



2016 Q3 The Role of the Church in the Community Lesson 13 How Shall We Wait?

SABBATH

The bottom of the lesson states, “Our Lord is coming back, that we know. The crucial issue for us is: What are we doing while we wait? On that answer hangs the destiny of our souls.”

Are they suggesting that our salvation is dependent on what we are doing?

Or are they suggesting that our salvation depends on our attitude/relationship toward God and our attitude/relationship toward God determines the destiny of our souls and also directs what we do with our lives?

What do they mean by the “wait”? Do we often think of the Lord’s return in such terms: “Waiting for the Lord to return” “The long delay” etc.?

I know I have thought this way—but this lesson has caused me to rethink. Can you think of another way to think about this issue?

Where is the focus when we think about waiting? Does that put the focus on us, and does it suggest a certain inconvenience to us, perhaps suggest an idea of God not being considerate, or God not caring?

I think this idea of the Lord delaying His return—of the Lord waiting, subtly introduces a multiplicity of ideas that are not healthy to our minds and our relationship with God.

- Is it possible the idea of God waiting imbeds the idea that He could have come sooner if He wanted to but *HE* has chosen to delay His return?
- Such an idea suggests an arbitrary quality to God. He just hasn’t “chosen” to return yet, and whenever He gets around to choosing to, then He will come. This type of thinking is part of the entire imposed law view of God—a God who makes up rules and does what He wants because He is powerful.
- This idea is imbedded in much of the theologies who promote the sovereignty of God. Now, let’s be clear—God is absolutely sovereign—no question about that at all. However, when one promotes sovereignty through imposed law, one gets an arbitrary dictator.
- God’s sovereignty is always manifested in harmony with His own character and is worked out through His laws, design protocols for which He constructed all reality to operate.

So, if we think through design law view, then what?

If a doctor treats a person with a broken bone and puts them in a cast, does the doctor wait to take the cast off? For what is the doctor waiting? Is the wait on the doctor’s part a delay, an arbitrary decision,



or is there a reason the doctor waits? What reason? For the bone to heal...is there a lesson in this for why God waits to return today?

Remember what Peter wrote:

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2Pet 3:9

What does this sound like? Is God determining the timeline, or are we?

God is right on schedule and will come exactly when He has always planned and known He would return.

But, then, is there some role we have in impacting the timeline of Christ's return?

Can a patient by cooperating with their doctor and following the doctor's instructions hasten the healing process? Does the patient who follows the doctor's instructions heal themselves? Can a patient who resists the doctor, is non-compliant, who doesn't follow the instructions delay the healing process?

Is there a role we have to play in hastening the day?

What is that role? What can we do specifically?

- First and foremost cooperate with God for our own healing of mind and heart—stay connected with God daily, increase your knowledge, understanding and experience with God, practice His methods
- Second, share what you know about God with others

SUNDAY

The lesson is about Matthew 24:4-31, so let's read these passages and discuss them—from *The Remedy*:

⁴ Jesus answered: "Be careful to think for yourselves so that no one fools you,⁵ for over the years, there will be many people who arise claiming they come from me, or represent me, or even claiming they are 'the Messiah, Christ returned.' And many who don't think for themselves will be taken in by their charisma.

[Remember David Koresh, Jim Jones, will there be others?]

⁶ Before the end, there will be wars and murmurings of war, but don't be afraid: such things will happen; but the end comes later.⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom will war against kingdom.



[To what is this referring? The downfall of Rome, the Crusades, the Napoleonic wars, WWI, WWII?]

Nature will suffer as famines, earthquakes, and other natural disasters occur around the world; [Has this occurred? Do we see natural disasters increasing? What is the reason for this? Is God using His power to inflict this? Or, are the hearts of humans turning away from God and thus closing out God's Spirit? And thus God who sustains all things is slowly letting go and Satanic forces are gaining more access to the world and nature is falling apart? Could human activity also be influencing the changes in nature? Could the exploitation of nature, the use of fossil fuels, the impact of manmade chemicals, toxins, genetic manipulations, species extinctions contribute to these events?]

⁸but just as a woman in labor experiences birth pains that increase in intensity and frequency right up until delivery, so too these events are just the beginning of the labor pains.

[What does this mean? When a woman goes into labor does she typically say, "Oh no! Can't we wait another nine months before we deliver this baby?" Does the woman know the labor will be painful? But does she still want to go through it? Why? Because she knows labor results in DELIVERY! Do we have such an attitude when we see the events corresponding to the labor pains occurring in the world? Do we get excited that delivery is approaching, or do we pray for a delay? And if we are praying for a delay, why are we distraught that God is delaying?]

