



## Biblical Missionaries 3Q 2015 Lesson 11

### Paul: Background and Call

#### SABBATH

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Before we get started I wanted to thank Cami Hilton for finding the quotation I asked about last week, she texted it to me before class was over.

We have united in earnest prayer around the sickbed of men, women, and children, and have felt that they were given back to us from the dead in answer to our earnest prayers. In these prayers we thought we must be positive, and if we exercised faith, that we must ask for nothing less than life. We dared not say, “If it will glorify God,” fearing it would admit a semblance of doubt. We have anxiously watched those who have been given back, as it were, from the dead. We have seen some of these, especially youth, raised to health, and they have forgotten God, become dissolute in life, causing sorrow and anguish to parents and friends, and have become a shame to those who feared to pray. They lived not to honor and glorify God, but to curse Him with their lives of vice. {Pr 233.1}

We no longer mark out a way, nor seek to bring the Lord to our wishes. If the life of the sick can glorify Him, we pray that they may live, nevertheless, not as we will but as He will. Our faith can be just as firm, and more reliable, by committing the desire to the all-wise God and, without feverish anxiety, in perfect confidence trusting all to Him. We have the promise. We know that He hears us if we ask according to His will.—(Counsels on Health, 378, 379.) {Pr 233.2}

When you think about Paul, his background and call, what lessons can we learn?

- How God turns enemies into friends!
  - How did God reach Paul?
  - First, by the witness of Stephen’s selfless and pure character and forgiving heart; second, by a lancing confrontation—after Saul’s conscience had been eating at him, Jesus lanced through the last layers of denial and the truth won out.
- The reality of a new life in Christ
  - What was the primary, i.e. foundational root, change in Paul when he converted? Fear and selfishness (survival of the fittest) was replaced with love for God and others. He died to self. Thus rather than seeking to use his life to destroy others, he was willing to sacrifice his life to save others.
- The ability to overcome a bad reputation
  - How did Paul do this?
  - By, over time, living and presenting the truth in love and leaving others free
- That moving forward in God’s plan may result in loss of previously valued relationships, position, authority...



- What did Paul lose? The respect and power of the institutional church, but we also learn...
- That rejection by religious authorities, arrest, criminal prosecution does not mean one is in the wrong
- The importance of thinking for oneself
  - How important is this?
  - Do you notice through history, those in the wrong try to use organizational pressure to intimidate those with the truth into conformity?
    - Ahab and Elijah (other kings and prophets)
    - Jewish leaders and Jesus
    - Roman church and Reformers
    - British Empire and Gandhi
    - Islamic terrorists and the anyone who would criticize their prophet or religion
    - What about our own church, are there elements of this behavior that creep in?
- Following Jesus, while rewarding, can be painful, costly and exhausting
- That when one understands reality, as God as genuinely created things to operate, and His character as revealed in Christ, then all loss for Christ's sake is actually gain!

Read memory text: "But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.'" (Acts 9:15 *NIV*)

What do you understand this to mean? What does it mean to proclaim Jesus' "name"?

- Jesus as the Savior of the world?
- Jesus as "King of Kings"?
- Jesus as absorber of wrath?
- Jesus as payer of legal debt?
- Jesus as shield from a "just and punishing god"?

If you were given 5 minutes to proclaim the name of Jesus before an audience of people who have not accepted Him, what would you say?

What do you think of Exodus 33:18,19, 34:6,7 in regard to proclaiming the name of Jesus?

Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

<sup>19</sup> And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and **I will proclaim my name**, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. <sup>20</sup> But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.... <sup>34:6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, **proclaiming**, "The Lord, the Lord, **the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger**,



**abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished;”**

Is this Old Testament text referring to Jesus? How do you know? 1Cor 10:1-3 – the rock from which Israel drank was Jesus!

One of the founders of the SDA church commented on this passage from Exodus:

**The glory of God is His character.** While Moses was in the mount, earnestly interceding with God, he prayed, "I beseech thee, show me thy glory." In answer God declared, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." The glory of God--His character--was then revealed: "The Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty" (Exodus 33:18, 19; 34:6, 7). {AG 322.2}

**This character was revealed in the life of Christ.** That He might by His own example condemn sin in the flesh, He took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh. **Constantly he beheld the character of God; constantly He revealed this character to the world.** {AG 322.3}

**Christ desires His followers to reveal in their lives this same character.** In His intercessory prayer for His disciples He declared: "**The glory [character] which thou gavest me I have given them;** that they may be one, even as we are one; **I in them,** and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me" (John 17:22, 23). {AG 322.4}

What does it mean to proclaim the name of Jesus? To reveal His character!

