



## First and Second Peter Lesson 11 2Q 2017 False Teachers

We received this email this week:

*Hello and thank-you for writing The Remedy New Testament. I just recently came upon a copy at McKay's bookstore and don't know why I bought it because I already own dozens of Bibles with access to many more on e-Sword. But the Title caught my attention ... and something prompted me ... so profound that I had to get it, despite my usual dislike for paraphrases.*

*I started reading it last night with 1John then the Gospel of John and couldn't put it down until falling asleep sometime around 3-something this morning.*

*I travel a lot, which brings me in contact with a LOT of people and only rarely are the doors closed to some kind of Kingdom-discussion, with me usually leaving them with a copy of a book I'm reading or one I feel specifically prompted to give them. In fact, it's why I go to McKay's so often...it's to pick-up books for specific people I plan to meet ... and the Holy Spirit has never disappointed me yet ... or any of the recipients of the books. Nor do I think He ever will.*

*I was just recently asking what book will I next be "freely-given" so I can freely-give?*

*And that's when I came across The Remedy.*

*I would like to purchase in bulk for upcoming trips to New York, Missouri and South Dakota.*

*I also think your rendition to be the most profound rendering since the NEB ... which I've been distributing for years, thanks to McKay's.*

*But they only had ONE copy of The Remedy and therefore the email of inquiry to you direct for more.*

*I find your rendering so much more conducive to the people I tend to somehow be placed in their paths ... the homeless, the disenfranchised, addicts of all sorts, the sexually disoriented, prisoners, military who have seen some horrendous things and drown themselves in coping/escape mechanisms, inner-city at-risk kids and drop-outs, immigrants of all sorts, Native Americans on reservations, seniors who feel they nothing left to contribute and waiting to die ... you know ... people in need of the Great Physician and waiting for someone to share some GOOD NEWS for a change.*



## SABBATH

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Read second paragraph, “Satan launches a two-pronged attack...” Does Christianity still face the problem of false teachings today?

What teachings do you find within Christianity today that are false?

I am not a denominationalist—meaning I do not believe a person is saved based on membership in a particular denomination.

If people believe salvation is by belonging to a particular denomination, would that be a true or false teaching?

But having said that, I am familiar with some distinct teachings among the various denominations, I thought I might review some of them and see if any of these are essential in determining a genuine Christian:

1. The Scriptures are inspired by God
2. There is one true God who exists in the triune perfection of love—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. Jesus is the divine member of the Godhead who is identified as God’s Son and who became human, lived a sinless life, died on the cross, rose again to life and ascended to heaven
4. God is the Creator and the world was created in seven literal days and God rested on the seventh day creating the Sabbath as a gift for human beings. Life did not evolve on its own.
5. Human beings were created in God’s image, with their own unique individuality and freedom to make their own choices
6. There is a conflict between God and Satan waging in the minds of intelligent beings over who to trust
7. Jesus became human, lived a sinless life and died on the cross for the purpose of defeating Satan, saving humankind, and securing the universe unfallen
8. God’s works via the Holy Spirit to heal and transform every human being who will let Him
9. Those who are transformed by the Holy Spirit having immersed their hearts in God’s love and truth, and, when able, give public witness by the ritual of water baptism
10. Those who trust God and are united in love are known as God’s church and they work together to reach other people with God’s healing grace
11. The Holy Spirit enables those who trust God to fulfill roles by providing abilities or gifts for the fulfillment of their calling
12. God is Sovereign and His law is unchangeable
13. Jesus is in heaven directing all the agencies at His disposal to defeat evil, Satan and to save and heal all who will let Him
14. The wages or result of unhealed sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in an earth made new.



15. Jesus is coming again soon in the clouds of heaven, visibly to resurrect the righteous dead and translate the righteous living to heaven, the wicked will die the first death and the earth will be barren for 1000 years, followed by the resurrection of the wicked, the final judgment and the eradication of all sin, pain, and death itself and then the universe will be cleansed and the earth made new.

Now, if a person believes all of these things, what would that make them?

Hmmm.... doesn't Satan and all his rebellious angels believe every one of these things?

Isn't it true that an intelligent being can believe every one of these beliefs to be true and be a devil, be Satan himself, God's worse enemy?

So, does believing such things make one a Christian?

Is there a lie operating here somewhere? It is a lie that we are Christians by attestation to a set of beliefs and by joining a particular denomination and by public baptism.

Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Jn 13:35

What is necessary to be a true Christian—to hold to a specific set of beliefs, or to have the heart transformed from selfishness to Christlike love?

And what is necessary to have the heart transformed to Christlike love? Knowing God—having the lies of God removed and knowing God personally, individually, intimately for who He is as revealed by Jesus Christ, which results in unity of heart, mind and character—we are at-one with God again. "This is life eternal that they might know you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." John 17:3

And what prevents people from truly knowing God? Lies, false teachings, which create believers who believe in systems of theology, creeds, fundamental beliefs, but who still do not know God and who are not transformed to be like Jesus in character.

And what is the core lie within Christianity that obstructs people from knowing God?

The false law—the idea that God's law is imposed and requires inflicted punishment, which results in people creating doctrines that are designed to function how? The doctrines function by separating people from God, by hiding them from God, by protecting them from God rather than reconciling them to Him. This is the majority of Christianity, think of the barriers of false ideas about God that have been built up in the minds and practices of so many Christians. Can you name any?



- I need an intercessor between me and God to plead my case to God and persuade Him not to punish me for my sins
  - In Catholicism it is not only Jesus, but Mary and the saints who plead to God and the priests to whom sins are confessed because God couldn't tolerate us if there wasn't someone in between
  - In Protestantism it is Jesus who is our advocate pleading His blood or merits to the Father reminding the Father that He has paid the price for our sins so the Father doesn't punish us
- I need someone to hide my sins from God
  - In Catholicism it is Jesus, Mary and the Saints who hide our sins from God by covering them with the blood of Jesus; when we partake the Mass Jesus then applies His sacrifice to erase the sin from records and keeps God from seeing it and acting to punish
  - In Protestantism it is Jesus applying His blood to our record books to erase the record of sins, or covering us with His robe of righteousness, which is taught that His perfect sinless life gets recorded in our record book so when our records are open we have the life of Jesus recorded there so the Father only sees Jesus' sinless life and not our own.
- I need someone to pay my debt
  - In Catholicism it is Jesus, along with our works, penances, indulgences and other activities combined that pay our debt so the Father doesn't have to punish
  - In Protestantism it is Jesus who paid our complete debt to God so He doesn't have to punish

Do you see how these doctrines function? To hide or protect us from God? Why? Because believing the lie about God's law we believe the lie God must inflict punishment, thus we are never truly reconciled to God, we don't really know Him and we certainly don't trust Him. Thus we continue to live in fear, rather than being transformed back to beings who love God and others more than self.

It also leads to the concern that salvation is based on having the right doctrinal beliefs—thus if we can collect the right list of beliefs, and swear allegiance to that set of beliefs then we are saved. This leads to centuries long arguments among Christians over doctrines:

- What day to worship upon?
- Which method of baptism?
- Eternal or limited hell?
- Trinity or no trinity?
- Why did Jesus have to die?

Are we saved by knowing the right answers to any of these questions?

It is a lie that having the right doctrines results in salvation—what is the true purpose of doctrines? What they tell us about God, how they bring us into a closer intimacy with Him uniting our hearts with His, so that we are transformed to be like Jesus in heart!



The right way to approach any list of doctrines is to ask, if this is true what kind of being would God be? What does it say about God? Does this teaching increase trust or undermine trust in God? etc.

## SUNDAY

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The lesson asks us to read portions of 2Peter 2, lets read the entire chapter from the NIV and then from *The Remedy* and discuss it:

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. [While this is true that some humans will deny Jesus is Lord, do the devils deny Jesus is Lord? Remember what the demoniacs said?] <sup>2</sup> Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. [What are their shameful ways? Will it not be the ways that deny truth, which leads to superstitions and denying love, i.e. promoting selfishness?] <sup>3</sup> In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. [What does this mean? An infliction, or a consequence?]

<sup>4</sup> For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; <sup>5</sup> if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; <sup>6</sup> if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; <sup>7</sup> and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men <sup>8</sup> (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— <sup>9</sup> if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. <sup>10</sup> This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. [Are these words easy to understand? Do they incite fear or love? What law lens are you hearing these words through? What do they mean in reality? What is God actually doing?]

Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; <sup>11</sup> yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. <sup>12</sup> But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

<sup>13</sup> They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. <sup>14</sup> With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable;



they are experts in greed—an accursed brood! [accursed by who or what?] <sup>15</sup> They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. <sup>16</sup> But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—a beast without speech—who spoke with a man’s voice and restrained the prophet’s madness. [What is the straight way they have left?]