⁹ "You will be abused, rejected, tortured and executed, and you will be hated throughout the world because of me.

[Has this occurred, when in history? Ever since Christ was here. The Apostles and early church experienced this—many were martyred. Those true to God in the Dark Ages and Middle Ages experienced persecution like this. In the Renaissance those who brought truth to bear were persecuted, and today around the world people are still being persecuted when the truth about God is presented.]

¹⁰During the time of persecution, many will lose heart and reject me and my methods, and even betray and hate each other and their family and friends.¹¹ Many false teachers and fraudulent spokespersons of God will appear and deceive vast numbers of people.

[When has this occurred? Also throughout history, but Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians, specifically warned of "the man of sin" who would arise and would set himself up in "God's temple proclaiming himself to be God." So I think here Jesus is most specifically referring to when the Christian church accepted Imperial Rome's view of God's law, began teaching imposed law views of God and began practicing the beastly methods of coercion—the Inquisition and burning people at the stake. Families did turn against families and inform to the Inquisitor.]

¹² Because selfishness and wickedness will increase, the love of most people will grow cold, [And the result of an imposed law construct results in various legal theories of atonement and views of God that crush love out of the heart. People, under the imposed law construct, will carry out the most horrible acts of cruelty in the name of their god. And look at the history of Christianity—Catholic and Protestant alike—both burned the others followers at the stake. In Europe wars between Protestants and Catholics raged



for hundreds of years. In America the Salem witch trials etc. Christians owned slaves, how could they? Because they were operating under imposed law and their love for other human beings was cold.]

¹³ but all those who stay faithful, practicing my methods of truth and love until the end, will be saved.

[Which means what? Will be healed—will be restored in character to be like Jesus. One cannot be restored to be like Jesus, which is being saved, unless one comes back to the truth about God, trusts Him, opens the heart, and then practices God's methods of love in their life.]

¹⁴ And the good news of the kingdom of love will be preached throughout the entire world—to all peoples—to provide evidence of God's true character and methods; and then the end will come.

[What is the message to lighten the world? The truth of God's character, methods and design law of love—the good news is about God! Has Christianity embraced and promoted this view of God, or instead even today do the vast majority of Christians embrace and teach a dictator view of God? Then there is a role for us to play in hastening the day of Christ's return—and that is? Actively working to take the truth about God and His design of love to the world!]

¹⁵ "So when you see 'the abomination that causes desolation,'-spoken of by Daniel-occupying the holy place, understand this:

[What is the abomination that causes desolation? It is the abomination of lies that desolate the hearts, minds, characters of God's Spirit Temple. First embodied in pagan Rome—the system of imposed law, coercively enforcing its way upon the world. Thus Jesus is first speaking of the time with Pagan Rome's soldiers stood around Jerusalem in AD 70 and destroyed the little theater—the Temple. And this Imperial Roman system eventually infected Christianity and Christianity itself became beastly practicing the same methods of force, coercion and destruction as Pagan Rome, thereby infecting the minds of human beings—the Spirit Temple—with the false law construct, causing terrible desolation throughout the entire world. What is more abominable—the destruction of a city—buildings and even killing people—destroying their bodies, or the destruction of the image of God in the human being—destroying souls? Remember MT 10:28?]

¹⁶ Those who are in Judea should flee to the mountains.¹⁷ Don't waste time trying to gather your things, but leave immediately.¹⁸ If you're outside, flee; don't even go inside for a coat.¹⁹ It will be a horrible time, especially for pregnant women and nursing mothers!²⁰ Pray that you will not have to flee in the winter or on the Sabbath,

[To when is this referring? To AD 70 primarily, warning the Christians in Jerusalem to be ready to flee when the Roman soldiers came, which they did. But also having an application to those who recognize that Israel was a lesson book, an object lesson for eternal realities. And as the Temple in Jerusalem was a symbol of the Spirit Temple, Israel was representative of God's true people—His agents on earth. And as Israel accepted the false view of God and rejected Christ and thus were abandoned to their



fate and Rome came and destroyed Jerusalem, there is the warning to Christians that the church would become infected with the same false view of God and end up practicing the same methods and would destroy the minds of humans. Thus be watchful and be ready to flee Jerusalem when the soldiers arrive, and be ready to flee from the institutional church when pagan Rome's imperial law ideas and teachings infect and control it.]