What was Paul's mission in regard to proclaiming the name of Jesus? To reveal in every way possible, in clearest light, the truth of God's character of love as revealed by Jesus.

What is our mission today? Are we doing this?

From a book entitled *Christ's Object Lessons*:

**“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 the revelation of His character of love.**" Christ's Object Lessons, p.415

Read last paragraph, "Paul is credited..."

## SUNDAY

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Read last, "Paul's pharisaic..." What are divine absolutes and what were some of the cultural additions which Paul differentiated?

Cultural Additions:

- Circumcision
- Ceremonial cleansing, washing, dressing
- Sacrificial system at the Temple
- Bigotry and social isolation from non-Jews
- Law-keeping as a means of salvation
- Phylacteries
- Placing prayers/scripture on the mantle of door
- Male domination of women in families, society and religious institution
- others?

Divine Absolutes:

- Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Rom 13:10
- " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." MT 22:37-40
- What about the 10 Commandments? Why are these divine absolutes?
- Any others?

What about today: are the following divine absolutes or cultural additions?

- Circumcision of the body?
  - Circumcision of the heart, cutting away ties to worldly and selfish things and establishing the heart ties to God and heavenly things?
- Baptism in water?
  - Baptism by the Spirit?
- Communion ceremony of physical bread and wine?
  - Communion with God partaking of the Word of God (bread) and character of Christ (wine)?
- Foot-washing service?



- Humbling self in love to serve others, seeking to help them experience Christ and the washing away of sin from their characters?
- Phylacteries
  - Are we to have God's word, truth, character written into our hearts and lived out in our lives?
- Attending organized religious services?
  - Fellowshiping together with those who love Christ, sharing, supporting, working together to spread the truth about God and love others in your community?
- Singing of hymns or other praise songs?
  - Having a life that praises God with a song of loving experience in the service of others?
- Avoiding work and going to church on the seventh day of the week?
  - Having God's law of love, truth, liberty written upon the heart, such that you live by presenting the truth in love, leaving others free, validating the character of God of which the Sabbath is a sign?
- Asking God for legal pardon for sin?
  - Humbling oneself in repentance before God and experiencing in one's heart rebirth, death to selfishness, and love for God and others?

What did we just do? We moved past symbol, ritual, metaphor, which are all unnecessary, to the reality to which they point! And the reality is necessary!

What about Acts 15:20: "Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood."

Are these divine absolutes? Why or why not?

- How do idols pollute food?
  - Is it a change in nutrition?
  - It is an issue of belief/worship. This is design law, by beholding we become changed and lies believed break the circle of love and trust.
  - Thus, don't believe lies and don't worship false god constructs, because doing so damages the person.
- Sexual immorality?
  - What happens?
  - It is violation of design law, altering brain circuitry, inflaming selfish and fear circuits, thus obstructing healing of mind and character.
- Meat from strangled animals or blood?
  - What is the problem?
  - It also violates design law.
  - Humans were not designed to eat meat, and the blood carries waste products, but also stress hormones, and eating raw meat, drinking blood increases disease risk, and when the body is unhealthy the mind is compromised.



## MONDAY

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Read top paragraph, “Personality traits...” How do you distinguish the difference between personality traits and character?

Personality traits are aspects of a person that are considered more hardwired in, whereas character traits are elements of our personhood that are developed through life experience and choice.