<sup>17</sup> These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. [What does this mean? Reserved by whom, what is the cause of the darkness?] <sup>18</sup> For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. <sup>19</sup> They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. <sup>20</sup> If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. [Why are they worse?] <sup>21</sup> It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. <sup>22</sup> Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” and, “A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.”

Do you see God and His law of love, the principle of liberty in these verses? Or do these verses bring up ideas of imposed laws and inflicted punishments?

When you read them to you feel more love, peace, joy, or more anxiety, fear and dread? Why? Does the preconceived ideas we have been taught impact how we hear these words?

From *The Remedy*:

In the past, among God’s people were those who claimed to speak for God and bring his Remedy, but they did not speak for God at all, and they brought a false remedy. Likewise, there will be people among you who claim to teach God’s truth and have God’s Remedy but will teach lies. They will subtly introduce false remedies—destructive doctrines purported to heal but actually incite fear, shut down thinking, and damage the mind. They will even deny the Sovereign Lord who procured the Remedy, thus bringing rapid deterioration and destruction upon themselves. [Do you see design law in this version? What happens to a person who refuses remedy? Why does it happen?] <sup>2</sup> There will be large numbers of people who embrace their corrupt ways while calling themselves Christians, thus causing the Remedy to be considered worthless. [Why?] <sup>3</sup> In their eagerness for power, fame and wealth, these false teachers will mislead you with theories and doctrines they have made up on their own. Because of this, their terminal condition only worsens, and their ultimate destruction is unavoidable. [Again do you see why? Is God to be feared in this rendering or is unremedied sin to be feared?]





<sup>4</sup>For God did not suspend reality to let the angels avoid the consequences of their deviation from his design for life, but he expelled them from his presence, suspending them in utter darkness for the day they reap the full result of unremedied sin. [What is this saying? What does the Bible teach about God's presences? 1Tim 6:16 God lives in unapproachable light. Jesus is the source of light. So how would God suspend angels in utter darkness? By expelling them from His presence, which occurred by whose choice? And is this speaking primarily of physical light or the light of truth?] <sup>5</sup>God did not allow the gangrenous ancient world to completely cut itself off from him but brought the flood to excise the necrosis and save Noah—a teacher of the Remedy—and seven others. <sup>6</sup>He diagnosed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah as beyond healing, and in mercy, he cauterized those festering lesions to ash, making it clear that the unhealed will not be made to suffer eternally, but the torment of sin will mercifully be ended; [Do these stories show a God who is love working to heal and save, like a doctor intervening with a very sick patient, or a deity who is angry and mad who seeks to torture and kill, which God do you see in these verses?] <sup>7</sup>and God delivered Lot—a man who partook of the Remedy and was tormented by the disgusting lives of those living in violation of God's design—<sup>8</sup>for it was torture for that man with a healed mind and sensitive heart to live day after day among such vileness and see and hear such vulgarity.[what was the cause of the torment to Lot? Was it inflicted by God or was it due to sin in his world? Have any of you been tormented when those you love have chosen to indulge sin and debased, damaged and injured themselves?] <sup>9</sup>If God can do all of this, he also knows how to rescue from affliction the godly—those who have partaken of the Remedy—while preserving until the day everyone is accurately diagnosed, the ungodly—those who by refusing the Remedy suffer in persistent sin,<sup>10</sup>and especially those whose minds are controlled by selfishness and who are so self-centered that they despise any authority, oversight, or redirection. They are presumptuous, pompous and arrogant; they are so self-absorbed that they have no respect for heavenly beings, but instead, they denigrate them.<sup>11</sup>Yet even angels, who are mightier and stronger than these false teachers, do not slander such beings in the presence of God—the source of all truth.<sup>12</sup>These people speak foolishly about things they don't even comprehend; they are like unthinking animals, driven by fear, rage, and lust. They are caught up in their own destructive choices, and—like the unthinking beasts—they will also perish. [Why will they perish—a judicial infliction, or the natural result of unremedied sin and separation from the red source of life?]