²¹ for that time of trouble will be the worst the world has ever seen, or will ever see.²² If God didn't intervene to stop it, no one would live through it; but for the sake of those who have partaken of the Remedy, God will shorten those troubled times.

[To when is this referring? Again to both times—inside Jerusalem during the siege of AD 70 it was horrible and stands again as an object lesson to the greater application. The greater fulfillment was the 1260 years from AD 538-1798 when the Christianity was not only infected with the imposed law concept of fallen sinful human beings, but was also empowered to practice those methods of coercion. Thus just as in Jerusalem people starved for lack of physical food, in the church people starved for lack of spiritual food, just as people were slaughtered in Jerusalem, people were slaughtered in the church. Just as the Temple in Jerusalem was torn down by the assault of a pagan army, so too the Spirit Temple was torn down by the assault of pagan ideas about God, just as both Jesus and Paul foretold.]

²³ At that time in history, if anyone proclaims, 'Look, the Messiah or Savior is here!' or 'There is the Savior!'—don't believe it,²⁴ for false messiahs and false apostles will appear around the world—some even performing miraculous signs in order to deceive those who don't think for themselves. Their counterfeit will be so close to the true that it will almost dupe those who have partaken of the Remedy.²⁵ So remember that I have warned you before it happens: Be prepared!²⁶ If anyone tells you, 'The Messiah is in wilderness near Palestine,' don't go there; or 'The Savior can be found in secret meetings,' or 'His coming is a secret event'—don't believe it.

[To what is this referring? Not only in the false individuals, but what about the teachings of finding Christ in secret meetings, or that His second coming will be a secret event?]

²⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man will be visible to the entire world, just like sunlight dawns in the east and shines to the west, covering the entire planet.²⁸ You can be certain that you will not find the Son of Man where people seek to speak with the dead. Think of vultures eating corpses, for that is what's happening there.

[To what and when is this referring? To the time after 1798, Christ's return happens after the 1260 years, and there will be a rise in spiritualism and secret meetings where people seek to speak to the dead. Has this happened?]

²⁹ "As soon as those days of trouble are over,

[What days of trouble? The 1260 years which ended in 1798]

'light from the sun and moon will no longer be seen as evidence of God's creatorship, but their light will be darkened by evolutionism. The stars in heaven will be disregarded as evidence of the Creator, and the power of heaven will be shaken out of the land and out of the hearts of people.'



²This rendering is clearly interpretive, intended to cause the reader to think. Which sign would be more helpful to God's people on earth: a single day on which in one small section of the globe the sun and moon darken and some years later there is a meteor shower (as some Christian groups suggest), or a global change in the minds of people, in which God's celestial beacons marking His Creatorship are cast aside? But for those preferring a more traditional reading, this is an alternative rendering: "As soon as those events are over, 'the sun and moon will not give their normal light, stars will fall from the sky, and the power of heaven will be shaken.'"

³⁰ "At that time,

[what time? The time after the above events have occurred; and are we living in that time?]

the Son of Man will appear in the sky: Everyone will see him, and all the nations of this selfish world will be grief-stricken. They will see the Son of Man arriving amongst the clouds of the sky, with the unveiled power and splendor of infinite love and truth.³¹ And with the loud blast of a trumpet, he will direct his angels to gather all those who have partaken of the Remedy, from the entire world—from one end of the globe to the other.

Can you see how Christ wove together events for Jerusalem but also for the history of the entire planet? How was this possible? Because Israel was designed by God to be an object lesson to the entire world and the events in their history have lessons for a larger application.

MONDAY

The lesson asks us to read 2 Peter 3, from *The Remedy*:

¹My dear friends, this is the second letter I have written to you. These letters are to motivate you to take control of your minds and engage in healthy thinking.

[Do we have a role to play in the healing of our minds and characters? What? We must choose—what must we choose? First to evaluate the evidence about God and choose whether we will trust Him or not—i.e. choose to open the heart in trust and invite God in. Then, in trust, we must choose to say no to temptation; or another way to say it: we must choose to do that which is right, healthy, reasonable, that which is in harmony with God's methods. It is our choice, and when we make the choice, THEN we receive divine power to succeed and carry out the choice. And this love relationship with God results in our transformation and we become conduits of His love as we give to others.]

²I want you to remember the truths recorded in the past by God's spokespersons and the instructions given you by our Lord and Savior through his ambassadors.

