would be like:

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. 2Tim 3:1-5

Such presentations misrepresent God as being no better than fallen beings, creating rules and enforcing those rules. His law is not the law of life, but a list of rules that require coercive enforcement. This is the essence of the beast.

In Bible imagery beasts represent earthly governments – and earthly governments reign by imposed laws and coercive enforcement. The mark of their power and authority is the ability to coerce and control through external threat and punishment. It is beastly to behave this way.

Thus those who receive the mark of the beast in the forehead are those who actually believe God is like this, a cosmic enforcer, authoritarian god who imposes external punishments. And those who receive the mark in their hand are those who practice the methods of coercing other's consciences. It is beastly to do so.

The specific doctrine is irrelevant – whether it is day of worship, form of baptism, method of communion, matters not, it is the method of coercing others to conform, the violation of God's law of love and liberty that makes it beastly.

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. Desire of Ages 759

God could have destroyed Satan and all his sympathizers as easily as one can pick up a pebble and cast it to the earth. But by so doing he would have given a precedent for the exercise of force. **All the compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order.** He would not work on this line... **This principle is wholly of Satan's creation.** Review & Herald, September 7, 1897

What is compelling power? So what of the teaching that God will use power to torture and kill people who disobey – is that freedom or compelling power? It is the way human governments operate, and thus is beastly and we must stop presenting God as a beast!

TUESDAY

Title “Being Jealous of the Wicked” and the lesson asks, “Why would someone envy the wicked?” The lesson suggests it is because of the immediate gain or reward, thoughts?

I would like to suggest it is because of the *perceived* reward, which is based on failure to understand God's law and the nature of sin.

When one operates level four and below, and conceives of God's law as imposed, like human law without inherent consequence, then one falsely believes if one can break the law without getting caught one gets an

advantage.

A patient of mine came in one time very upset because of a situation at work. My patient was the secretary for a VP at her work, and across the hall was another secretary for another VP. Their work responsibilities did not overlap, so if one of the secretaries didn't do something it did not put more work on the other.

However, my patient was distraught because the other secretary would spend much of her day reading novels, doing her nails, talking to friends on the phone, playing games on the computer, while my patient worked all day at her job. The longer this went on the more my patient got angry, irritated and resentful to the point it was interfering with her sleep, she ruminated about it constantly. It just wasn't fair in her mind.

What was the problem for my patient? It was not understanding reality and how it works, but conceiving of reality through human law. She thought as long as the lady wasn't getting caught she was getting away with it and thus getting a better deal than herself, or stated another way, it was making my patient feel like she was being mistreated or taken advantage of.

So, I asked my patient, "If you agreed to wash my car for \$100 and I gave you the \$100 but you never washed my car, how would you feel?" She said, "I would feel guilty and ashamed." "Would you have as much peace, personal integrity, confidence, and satisfaction with yourself?" She said no.

Then I asked her, "So what if you agree to work for someone take their pay, but don't do the job?" She paused and thought and then realized, the other secretary wasn't getting a better deal, she was damaging her character, searing her conscience, warping her mind!

This is how reality works – we cannot be well or get well outside of God's design for life. There is never a reason to be envious of the wicked if we understand reality.

But, again it comes back to how do you understand God's law and character?

In the third paragraph the lesson states, "the temptation of sin is that its reward is immediate..." Thoughts?

This is often true, but not always true. Sometimes people plot vengeance that takes years to realize. The 9/11/2001 attacks on this country, took years of plotting and planning to carry out and achieve. Many other examples could be given. But it is true, that much sin brings an immediate gratification.

WEDNESDAY

The title for the day is "What We Put in Our Mouths" and the first sentence says, "It is no accident that the first human temptation concerned food."

When I read this I laughed, because it is implying that the temptation regarding food was somehow calculated by the enemy, i.e. it wasn't an accident. Well it is true it wasn't an accident – but why?

If God had said, regarding a small beautiful pond, “All the bodies of water upon the earth you may swim in, except this pond. In the day you swim in this pond you will surely die.” what then would they have been tempted upon?