Personality traits:

- Openness
  - Outgoing adventurous type people, enjoy new ideas, often artistic
  - In a 2011 study people who took psilocybin, (hallucinogenic mushrooms) had increased openness lasting up to a year, why? Because the chemical made alterations in the hardwiring.
  - Recent research explored the therapeutic potential of this ability of psychedelic drugs to alter hard wiring in OCD and PTSD. In one study PTSD patients were given a single dose of MDMA (ecstasy) while two therapists spent the entire day with the patient, supporting, and working through their experience. This was repeated in one other session. A control group was given a placebo and two therapists spent the day with them working through their issues. The results were 83% of the active group experienced such a marked improvement in their CAPS (Civilian Administered PTSD Scale) score from 80, indicating significant impairment, to 25 that they no longer met criteria for PTSD. Only 25% of the control group experienced this level of improvement. Further research is ongoing. [http://www.psychcongress.com/blogs/andrew-penn-rn-ms-np-cns-aprn-bc/how-psychedelics-may-accelerate-psychotherapy-mdma-psilocybin?e=\[email\]](http://www.psychcongress.com/blogs/andrew-penn-rn-ms-np-cns-aprn-bc/how-psychedelics-may-accelerate-psychotherapy-mdma-psilocybin?e=[email])
- Conscientiousness
  - Organized, duty focused, responsible, reliable and achievement focused
- Extraversion
  - Social butterflies, outgoing, engaging, like the limelight
- Agreeableness
  - warm, kind, compassionate, hospitable
- Neuroticism
  - Anxious worrier, often struggle with anxiety and depression

Each of the above are personality types.

Character traits include:

- Love versus selfishness
  - Can either of these character traits manifest in all the personality types?



- Joy versus dissatisfaction?
- Peace versus turmoil?
- Patience versus impatience?
- Honesty versus deceitfulness?
- Kindness versus cruelty?
- Goodness versus spitefulness?
- Faithfulness versus disloyalty?
- Reliability versus unreliability?
- Gentleness versus violence?
- Self-control versus impulsiveness/emotion-control?

How does one develop mature traits of character? By a trust relationship with Jesus Christ, in which one chooses to actually live in harmony with Him and actually give, self-restrain, be patient, choose kindness, choose to forgive etc.

## **TUESDAY**

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In the second paragraph, “Paul couldn’t preach or teach about what he didn’t know. No, instead he would preach and teach out of his own experiences with, and knowledge of, the Lord, all the time in harmony with the Word of God.”

This is an excellent point on several levels:

- Lecturing or teaching material one doesn’t actually understand makes for poor teaching, and typically results in introducing errors.
- Teachers who don’t really know their material have difficulty with questions and often use words the audience doesn’t actually understand
- One sign of a great teacher (Jesus was the best ever) is the ability to explain complex topics in ways non-experts, young people and children can understand
- The lesson is also rightly promoting integrating our experience with Scripture! If we also harmonize our experience and Scripture with God’s laws in science and nature we can achieve a very health world view.

The bottom of Tuesday’s lesson identifies five results of authentic missionary work:

1. Open people’s eyes—make God real
  - a. How do we do this?
  - b. What about the integrative evidence based approach, in which we show how Scripture is demonstrated in science and works in experience?
  - c. One of the most effective ways I have found is discussing Design Law with people, helping them get their minds around living in harmony with how life was constructed to operate. Most religious people I deal with, regardless of religion, don’t view their religious beliefs this way. Most view it through the lens of imposed





- laws, rules to keep based on levels 1-4:
- Get reward or avoid punishment
  - Make a deal—saw a television crime program in which a Muslim man was attacking other Muslims, and when interviewed by police his reason was, he had rigidly kept all the rules of Islam his entire life, and Allah didn't bless him like he was supposed to... How many Christians have the same struggle, go to church, pay tithe, etc. then a child gets sick and dies, or they lose a job etc. and they get angry at God? I have a patient right now who is angry at God because her son was killed in a MVA, black ice, hit by a truck. She expects, because she did right, that God was supposed to protect her son—thoughts?
  - Conform to be accepted by a group
  - Avoid legal trouble with God.
- d. Doesn't God become real when we see how His law functions in every aspect of our lives, in reality?
- e. How else can we make God real?
2. Move from darkness to light, ignorance to enlightenment
- a. What is required to move from darkness to light?
- A willingness to do so
    - This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”  
John 3:19-21
  - How do you deal with those who don't want to come into the light?
3. Turn from the power of Satan to God
- a. What is Satan's power & what is God's power?
- b. Satan's power—lies, coercion, manipulation, fear
- c. God's power—truth, love, freedom
4. Receive forgiveness of sins
- a. What does this mean?
- b. Could it be presented in a way that darkens the mind rather than enlightens? how?
5. Receive a place among the sanctified; this means membership in God's church, regardless of ethnicity, gender, or nationality
- a. Does it mean membership in an institutional entity?
- b. What is it to be amongst the sanctified?

