



The Role of the Church in the Community Lesson 1 Q3 2016 The Restoration of All Things

I received this email from Malawi:

Hi, your quarterly commentary has done quite a lot to my life and how I look at the bible and all the stories that are written in there. I have to download the mp3's plus the PDFs because it is quite an interesting class you have going on up there and hearing views from different people from there and how these lessons are treated I have learned a lot of things that always went over my head and every week am looking forward to listening knowing there is always something about God that I get to know and I have been an Adventist since childhood but I have used this website for a year and it feels like I have learned more in a year than what I did the past 22 years without the commentary. My heart is more calm now and I sleep very well knowing God is not an angry God like I learned all the past years. I hope a lot of people get to read these and see this beautiful perspective of God.....sending this from Malawi ...have a good day .

I received this email from Dianna LaMarr, an online listener:

I received The Remedy this week and have started reading it! I am so happy to have this New Testament paraphrased bible THANK YOU!!! (I also got one for a friend) I wrote a poem back in 09 and wanted to share it with you! Hope you are blessed! Thank you for all you do Tim in sharing the "truth" about our heavenly Father! This message changed my understanding of God's character years ago when I first started listening to tapes by Maxwell and going to his SS class!

The Remedy
By Dianna LaMarr

*In earthly hearts there resides
A disease that God alone must heal.
Infection took place in the Garden of Eden
By a foe with cunning and skill.*

*A Plan was conceived in heavenly realms
To restore the hearts of man.
With no thought to punish
God revealed, to all, His purpose and plan.*

*With great sacrifice a Healer was sent
To treat the disease that devours.*



*Only He held the cure at His command,
His mission, "truth" spoken with power.*

*So the Healer came with servant hands
And dispensed the Remedy,
He Restored to health infected hearts,
He imposed no penalty.*

*Sin punishes and devours the sin-sick soul,
But the Remedy is available to all,
As we look to Jesus who laid down His life
Without fear, on Him we may call.*

Read third paragraph of the lesson introduction, “What is the *whole* gospel?...”

Read Luke 4:16-21, from *The Remedy*:

He went to his home town of Nazareth, and as he always did on the Sabbath day, he went to the worship service. He stood up and read¹⁷ from the book of God's spokesman Isaiah, which was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and read from the place where it is written:

¹⁸"God's Spirit is on me because I am his anointed One to bring the Remedy to the afflicted. He has sent me to bring freedom to those held in the bondage of fear and selfishness, and a clear understanding to those blinded by Satan's lies, to exterminate oppression, to remove human brokenness,¹⁹ and to make God's pleasure known this year."

²⁰He then rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the minister, and sat down. Everyone in the sanctuary watched him closely,²¹ and he told them plainly, "Today, right here, within the sound of my voice, this Scripture is fulfilled."

What is the gospel? Is it more than concepts? Is it functional? Is it operational? How does it function? What is its method of operation?

It is love, giving, beneficence, outward regard, caring for others—what kind of law is this? Is it a rule? Or is it a design protocol?

What then would biblical justice be? Can someone describe it?

Doing what is right or just, which is what? Delivering the oppressed, not punishing the oppressor. It is healing, restoring, recreating, renewing, rebuilding, it is not destroying, tearing down, inflicting harm.



SABBATH

Read first paragraph, “All one has to do...” What is wrong? If our diagnosis is wrong, then our treatment is wrong, so yes, something is wrong—but what?

The lesson states, “It’s called the Fall. It’s called sin. It’s called rebellion, and it’s called the great controversy.”

Does that tell us what is wrong, or does that give labels to what is wrong?

What is actually wrong? The lesson hints to a certain worldview when it states “It’s called rebellion.” What worldview does this lead toward?

Does it lead to an imperial, imposed law, worldview? Is that the actual problem?

Were Adam and Eve rebels, or were they victims of a deceiver? And once they were deceived what was the problem?