The reason the temptation focused on what they ate, is because God set up the issue that way, not because the devil saw some weakness in their appetite he sought to take advantage of. They had no weakness in desire, lust, passion, appetite. It wasn't about appetite, it was about trust in God!

The second sentence states, “It was being disobedient and eating of the wrong thing that brought sin and death into the world.” Thoughts?

This is only a partial truth – and misleads focusing again on imposed law constructs and behavioral approach to right and wrong.

Consider this view from one of the founders of the SDA church:

“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...” Review & Herald 1/9/1886

What was it that changed them – eating the fruit, or believing lies about God?

Remember that cascade of destructive events:

- 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
- acts of sin result in damage to mind, body, character

The act of taking the fruit was the results of believing lies and broken trust with the change of heart motive of love to fear and selfishness. Thus, the sin was in the change of heart to distrust God and was manifested in acting for self by taking the fruit. There was nothing wrong with the fruit; there was something wrong with believing lies about God, distrusting Him and then acting selfishly.

People at level four development and below, want to focus on behavior, rather than love for God and His design for life.

Read second and third paragraph, “Who hasn't seen...” No doubt alcohol in society has caused untold pain, suffering and deaths.

- Average age of first drink is 12
- 20% of teens 12-20 are binge drinkers
- Adolescent drinkers scored worse than non-users on vocabulary, general information, memory,

- memory retrieval and at least three other tests
- Perform worse in school, are more likely to fall behind and have an increased risk of social problems, depression, suicidal thoughts and violence
- Alcohol affects the sleep cycle, resulting in impaired learning and memory as well as disrupted release of hormones necessary for growth and maturation
- Alcohol use increases risk of stroke among young drinkers
- <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/no-index/physician-resources/9416.shtml>
- **Adults (ages 18+):** Approximately 17 million adults ages 18 and older (7.2 percent of this age group) had an alcohol use disorder (AUD) in 2012. This includes 11.2 million men (9.9 percent of men in this age group) and 5.7 million women (4.6 percent of women in this age group).³
 - About 1.4 million adults received treatment for an AUD at a specialized facility in 2012 (8.4 percent of adults in need). This included 416,000 women (7.3 percent of women in need) and 1.0 million men (8.9 percent of men in need).
- **Youth (ages 12–17):** In 2012, an estimated 855,000 adolescents ages 12–17 (3.4 percent of this age group) had an AUD. This number includes 444,000 females (3.6 percent) and 411,000 males (3.2 percent).
 - An estimated 76,000 adolescents received treatment for an AUD at a specialized facility in 2012 (8.9 percent of adolescents in need). This included 28,000 females (6.3 percent of adolescent females in need) and 48,000 males (11.7 percent of adolescent males in need).

Alcohol-Related

Deaths:

- Nearly 88,000 people (approximately 62,000 men and 26,000 women) die from alcohol related causes annually, making it the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States.
- In 2012, alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities accounted for 10,322 deaths (31 percent of overall driving fatalities).
<http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/alcohol-health/overview-alcohol-consumption/alcohol-facts-and-statistics>

Was it possible, in Bible times, without refrigeration, to consistently store juices without it either turning to wine or vinegar?

What do you make of 1Tim 3:8:

- In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, (NIV)
- Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, ESV
- Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, KJV
- Church stewards must also be honorable people, dedicated, responsible with mature character, not drunkards, *The Remedy*

Or 1Tim 5:23:

- Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses. NIV
- (No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.) ESV
- Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities. KJV
- As you travel, don't be so insistent on water only; impure water may be causing many of your digestive problems. Drink a little wine, as the wine will often kill the contaminants and reduce your risk of sickness. *The Remedy*

What is the Bible position on alcohol consumption and why?

There is no doubt that alcohol is dangerous and contributes to much pain and suffering – does that mean alcohol use is always sin?

What is the antidote for overdose with antifreeze? If your teenager tried to commit suicide by drinking antifreeze what would you do?