## WEDNESDAY

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Read first paragraph, “One thing is certain...” What does it mean to keep Christ and Him crucified central to the message?





Is it possible to take Christ and Him crucified to the world, yet actually obstruct people from knowing God?

- What about promoting physical manifestations of the event, crucifixes or crosses held as magic wands, teaching these have power over demons, and wearing one protects against evil forces?
  - What do such ideas do to the mind?
  - What view of God do they generate?
- What about teaching Christ died to pay our legal penalty to an offended and angry god?
- Others?

What is an effective and healthy way to present Jesus and Him crucified?

- Before we can answer this question effectively, accurately, in a healthy and helpful way several foundational ideas must be understood—What are these ideas?
  - What was the problem that the death of Christ was designed to fix?
  - And that question requires us to understand the reality upon which God’s universe, government, kingdom operates. In other words, an understanding of God’s law.
- If we understand God’s law as functioning no different that created beings make, rules imposed, then we construe the problem of sin as a legal one, and we interpret the cross to mean something it doesn’t—dealing with legal penalties. This not only obstructs the power of what Christ accomplished at the cross, we lead people further from the true God, because we end up presenting God as the source of inflicted pain, suffering and death.
- When we understand that God is Creator, Builder of reality, and that His universe is constructed to operate in harmony with Himself, then we understand God’s law is the protocols upon which all life is built to function and sin is deviation from that design, resulting in death unless the Designer intervenes to heal and restore. We understand then, what the Bible says, “the wages of sin is death” or “sin when full grown brings forth death.” With this view in mind we realizes Christ came to heal and restore His creation back to God’s original design from the damage that sin has done to it—not to pay a legal penalty to an offended God.
- So, what was the problem sin caused that Christ addressed and fixed via His life, death and resurrection?
  - Lies about God were destroyed as Jesus revealed the truth about God and exposed Satan as a liar (Heb 2:14)
  - Destroy the infection of selfishness and fear, which is the carnal nature, thereby destroying death (2Tim 1:10)
  - Developing a perfect human character in harmony with God’s design/law of love (Heb 5:8, 1John 3:8)
- Jesus, God’s Son, who has life original in Himself, became human, partaking of our terminal condition, and died in order to cure this condition and restore humankind back to God’s original design.
- All those who trust in Him can receive freely, via the work of the Holy Spirit, a new heart with new motives, such that fear and selfishness are replaced by love and trust. Then it “is



no longer I that live but Christ lives in me.”

## THURSDAY

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The lesson suggests we read Galatians 2:1-17, but we will read through verse 20, this is from *The Remedy*:

Gal 2:1 It wasn't until fourteen years later that I returned to Jerusalem, and this time I took Barnabas and Titus along. 2 I went because of what had been revealed to me, and I presented to them the good news that I teach among the Gentiles—God's plan to heal and restore all humanity. I presented this good news privately to those who were looked upon as leaders, because I was concerned that my efforts to promote the freedom all humankind experiences in Christ might have been in vain. 3 But such was not the case, as evidenced by the fact that Titus, who was with me (and Greek by birth), was not required to be circumcised. 4 This issue came up because some individuals, pretending to be our brothers in Christ, had snuck in to spy on us and criticize the freedom we have in Christ, and attempted to enslave our minds again with meaningless rules and rituals. 5 But we were not swayed by them for one second, so don't waver, but cling to the truth of the good news we have presented to you.

Gal 2:6 As for those men and women in leadership, whom some consider important (their position doesn't matter to me because God does not judge by earthly, external appearances), they contributed nothing to my message. 7 On the contrary, they recognized the truth and power of my message and realized that I had been entrusted with the responsibility of taking this healing message to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been sent to the Jews. 8 For there is only one healing truth and one God—the source of this Remedy. God was working both in Peter's ministry as an ambassador of God to the Jews, and in mine as his ambassador to the Gentiles. 9 James, Peter, and John, who are considered pillars in the church, recognized God's graciousness at work in me and accepted me and Barnabas as co-workers with them in distributing God's healing Remedy. They agreed that we should take this message to the Gentiles, while they focus their energies on enlightening the Jews. 10 The only requirement they asked of us was that we remember the needs of the poor—something I was already eagerly doing.