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, and it was only by repentance toward God and faith in the promised Messiah that they could hope ever to regain the lost image of God. {RH, January 5, 1886 par. 8}

Can a change in one’s beliefs really change a person?

Yes! What we think, believe, changes which brain circuits we fire, causes a cascade of chemical and other events eventually even changing how our DNA is expressed.

Remember the example of believing a lie that your spouse is having an affair...would such a belief change you? Absolutely, and we can measure many of those changes, changes in heart rate, blood pressure, stress hormones, brain circuitry activation, and of course behavior. If the truth doesn’t remove the lie, then many more false beliefs follow, and those false beliefs will further damage you and transform your character to a more fear based, selfish individual.

So, what happened to Adam and Eve? What is the problem that sin caused that the plan of salvation is designed to fix?

- Did Adam and Eve’s sin change God?
- Did Adam and Eve’s sin change God’s law—
 - how do you understand God’s law?



- Is God's law rules that the Divine Governor must enforce, or protocols upon which life is construct?
- If protocols, what happens to the individual who violates them?
- So, if God and His law did not get changed when Adam and Eve sinned (deviated from God's law—design), what did get changed? –Adam and Eve—how? What changed in them?
- They were infected with fear and selfishness, love was displaced, they began operating upon Satan's principle of survival of the fittest, which kills others to protect self—Immediately, Adam blames/sacrifices Eve to protect self.

Read the first paragraph in **TUESDAY's** lesson—"The word enmity..." What is happening when God puts enmity between humankind and Satan?

Consider this description from EGW:

The Lord says, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman." **The enmity does not exist as a natural fact.** As soon as Adam sinned, he was in harmony with the first great apostate, and at war with God; and **if God had not interfered in man's behalf, Satan and man would have formed a confederacy against heaven**, and carried on united opposition against the God of hosts. **There is no natural enmity between evil angels and evil men**; both are evil through transgression of the law of God, and evil will always league against good. Fallen men and fallen angels enter into a desperate companionship. {ST, July 11, 1895 par. 5}

What is another way to describe "interfered in man's behalf"? Intercession, God intercedes, intervenes to disrupt the inevitable union with Satan and destruction of humanity. God intercedes, interferes, intervenes in three places:

- The hearts of human beings by convicting of sin, drawing, giving a desire for something better, enlightening with truth etc.
- With the powers of darkness and evil (Army's around Elisha, holding back four winds of strife)
- And, through Jesus, in the course of what sin would do to the human species, in Jesus the terminal trajectory toward death was altered, when Jesus destroyed death and restored life into humanity!

What is it called when God stops all intercession? God's wrath—God's wrath is not the infliction of something from God, it is the surrendering of sinners to the ultimate results of what unrestrained and uninterfered with sin causes!

So, if the condition of humankind was changed at the fall, what would be necessary to save humanity?

Wouldn't it be something that actually fixes what is wrong in us?



So, if you were Satan, and your goal to stop people from being saved what would you do? Would you make counterfeit treatments?

Such as?

How about:

- a legal solution in which people believe the problem is not their actual condition, but the problem is a God who is offended and who needs to be satisfied or appeased
- Or, God's law must be enforced and God's law demands proper punishment and someone has to pay for the crime?

Do you see how such approaches will give people a sense of dealing with their sin problem, by claiming legal payment, but without actually treating the real problem, so people remain terminal!

So, what is the true solution to the sin problem? Actual healing of the heart and character of humankind—could any human after Adam sinned do that? Could an angel do that? This is why no angel could be our Savior. No, thus Christ came to achieve what we could not achieve, removing the infection of fear, selfishness and false ideas about God, and restoring truth and love into the species. Jesus did what we could not.