The antidotes for ethylene glycol poisoning are ethanol and fomepizole. This antidotal treatment forms the mainstay of management of ethylene glycol poisoning. The toxicity of ethylene glycol comes from its metabolism to glycolic acid and oxalic acid. The goal of pharmacotherapy is to prevent the formation of these metabolites. Ethanol acts by competing with ethylene glycol for alcohol dehydrogenase, the first enzyme in the degradation pathway. Because ethanol has a much higher affinity for alcohol dehydrogenase, about a 100-times greater affinity, it successfully blocks the breakdown of ethylene glycol into glycoaldehyde, which prevents the further degradation. Without oxalic acid formation, the nephrotoxic effects can be avoided, but the ethylene glycol is still present in the body. It is eventually excreted in the urine, but supportive therapy for the CNS depression and metabolic acidosis will be required until the ethylene glycol concentrations fall below toxic limits. Pharmaceutical grade ethanol is usually given intravenously as a 5 or 10% solution in 5% dextrose but it is also sometimes given orally in the form of a strong spirit such as whisky, vodka, or gin. Brent, J. (2001). "Current management of ethylene glycol poisoning". *Drugs* **61** (7): 979–88. doi:10.2165/00003495-200161070-00006. ISSN 0012-6667. PMID 11434452.

How many have ever had cough syrup prescribed by a doctor? Most have alcohol in them. If anyone has taken liquid Nyquil, you have had alcohol.

So, what is the Bible principle? It is in operating in harmony with God's design to promote what is healthiest for the body, including the brain. If one has an illness of some kind, which is damaging the body, and alcohol can cure that illness, then as long as the cure isn't worse than the illness it is in harmony with God's plan to use the cure, as in the case of antifreeze poisoning.

Why does the liver have enzymes to break down alcohol? Because our own GI systems produce alcohol as

products of digestion, and the liver is designed to break it down before it reaches the brain. Intoxication occurs when enough alcohol makes it through the liver to the brain to alter brain function.

The Bible's injunction is against drunkenness, and any activity which undermines health and brain function.

Level 1-4 thinking wants to make rules, no alcohol ever, or all alcohol is sin. Level 5-7 understand God's design for life and realize we don't purposely do things that deviate from the design and injure, but realize also that sometimes in this world of sin a substance like alcohol can actual heal a person and save their lives and thus it is within God's design and plan to use in such circumstance.

THURSDAY

Read dark section at the top, "When I say..."

Read next two paragraphs, "Years ago..." How do you understand it? Consider which law lens one views this through.

Level 1-4 thinking, viewing it through the lens of imposed laws, thinks God has some judicial proceeding in which He determines your guilt or innocence for failing to act and then puts on you a proper punishment for failing to act.

Level 5-7 understand reality doesn't actually work this way – so how is it that God requires their blood at our hands?

It is via our restoration to love – consider the story of the woman being attacked, you looked out your window and did nothing and she was killed, and later you discovered it was your wife, mother, daughter, girlfriend – you could have acted to save them, but you didn't – now what do you experience?

This is what the saved will experience when they are restored to love and didn't share the life saving message of Jesus with other – they will grieve, hurt, and anguish at themselves because they lost someone they loved, and realize it might not have been that way had they acted in love for the other person.

Read third paragraph, "The law of Moses..." How do you understand this? Which law lens?

Level 1-4, seeing life through an earthly legal mindset again falsely concludes God, in some tribunal, holds one legally accountable and puts a punishment upon them.

But levels 5-7 realize the nature of sin, it is deviation from how life is built and results in pain and suffering and death, and is contagious, spreads to others if it is not checked, thus they report it as a way, NOT to seek retribution, but to stop the spread of a deadly disease, to quarantine people who need to be stopped from spreading sin sickness.

Imagine how you would feel if you knew someone was actively infected with Ebola and you said nothing, knowing they were going to the subway, to get on a plane to fly to NY? And then a plague spreads – would you bear any responsibility? Why?

This is why we warn those involved in sinful activity and those who are able to intervene with those involved.

This is also why the intervention is like a kiss on the lips, an act of love to save.

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, “Souls around us...” What is more than a Sabbath religion? Why do we need more than that?

What is a Sabbath religion? Is it level 1-4, keeping the law, but not loving people, not understanding God’s design?