Gal 2:11 But when Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him openly and publicly, because he was clearly wrong, and, if not corrected, would cause serious confusion. 12 You see, prior to the arrival of certain church leaders from church headquarters, who valued the Jewish traditions, he would socialize and eat with the Gentiles. But when these leaders arrived, he suddenly distanced himself and wouldn't socialize with the Gentiles for fear of what these leaders, who promoted circumcision, would think. 13 The other Jewish believers followed his lead and joined him in this hypocrisy, and there was danger of an artificial class distinction being established; and because of their inconsistent and hypocritical behavior, even Barnabas was led astray.



Gal 2:14 When I realized that they were not acting in accordance with the truth or the good news about God and his desire to freely heal all humankind, it became necessary to take a public stand, and I said to Peter in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you have experienced the freedom that Jesus brought and no longer live under the restrictions of all the Jewish traditions and rituals. Why, then, are you forcing the Gentiles into the bondage of Jewish customs and traditions?”

Gal 2:15 “We, who were born Jewish—part of God’s specially chosen educational team, blessed with the symbolic teaching tools, and not part of the ignorant Gentile world—16 clearly know that a person is set right with God not by rituals, symbols, or keeping to a certain educational script, but simply by trusting Jesus Christ. We, too, have been won back to trust by the evidence of God’s true character and methods revealed by Christ and thus our minds are set right with God by trust in Christ, and not by rituals or adhering to a certain set of rules, because it is not possible to heal the mind and set the heart right with God by behaviorally following a set of rules.

Gal 2:17 “If, while we seek to be healed and set right with God through the truth that Christ has revealed, it becomes obvious that the infection of selfishness has not been eradicated from our hearts, does that mean that Christ promotes selfishness? Absolutely not! 18 If I stop taking the Remedy and re-infect myself with selfishness, I only prove that I am sick and out of harmony with God’s law of love and life. 19 For through the written law I was diagnosed as terminal so that I might give up trying to cure myself and instead trust God and live for him. 20 The old ‘me’ who lived for self—who sought to get instead of give, the ‘me’ who lived on the survival-of-the-fittest principle—died when I recognized the true significance of all Christ has done. That old ‘me’ no longer lives, but Christ—with his character of self-sacrificing love—now lives in me. The life I now live in this body I live by trust in the Son of God, who loved me and freely gave himself to win me back to trust and to purge humanity from selfishness and death.

What was the problem Paul faced? What was the danger to Peter’s behavior?

The were allowing imposed law ideas, arbitrary rules, to creep in, rather than operating in harmony with Design Law and partaking of Christ’s victory in our behalf through trust.

Do we struggle with similar issues today?

## **FRIDAY**

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Read first paragraph, “Read 1 Corinthians...” What does contextualization mean as it pertains to presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ?



Are there practices that hide under the guise of seeking holiness, that actually obstruct contextualization and thus obstruct the gospel?

How about insisting on using only the KJV of the Bible? Is the KJV easily understood by people today?

Question 2 states God forgave Paul and used him in a mighty way, was the problem with Paul being useful to God's cause one of God's forgiving or not forgiving?

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

***The Remedy – Dr. Jennings' New Testament Paraphrase***– ALL GLITCHES NOW FIXED in the IOS Version! So please UPDATE to latest version.

**The Journal of the Watcher is now available as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android, you can now get it in itunes.**

**September 9,10:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Baptist Boomer's Conference in San Antonio, TX.

**September 12:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Vallejo Dr., CA SDA church.

**September 23-26:** American Association of Christian Counselors World Convention at Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville TN. Come and Reason will have a booth in the exhibit hall, and Dr. Jennings will be doing a preconference workshop and regular conference presentation, as well as commencement speaker for Light University graduation.

**October 24:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Puyallup, WA:

- Friday, October 23rd at the North Hill SDA Fellowship Church at 7:00PM. Located at: 10106 36th St. E., Edgewood, WA.
- Saturday, October 24th at the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup in the Expo Hall. (10:00AM - 4:00 PM )
- For more information email, [Godandyourbrain@icloud.com](mailto:Godandyourbrain@icloud.com).
- There is also a God and Your Brain Events page on Facebook.

**January 9, 2016:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Carmichael SDA church in Sacramento, California.