³First of all, understand and don't be surprised that in the last days, scoffers and doubters will arise: they will prefer the sickness of selfishness while ridiculing the cure, labeling the infection of selfishness as 'normal.' ⁴They will say, "Survival-of-the-fittest is the way the universe runs: this is why we are here—not because of divine creation. Where is this so-called God? Where is the coming he promised? Ever since human history has been recorded, the principles of evolution have governed life, and all things continue just as they always have."

⁵But these scoffers deliberately deny the truth and ignore the fact that long ago, by God's Word, the world was created out of water and with water.⁶They reject the fact that it was by



these same waters that a flood destroyed the world,⁷ and they refuse to believe that the same Word has testified that the present world, which is kept for the day of final diagnosis and the elimination of everyone and everything deviant from God's design, will be destroyed by fire.

[Have we seen this transpiring? Are we living in an age when scoffers have arisen, when people doubt the existence of God, when people doubt the Biblical account of a flood, when people teach naturalistic explanations for life and when people reject the idea that there is anything wrong with the condition of humankind? Can we have confidence that a day is coming when all deviations from God's design will be eliminated? Do you prefer final diagnosis, or judgment? Why did I choose diagnosis rather than judgment? Is a diagnosis a judgment? Yes, but upon which law system does diagnosis work? Design law, thus it leads the mind to realize God's judgment is merely His accurate diagnosis of the true condition of each person's heart/character. What do you understand the fire to be?]

⁸But don't forget the true nature of God's kingdom of love. Understand that the Lord lives outside the constraints of time, and with him a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day.⁹ There is no delay on his part in keeping his promise to return: he is simply waiting for what he has always been waiting for—the Remedy to be taken to the entire world so that none who remain curable will be lost.

[If there is no delay, why do we speak of a delay and teach God has delayed? Do we undermine confidence in God by teaching He has delayed His return? And what about Satan? If God is waiting for this, what would Satan work to do? To stop it, but how? By getting people to reject God and turn to evolutionary thinking, and for those who remain motivated to take a message from God to the world to get them to take a false message—a message that actually misrepresents God as a dictator and the source of inflicted pain, suffering and death—the imperial dictator view of God.]

¹⁰But the Lord's return—coming suddenly like a thief—will surprise many people: There will be a loud roar and the sky will disappear; the very elements will melt in the intense heat, and the entire planet will be laid bare.

¹¹Since everything the world values will end in this way, what kind of people are you to be? Each person must partake of the Remedy and be healed, live a life that loves others and honors God¹² as you anticipate our Lord's return, and work to speed his coming.

[Does this mean we have a role to play? Can we speed His coming? How? By partaking of Christ and being transformed in our own beings, and then taking the true picture of God to the world!]

On that day, the atmosphere of selfishness will be consumed by fire, and the very elements contaminated by sin will melt in the intense heat.¹³ But just as promised, Jesus will make a new atmosphere and an entirely new earth—free from disease and defect, free from the infection of selfishness—the eternal home of the healed.

[Is Peter weaving together the second coming and the return after the 1000 years?]

¹⁴So please, my dear friends: Since you long for the day our Lord returns, cooperate in every way with God's healing plan so that you will be found without any defect—totally cured and



restored to complete unity with him.¹⁵ Remember that our Lord's patience gives time for the Remedy to spread and healing to occur, just as our dear brother Paul explained in his letters—as God revealed it to him.¹⁶ Paul writes about God's Remedy and healing plan in all his letters, but his letters contain some technical details and intricate illustrations and thus can be difficult to understand. And those who don't understand God's healing plan distort Paul's writings—as they do the other Scriptures—to misrepresent God.

[How has this happened? By using Paul to promote an imposed law construct with penal legal theologies.]

Sadly, without the Remedy, it results in their own destruction.

¹⁷Therefore, my dear friends, since you know all of this, stay sharp and think for yourselves so that you won't be seduced into false theologies by people who deviate from God's law of love and have your minds re-infected with distortions about God.¹⁸ Instead, grow stronger every day in the grace and truth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let him be glorified now and forever! Amen.

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph, “The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church...” What is this in practical terms?