Consider this quote:

All sin is selfishness. Satan's first sin was a manifestation of selfishness. He sought to grasp power, to exalt self. A species of insanity led him to seek to supersede God. And the temptation that led Adam to sin was Satan's declaration that it was possible for man to attain to something more than he already enjoyed, possible for him to be as God Himself. **The sowing of seeds of selfishness in the human heart was the first result of the entrance of sin into the world.** God desires every one to understand the evil of selfishness, and to co operate with Him in guarding the human family against its terrible, deceptive powers. The design of the gospel is to confront this evil by means of remedial missionary work, and to destroy its destructive power by establishing **enterprises of benevolence.** {WB, September 9, 1902 par. 3} (The Worker's Bulletin)

As a remedy for the terrible consequences into which selfishness led the human race, God gave His only begotten Son to die for mankind. [what was the reason God gave Jesus? not as a legal payment, as a remedy to the consequences, the situation, the condition] How could He have given more? In this gift He gave Himself. "I and My Father are one," said Christ. **By the gift of His Son, God has made it possible for man to be redeemed and restored to oneness with Him.** "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." **Love is the great principle that actuates unfallen beings.** With amazement the angels behold the indifference that those who have light and knowledge manifest toward a world unsaved. The heavenly host are filled with



an intense desire to work through human agencies to restore in man the image of God. They are ready and waiting to do this work. **The combined power of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost is pledged to uplift man from his fallen state. Every attribute, every power of divinity has been placed at the command of those who unite with the Saviour in winning men to God.** [wow—how much power is that? What kind of power? What is the power that does this? It is the power of truth and love, coercive power is found only under Satan’s government! But the power of truth and love is the power of life itself, it is the power that heals, that restores, that cleanses, that creates, that upholds worlds, that sustains stars, than all reality is built upon! Notice her next words.] O, that all would appreciate **the truth** as it is in Jesus. O, that all would **love God** in return for the **love wherewith He has loved them.** [truth and love is the power] {WB, September 9, 1902 par. 4}

Sin has extinguished the love that God placed in man's heart. The work of the church is to rekindle this love. The church is to co-operate with God by uprooting selfishness from the human heart, placing in its stead the benevolence that was in man's heart in his original state of perfection. [The lesson is **The Role of the Church in the Community—what is the church to do? Restore love into the hearts of people by leading them to love others in action and deed—this is the power!**] {WB, September 9, 1902 par. 5}

What is the mission of the church? To cooperate with God for the actual healing and transformation of people to be like Jesus in character. But instead the church has been infected with a false gospel that teaches them to seek legal solutions and protection from God, rather than reconciliation to God.

If you think this is not the case, read the last two paragraphs in **TUESDAY** lesson, “Theologians sometimes use...” What questions come to your mind?

Does God’s government have laws? Yes, absolutely—what kind of laws? How do they function? Are God’s laws, functionally, like human laws, rules imposed and enforced by imposed punishments? What does it say about God if He functions no different than sinful human beings?

The same power that upholds nature, is working also in man. **The same great laws that guide alike the star and the atom control human life. The laws that govern the heart's action, regulating the flow of the current of life to the body, are the laws of the mighty Intelligence that has the jurisdiction of the soul. From Him all life proceeds.** Only in harmony with Him can be found its true sphere of action. For all the objects of His creation the condition is the same--**a life sustained by receiving the life of God, a life exercised in harmony with the Creator's will.** To transgress His law, physical, mental, or moral, is to place one's self out of harmony with the universe, to introduce discord, anarchy, ruin. {Ed 99.2}

Tell me what you hear being described in this quotation:

One of the divine plans for growth is impartation. The Christian is to gain strength by strengthening others. “He that watereth shall be watered also himself.” This is not merely a



promise; **it is a divine law, a law by which God designs** that the streams of benevolence, like the waters of the great deep, shall be kept in constant circulation, continually flowing back to their source. In the fulfilling of this **law** is the secret of spiritual growth. {ST June 12, 1901, par. 4}