<sup>13</sup>They will reap what they have sown, receiving as their wages the harmful results of living outside God's design. Their idea of health and happiness is to violate trust, stay faithful to no one, and openly indulge the basest passions. They are festering lesions of decay, reveling in their orgies.<sup>14</sup>They constantly backstab, betray and exploit; they never stop violating God's design for life—the law of love—and instead, constantly promote selfishness. They seduce the immature and unstable; they are experts in taking for themselves, regardless of how it hurts others. They are unhealed, dying under the curse of sin,<sup>15</sup>they have chosen to leave the design protocols for life and have embraced the methods of Balaam, son of Beor, who loved the rewards procured by exploiting others.<sup>16</sup>But a donkey had more sense than Balaam and told him he was wrong. With the voice of a man, the donkey spoke and stopped the prophet's insane action.



<sup>17</sup>These people have nothing to offer; they are like dried-up springs, having no more substance than a vapor trail in the sky. Eternal darkness is what awaits them. [Why? What is the result of eternal separation from the source of all light, truth and love?] <sup>18</sup>They proclaim a false message, empty of any healing power but appealing to the selfish human desire to advance self. They entice people who are only just escaping the dog-eat-dog world. <sup>19</sup>They promise freedom from fear and selfishness but are themselves slaves to their own insecurities, lusts and depraved natures—for a person is a slave to whatever controls them. <sup>20</sup>If they have broken free from the corruption of the world by experiencing a genuine intimacy with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ but choose to entangle themselves again in the web of selfishness, lust and deceit, they are worse than they were before they knew the freedom in Christ. <sup>21</sup>They would suffer less if they had never experienced the joy and freedom of righteousness than to have known it and turned back into slavery and pain, ignoring God's design—the sacred protocols that were passed on to them. <sup>22</sup>Their characters prove true the proverbs: "A dog swallows its own vomit," and "You can clean a pig, but it will return to wallowing in the mud."

The lesson asks how we can protect ourselves against accepting false doctrines?

What method do you use?

What about the integrative evidenced-based approach, which requires us to know God's design laws, and harmonize our understanding of Scripture with testable parameters and real life experiences?

When we do this what kind of a God do we find? And isn't the ultimate question, the ultimate truth the truth about God Himself, His nature, character, method of operating?

## MONDAY

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Read first paragraph, "In the strongest possible language..." Can you think of any doctrines today that promise people freedom but actually enslave people instead?

- What about penal substitution theology?
  - What does it promise? Freedom from punishment for sin
  - What does it deliver? Fear of punishment for sins unrepented of, fear of a god who must inflict punishment for unrepented sin, fear in a universe where their god is the source of inflicted pain and suffering, enslavement in a system of religion in which one lives in fear of doing something wrong:
    - "Oh no, I had the TV on Friday afternoon, was talking on the phone and forgot to turn it off before sunset."
    - "Oh no, in a meeting at work I took a paperclip off a bundle of papers and put it in my pocket and then brought it home, did I steal from my employer? Have I done this before, will God punish me if I forgot to ask forgiveness for it?"





- “Is it okay to throw the Frisbee on Sabbath afternoon? What about a baseball, what about basketball, what about hitting a tennis ball?”
- “We must not stay after church in the lobby to visit lest someone speak about something not holy and we hear it.”
- “I haven’t taken communion in three years, am I still saved or am I in trouble with God?”
- “What if I get into an argument and impulsively curse a person, and then step out in front of a car and get killed before I confess this sin—am I still saved?”
- “I did a rolling right at a stop sign, didn’t stop completely, is that sin for disobeying the law? Should I confess it?”
- “I see people beside the road holding signs “homeless” “Will work for food” etc. Should I give them a donation? What if they use the money for drugs? If I don’t give does that mean I am selfish? Is it sin to give or not give? I don’t know what to do?”

Do you see the imposed law system creates entire lines of thinking, belief systems that darken the mind, incite fear, enslave with legalistic and ritualistic behaviors, steal joy and cause one to constantly look at themselves rather than to rejoice in their love and admiration for God and Jesus!

This then leads to the false legal solution—well even if it is sin, I don’t need to worry because all my sins, past present and future were placed on Jesus at the Cross and God punished Jesus for my sins, I have accepted that legal payment and my record in heaven is stamped legally pardoned, and God declares me to be righteous, even though I am not. So, I don’t worry about whether these things are sins or not, because Jesus legally paid my penalty.

## TUESDAY

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The lesson speaks about people who return to their former sinful lives.

Read fourth paragraph, “Perhaps the echo of the words...” What is Jesus referring to with his parable?