- What is the gospel—good news? It is the good news about God, that God is not an imperial dictator, but the Creator who constructed reality to operate in harmony with His character of love. That God is not the source of inflicted pain and death, but that death comes from breaking away from God and His design, and that God has been working throughout all human history to heal and restore human beings and prevent death.
- What are the three angels? Are these actual angelic beings, or symbolic of a movement with a message from heaven that is to go to the entire world?
- Can you state the message of the three angels?
 - That God is Creator, Designer, Builder of reality and His laws are the laws upon which reality is built. We are to give glory to Him, by being healed in our characters to be like Him and live out His law of love, because the time in human history has come for human beings to make a right judgment about God! (first angel)
 - The other churches and religions of the world are fallen into a system of imposed law, arbitrary rules and legal theology with a punishing God, just like Babylon; it is a system that doesn't make sense and is confusing. And it is this *POWER* (the power of imposed law) that changed the Sabbath. This is the issue—what God do we serve, the God who creates and whose law is design protocol, or the god who is a dictator and whose laws are no different than human laws, imposed rules coercively enforced. This is the issue of which the Sabbath is only a sign, not the specific problem. We are to come out of her. (second angel)
 - And those who reject the God who is love and His law of love, and prefer the beastly methods of human imposed law constructs, and mark themselves in their minds by believing and promoting the methods of coercion, or mark themselves by their works of



practicing the methods of coercion, will ultimately die of their terminal and unhealed selfish condition—regardless of which day they worship upon. (third angel)

- Who are the remnant? Those that keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus? What does this mean?
 - What are the commandments of God? To love the Lord with all one's being and neighbor as self
 - What is the testimony of Jesus? The same as that which inspired the prophets, which is the truth about God—that God is exactly as Jesus revealed Him to be.
 - So the remnant will be a group of people who arise in the world who love God and others more than self, and who present the same picture of God as Jesus did, teaching the same methods of design law as Jesus did.

The lesson states, “This quarter began with the concept that Jesus wants to restore His image in humanity and empower us as His followers to be instruments of wholistic [sic] restoration in our communities.”

How? How does Jesus restore His image in humanity?

- First and foremost by His incarnation, taking humanity upon Himself, confronting Satan and the devil's temptation and choosing with His human mind/brain/will to say no to temptation and to love perfectly. Thus, in the person of Jesus God's image was restored into a human being.
- Secondly, by the Holy Spirit taking what Christ achieved and reproducing this character of love in all who trust God and allow Him into their hearts.

The bottom green section states, “ ‘Faith without works is dead.’ How have you discovered the reality of how closely linked faith and works are? In what ways do works increase your faith?”

Which law lens do you look through? Through imposed law lens this causes tension, penal/legal theologians go to great lengths to emphasize that our salvation has no work from us at all, it is all 100% done by Christ. They teach that all our personal sins were placed upon Christ and punished in Christ on the cross 2000 years ago. That in taking that legal punishment atonement was full and complete. But then state that if we don't work then we haven't been saved by the work of Christ. That our works are evidences of the being saved, but do nothing to contribute or merit God saving us, because all our works are contaminated with sin and God could not accept such polluted works.

Their point is that Christ needed to be legally punished by God and be sinless so that God would accept the legal payment to pay for our sins. And since our good works are contaminated by sin they can not be offered to God to pay or sin debt. Yet, after we accept the legal payment of Jesus to the Father so the Father will declare us to be righteous, even though we are not, we then must work because if we don't then we are not saved, even though we were already declared to be righteous by the substitutionary application of Christ's legal payment to our account.



When we come back to design law all this confusion and contradiction evaporates and the truth about faith and works harmonizes beautifully. Anyone want to explain it through design law?

Hebrews tells us that faith is the *substance* of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. The word *substance* comes from the Greek *hypostasis* which has two halves:

- hypo—which means under as in hypoglycemic, or hypotension
- stasis which means standing

This was translated into a Latin based word *substance* which has two halves:

- sub—which means under as in subway, submarine, subterranean
- stance—which means standing

And we can translate that to modern English as “faith is our *understanding*”

And understanding as two definitions, which both apply:

- our cognitive comprehension of God, His methods, trustworthiness
- our agreement with God—we have an understanding with Him

Example, a person gets infected with Anthrax and is sick in the ER. A doctor examines them and diagnoses them accurately and communicates the diagnosis to them. Then tells them, “I can heal you. I have a Remedy developed that will cure you and I will provide it to you at no cost. Do you trust me? If I provide you this Remedy will you take it and follow my instructions? Do we have an understanding?”

Faith is our *understanding* with God—our intelligent appreciation of who He is and our agreement with Him and His methods and to cooperate with Him in following His instructions—thus we work, we follow His instructions.