What kind of law is described here? Is it an imposed rule or a design protocol? And how would you describe it? This particular description has several laws beautifully harmonized, like Ezekiel's vision of chapter 10, rotating wheel inside a rotating wheel, the operations of God's laws work together—all things work together for good, for life, for healing—this is God's law—design. The laws in this quote:

- The law of love—giving
- The law of exertion—strength comes by exercise
- The law of worship—by beholding we are changed, the spiritual growth of beholding and participating in the action of loving service
- The law of truth—the truth heals and sets free, the truth of God's design law frees from imposed rules

Here is another quote:

It is a divine law that blessings come at some cost to the receiver. Those who would become wise in the sciences must study, and those who would become wise in regard to Bible truth, that they may impart that knowledge to others, must be diligent students of God's Holy Word. **There is no other way;** they must search the Scriptures diligently, interestedly, prayerfully. . . . And after all their research, there is beyond an infinity of wisdom, love, and power. {TMK 194.4}

What law is being described here?

- The law of exertion
- The law of liberty—one must freely choose to participate
- Can a person become a great musician by listening to the stereo 8 hours per day?
- Can a person become a great thinker by listening to sermons 8 hours per day?—Heb 5:14, “the mature are those who have **developed by practice** the ability to discern the right from the wrong.” This is why every person must be fully persuaded in their own mind—why people must think for themselves, because it is only in harmony with God's laws/designs, the law of love, freed, truth, exertion that we can be healed.
- This is also why false religions always lead people to indoctrination, to believe without thinking because it violates God's law and enfeebles the mind obstructing the healing God wants for His children.

What about this quote?

- 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 being described? Why is rebellion not to be overcome by force? Can it be overcome by force? What kind of law requires compelling, coercive enforcement? Why does God not need to act in such ways? What are principles? If God's principles are not compelling, no coercive, what does this mean for how God deals with the wicked in the end?

How do you understand God's law? God is Creator, His laws are the protocols reality function upon, including the laws of love and liberty. Violate God's laws and only pain, suffering and death occur. But Satan has deceived the world into thinking God functions like we do and the evil one paints God as the source of inflicted suffering and death. Thus, the atonement is perverted to teach Jesus paying legal penalties, rather than Jesus healing and restoring and uniting humanity back with God!

Atonement—its original meaning meant to unite, to take two people at odds and bring them back to at-one-ment. It was pronounced atone, rather than at-one because of the old English pronunciation, like when we are all by ourselves we are alone, not all-one.

But, this word changed meanings over the centuries, and has come to connote legal appeasement that was never in its original use. Just like the word gay has come to mean something in never originally meant. Unfortunately, many people have read in the false meaning, why? Because it fits with their false law concept, the idea that God's law works like our law does.

This is level four and below thinking, this is the immaturity that the writer of Hebrews describes, focusing on repentance from acts that lead to death and such a focus is not acquainted with righteousness. Why not? Because righteousness is about the actual transformation of heart/character, i.e. writing the law on the heart and mind. But legal solutions focus on adjustment of legal standing in books of heaven—thus they don't even know what righteousness really is.

Did you notice that the legal language of the imposed law, human law in our lesson states, "justice demands a penalty to pay for that wrong."

However, this is exactly the opposite of Scripture and what Biblical justice demands—what does the law of God demand or require?

Here are a few historic quotes from one of the founders of the SDA church:

- **"The condemning power of Satan would lead him to institute a theory of justice inconsistent with mercy. He claims to be officiating as the voice and power of God, claims that his decisions are justice, are pure and without fault. Thus he takes his position on the judgment seat and declares that his counsels are infallible. Here his**



merciless justice comes in, a counterfeit of justice, abhorrent to God." Christ Triumphant (CTr) p. 11 and - Letter 16a, 1892

What do you think Satan's counterfeit system of justice looks like, the system that is abhorrent to God?

- **"Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan;"** (DA 761)

Satan's system is an imposed law system, a system like human governments a system in which justice is the judgment seat, infliction of punishment. This is abhorrent to God. It is counterfeit justice.