Read and discuss questions 2 and 3



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

The God-Shaped Church: Preparing People to Meet Jesus Seminar by Dr. Jennings

Please help us fill the church as we will be recording a new DVD set

When: March 21, 2015 2-5:30 p.m.

Where: Hamilton Community Church at 7997 Shallowford Road Chattanooga

Schedule:

2:00-3:00 Growing Up in Christ: The 7 Levels of Moral Decision Making

How do you determine what is right and wrong (moral decision-making)? Do you look to a higher authority – parent, teacher, political leader, pastor, priest, or deity to tell you? Do you look for consensus amongst peers, or perhaps a code of rules or system of established laws? Or do you have another standard? In this lecture we will examine seven levels of moral decision-making identifying a progression from more childlike perspectives to maturity.

3:00-3:15 Break

3:15-4:15 Becoming a Spokesperson for God: Telling the Story of the Cosmic Conflict from Beginning to End

Are you able to present a cohesive story of the conflict between Christ and Satan from the opening of the conflict in heaven? How Satan duped innocent angels, God's response, the spread of sin to planet earth, God's actions in human history and the back and forth battle between Christ and Satan throughout human history, culminating in our present circumstance? In this lecture Dr. Jennings presents a compelling case demonstrating that every action of God's has been redemptive and therapeutic designed to counter some attack of Satan's in order to save and heal humanity.

4:15-4:30 Break

4:30-5:30 Answering Tough Bible Questions

Have you ever struggled with tough Bible questions? Dr. Jennings will provide compelling and convincing answers that make sense and reveal a beautiful and gracious Creator God to the following questions:

- Why curse the ground?
- Why man to rule over woman?
- Why God killed people in the Old Testament
- Why raise the wicked only to torture and kill them again?
- What is the truth about hell?
- What is the seal of God and the Mark of the Beast?
- Homosexuality in a Christian world

Opportunity to Share:

The General Conference of SDA will have its meeting (which occurs every five years) in San Antonio Texas, July 1-12, 2015. 50,000-70,000 Adventist from all over the world are expected to attend. This presents an opportunity to share this healing message about God in a most impactful way.

We plan on giving away our DVDs, Dr. Jennings' Book *Could It Be This Simple?* and other materials. This will be an enormous project. If you would like to share in this opportunity, you can do so by making donations to *Come and Reason Ministries* either via Paypal, or check mailed to our address below.

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- Hand out the *The Journal of the Watcher* postcards (email us a mailing address and we will ship them to you at to cost, they come in packs of 100)

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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.

February 21, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be presenting the God and Your Brain Seminar at Shilo Inn. 3223 Bret Clodfelter Way, The Dalles, Oregon. For more info for this free conference contact Joyce Browne at 541-300-0111.

March 13-14, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in NYC at the Advent Hope Outreach Health Event.

March 21, 2015: NEW EVENT: The God-Shaped Church: Preparing People to Meet Jesus Seminar at Hamilton Community Church, Chattanooga, TN.

March 27-28, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the University of Tennessee Health Science, Psychiatry and Family Medicine Conference in Memphis, TN.

April 10-11, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Yuba City, SDA Church, Yuba City, CA.

April 13, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the meeting of Adventist Health Systems West, Sacramento, CA.

April 13, 2015 (7 p.m.): Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Carmichael SDA church in Sacramento, CA.

April 23, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Faith and Mental Health Board in Goshen Indiana.

May 1-2 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Springwood SDA Church Brisbane, Australia.

May 3, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at St Andrews Anglican Church Lutwyche, Australia.

May 5-9, 2015: Dr. Jennings will speak in Australia specific venues pending for these dates

May 11-12, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Peer Psychology Group Seminar, Melbourne, Australia, For info contact Tamara Auora-McCulloch at ladytamara.amcc@gmail.com

May 15, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Avondale College, Cooranbong, NSW, Australia.

May 16, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be doing an all day seminar at Maitland SDA Church, Australia

May 17-20, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking to the Adventist Education Department, Auckland, New Zealand.

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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.**