Does the patient who takes the medicine create their own cure? Do they save themselves? No! But will they be saved if they don’t enter into agreement with the doctor and work in harmony with him?

This is design law—this is how God works. This is how we work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Through Jesus Christ *alone* the Remedy to sin has been achieved and offered free of charge to everyone, but we much choose to trust God, and we must choose to partake of what Jesus provides, and we must choose to follow His instructions for our lives. Thus Jesus says:

Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

²⁹ Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” Jn 6:28,29

Here are some quotes from one of the founders of the SDA church describing this process:

- We are laborers together with God. This is the Lord's own wise arrangement. **The cooperation of the human will and endeavor with divine energy is the link that binds men up with one**



another and with God. The apostle says, "We are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:9). **Man is to work with the facilities God has given him.** "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," He says. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12, 13).--MS 113, 1898. {2MCP 694.3}

- **There are two grand forces at work in the salvation of the human soul. It requires the cooperation of man with the divine agencies--** divine influences, and a strong, living, working faith. **It is in this way only** that the human agent can become a laborer together with God. **The Lord does not sanction in any one of us a blind, stupid credulity. He does not dishonor the human understanding,** but, far from this, He calls for the human will to be brought into connection with the divine will. **He calls for the ingenuity of the human mind, the tact, the skill, to be strenuously exercised in searching out the truth as it is in Jesus. . .** . Ye are labourers together with God. {OHC 310.5}
- And he who seeks to give light to others will himself be blessed. "There shall be showers of blessing." "He that watereth shall be watered also himself." Proverbs 11:25. **God could have reached His object in saving sinners without our aid; but in order for us to develop a character like Christ's, we must share in His work.** In order to enter into His joy,--the joy of seeing souls redeemed by His sacrifice,--we must participate in His labors for their redemption. {DA 142.2}

WEDNESDAY

The first paragraph speaks of the metaphor of farming and states it is a patient process—what law does farming operate upon?

What lessons about salvation do we gain from farming? Farming works upon design law, one reaps what one sows. Further when we look at a field we don't know what is planted there until it grows up. Likewise we don't know what is in another person's heart.

Further, a field that is wild, uncultivated, can be cultivated and good seed can be planted in. So too, hearts that have not had the truth of God planted in can be sewn with God's truth and love.

The lesson in the second paragraph states, "The fact is, we don't know people's hearts. We don't know how the Holy Spirit has been working in their lives."

What does it mean in day to day application? Could it mean that there are people who have rejected God and church who are actually following the leading of the Holy Spirit? How?



Could it be that there are people who have only ever heard of an arbitrary dictator-like god that induces fear and contradicts the reality of God's true character as revealed in nature and thus they reject that god? Would doing so move them away from God or closing to Him?

The last sentence states, "And though we are to be used by God in various capacities, in the end it is God alone who can bring about the conversion of a soul."

Any concerns about how this is stated? Could wrong ideas be inadvertently drawn from this?

For instance, if it is God alone who brings about the conversion of a soul, then why isn't everyone converted? If it is truly God alone, and everyone is not saved, then that would mean that God doesn't want everyone saved. So, is it God alone that brings about conversion? Or is it, as we read above, that God saves in cooperation with the one being converted?

THURSDAY

Read the third paragraph, "The second city..." What does it mean? Two cities, Jerusalem and Babylon, represent two groups of people. What is the demarcating differences in the two groups?

- Love versus selfishness
- Truth versus lies
- Freedom versus coercion

What about the commandments and faith in Jesus? Will many who find themselves part of Babylon claim they are commandment keepers and have faith in Jesus?

Remember Jesus said,

Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' MT 7:22,23

Could this include people who worship on the seventh day Sabbath? What makes the difference? Coming into a true knowledge of God and His character, which is understanding His character of love, His design law and how He operates such that we actually *know* Him.

The next paragraph states, "By the blood of the Lamb, the church's role in compassionate restoration has changed to jubilant celebration." What does this mean?

Is this referring to a legal payment of the blood of Christ to His Father who was offended by our sin? Or, is the blood referring to the perfect life of Christ, of which we must partake? Thus Jesus said:



“I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Jn 6:53

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions



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 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.

September 15-17: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC National Conference in Dallas, TX. For more info, see AACC.net

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 Somerset West, South Africa

November 4: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC Fall Summit at the Calvary Chapel in Naperville, IL.