What does God's law actually require? Consider these quotes:

- **But the law requires that the soul itself be pure and the mind holy, that the thoughts and feelings may be in accordance with the standard of love and righteousness.--RH,** Apr 5, 1898. (2SM 211.) {2MCP 564.1}
- **The divine law requires us to love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves.** Without the exercise of this love, the highest profession of faith is mere hypocrisy. . . . {A New Life NL 32.1}
- **That which God required of Adam before his fall was perfect obedience to His law. God requires now what He required of Adam, perfect obedience, righteousness without a flaw, without shortcoming in His sight. God help us to render to Him all His law requires.** We cannot do this without that faith that brings Christ's righteousness into daily practice. {2SM 380.4}
- **God offered them, in His Son, the perfect righteousness of the law. If they would open their hearts fully to receive Christ, then the very life of God, His love, would dwell in them, transforming them into His own likeness; and thus through God's free gift they would possess the righteousness which the law requires.** But the Pharisees rejected Christ; "being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness" (Romans 10:3), they would not submit themselves unto the righteousness of God. {MB 54.2}
- **His law requires your heart's supreme affection for your Maker. It requires you to do unto others as you would have them do to you.** {BEcho, February 15, 1889 par. 8}
- This is the voice of God to you, my brethren and sisters who profess to keep the law of God. **That law requires that you love your neighbor as yourself.** Are you doing it? {RH, March 11, 1884 par. 10}



- **The law requires us to present to God a holy character. It demands of men today just what it demanded of Adam in Eden,—perfect obedience, perfect harmony with all its precepts in all relations of life, under all circumstances and conditions.** {ST, May 30, 1895 par. 2}
- **The law requires righteousness,—a righteous life, a perfect character;** and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. **But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them.** His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. **God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."** Rom. 3:26. {DA 762.2}

Why does God's law require all of this? For the same reason the law of respiration require we breathe—it is how life is constructed, it is how the universe works, it is how God Himself is, God IS love!

SUNDAY

Humankind was created in God's image—what do you understand that to mean?

Read fourth paragraph, "The nature of God's..." What is the differences between these natures?

This is not a comprehensive list, but merely to get the mind thinking down these lines, and what would you add to it?

Physical—bodies, ability to interact with the physical world, to move, to touch, to smell, to see, to be beings of real substance—Is God a being of real substance that can interact with the physical universe? We are like Him in this way!

Mental—the ability to think, reason, comprehend, imagine, consider, contemplate, appreciate, investigate, create, understand and much more, can God do all of this? We are like Him in this way!

Relational and Creational—the ability to connect with people, and lower life forms. The ability to pro-create beings in our image. The ability to form networks, families, communities, can God do all of this? We are like Him in this way!

Spiritual—the ability to love, to sacrifice self for the good of others, to give to bless others, to appreciate and value genuine goodness, righteousness, purposes and principles that are more valuable than self—Does God do all of this? We are like Him in way!



Rulership—the ability to govern, to have dominion, to use power to protect, to build up, to organize, to facilitate development etc. Can God do this? We are like Him in this way!

We are like God in all of these ways—but can each of these be perverted and subverted?

Physical—disease, substance abuse, physical torture and injury to others

Mental—believing lies, deceiving, mental illnesses, cults, indoctrination to close minds to truth

Relational and Creational—using relationships to manipulate people for one's ends, sex for perverse (pornography, sex trafficking, prostitution etc.)

Spiritual—false religions and beliefs that transform people into the very opposite of Jesus, yet claiming the name of God

Rulership—coercive and repressive regimes throughout human history, corrupt governments all based on coercive power

And what is the result of the perversion of these attributes that make us in God's image? The damage to the image of God in man, effacing and erasing that image and placing Satan's image where God's should be.

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, "The Bible does not say..." I have my own theory—and there is NO inspired evidence that my theory is right, so until we get to heaven and ask, I am sticking with this—that they sinned in less than a few months—why?

God told them to be fruitful and multiply—they were perfect—healthy normal sexuality and attraction and they had no infertility problems, and no child was born sinless, which would have been the case had they had children before they sinned. Thus, I hypothesize that they sinned very quickly, before Eve could become pregnant.

Also, this fits with other statements from EGW about how Adam and Eve were in a different position than Lucifer in heaven:

But even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan. Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God's glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God's love. Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more that God could do to save him. **But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan's sophistry. The**



height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God's love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God. {DA 761.5}

This indicates to me that they were still fairly new in their existence and experience with God that they hadn't had a lot of time to really get to know the truth about God.

WEDNESDAY

read second paragraph, "In the beginning..." What do you hear being described as the problem and the solution?

Do you recognize an actual change in the condition of the human species occurred and the plan of salvation was to fix that change? Do you see this is based on design law not imposed law?

Read Galatians 4:19, "My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you."

What is Paul saying? What is his focus? Is this a legal issue for Paul or is Paul concerned with the actual transformation and healing of the minds and hearts of people?

THURSDAY

The lesson is about the role the church has to play in God's plan—what is that role? How would you describe it?

We read a statement earlier that the role of the church is to lead people back to God's love and purge selfishness from their hearts. What interferes with that role?

Oswald Chambers wrote the following:

Reconciliation means the restoring of the relationship between the entire human race and God, **putting it back to what God designed it to be. This is what Jesus Christ did in redemption. The church ceases to be spiritual when it becomes self-seeking, only interested in the development of its own organization.** The reconciliation of the human race according to His plan means realizing Him not only in our lives individually, but also in our lives collectively. Jesus Christ sent apostles and teachers for this very purpose— that the corporate Person of Christ and His church, made up of many members, might be brought into being and made known. **We are not here to develop a spiritual life of our own, or to enjoy a quiet spiritual retreat. We are here to have the full realization of Jesus Christ, for the purpose of building His body.**¹

¹ <http://utmost.org/the-spiritually-self-seeking-church/>



What interferes with the church completing its mission? When the church focuses on protecting the institution and institutional assets OVER saving and healing people—examples:

- cover-up of child molestation and protecting of the clergy involved to avoid embarrassment for the organization
- firing people from church employment who “sin” rather than seeking healing and restoration
- disfellowshipping people who violate ordinances and church rules, but who do not violate the principles of love for fellow humans
- Pursuing governmental policies to enforce church beliefs and imposing one’s beliefs upon others

FRIDAY

discuss question 3



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The God-Shaped Brain is now available in Korean and is available at this website: http://book.naver.com/bookdb/book_detail.nhn?bid=9519886

***The Remedy* – Dr. Jennings’ New Testament Paraphrase**—FREE for ios and android systems.

The Remedy—Is Now Available in Print Version in the US. We have printed 10,000 to give away and will reassess demand for them after those are gone. We are shipping a small number to Canada and Australia. **How to get copies:** Go to our website’s e-Store and select *The Remedy NT* (book) from this listings and click the appropriate red order button. If you are giving them away, please give them only to people who want them. In other words, don’t put one at every seat in the church, or place setting at a potluck, or car in a parking lot. Such distribution methods result in vast numbers being thrown away. Letting people know they are free and allowing them to take one if they want too works best.

***The Journal of the Watcher* is now available as a HARD COVER book at Amazon** as well as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android in itunes. It is also available as an APP for Apple and Android devices.

Thursday, June 9 at 1:30 PM Eastern Time Dr. Jennings will appear on the *Lifestyle Magazine* show, “Healing The Mind” that he recorded previously. It is scheduled to air on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). Keep in mind that TBN can preempt the show at their discretion.

October 14-16: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Drakensville, South Africa Campmeeting.

October 19, 20: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Ladismith South Africa (venue to be determined)

October 21, 22: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Cape Town, South Africa