Matthew 12:44,45: from *The Remedy*:

"When the mind of a person is freed from an evil spirit, the spirit seeks another to harass. But if the spirit finds no other,<sup>44</sup> it says, 'I will return to the one I left.' If, when it arrives, it finds the mind not filled with God's Spirit but instead empty and uncommitted,<sup>45</sup> it gets seven other spirits more wicked than itself and infiltrates the mind with lies, temptations, and distorted thinking. And the condition of that person is worse than before, because truth no longer has any impact on them. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

Why is their condition worse than before? Because their initial condition was one of believing lies without having the benefit of knowing the truth, but then the truth was presented and the truth



dispelled the lies and set them free. Then, after knowing the truth, they chose to reject the truth, to not apply the truth to their lives and instead choose the lies reverting to their old ways. Now, having considered, understood and rejected the truth, such truth has no impact because it has been rejected, thus they are worse off than before and the lies multiply and deepen their darkness.

What of the last sentence, “If involvement in church and the sharing of the new faith do not replace the earlier secular activities, it is too easy to revert to one’s old ways.”

Are they suggesting that it is church activities and sharing the faith that keeps people from having a darkened mind?

Can a person who has been freed from fear and selfishness by coming to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and His love for them, revert back to a life of fear and selfishness while they are active in, and perhaps because of, church activities?

In other words, do church activities keep us safe from backsliding or walking away from God? Were those who put Christ on the Cross, active in their church or not active?

## WEDNESDAY

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Read first paragraph, “Many people have observed...” What does this sentence mean, “God is in control of the destinies of the wicked”?

Does this mean God determines the outcomes of their lives? That it is God’s choice whether they are saved or not? Or that it is God’s choice that determines their punishment?

These ideas are wrong; they are lies. This statement is evidence that the authors are operating on the false view of God’s law—i.e. that God’s law operates like human law and God will inflict the punishment they deserve.

What determines the destiny of the wicked is not the choice of God, but the choices of the wicked. Their refusal to accept healing, their persistence in evil change them, warp them, harden them, and build up a life history of evil that they will one day face in the presence of all truth and love. This is what determines their destiny, and their own unhealed characters is the source of their suffering.

This is from the book, *Hard Sayings of the Bible* by Intersity Press, commenting on God’s wrath described in Romans 1:

In some sense, God’s wrath is built into the very structure of created reality. In rejecting God’s structure and establishing our own, in violating God’s intention for the creation and substituting our own intentions, we cause our own disintegration. P 542



The human condition, which Paul describes in Romans 1:18-32, is not something caused by God. The phrase “revealed from heaven” (where “heaven” is a typical Jewish substitute word for “God”) does not depict some kind of divine intervention, but rather the *inevitability of human debasement* which results when God’s will, built into the created order, is violated. Since the created order has its origin in God, Paul can say that the wrath of God is now (constantly) being revealed “from heaven.” It is revealed in the fact that the rejection of God’s truth (Rom 1:18-20), that is, the truth about God’s nature and will, leads to futile thinking (Rom 1:21-22), idolatry (Rom 1:23), perversion of God-intended sexuality (Rom 1:24-27) and relational-moral brokenness (Rom 1:28-32). P 543

The expression “God gave them over” (or “handed them over”), which appears three times in this passage (Rom 1:24,26,28), supports the idea that the sinful perversion of human existence, though resulting from human decisions, is to be understood ultimately as God’s punishment which we, in freedom, bring upon ourselves. P 543

In light of these reflections, the common notion that God punishes or blesses in direct proportion to our sinful or good deeds cannot be maintained... God loves us with an everlasting love. But the rejection of that love separates us from its life-giving power. The result is disintegration and death. P 543

Kaiser, W., et al., *Hard Saying of the Bible*, Intervarsity Press, 1996,

What does the last sentence, “Whether unrighteous humanity or the fallen angels, God has taken special note of their evil and has planned their punishment on the day of judgment,” say to you?

Again, what kind of law does such a statement reveal the authors believe in?

The infection of Satan’s lie is deeply rooted within the landscape of Christianity. The final message to the world to prepare people for the second coming of Christ is to worship Him who made the heavens, earth, sea etc. and stop worshiping the dictator. We are called to designer worship.

Read second paragraph, “Peter and Jude record three examples...” Was God’s action at the flood, at Sodom, vengeance? Or was it something else?

First, what law lens are you looking through? Does God’s law function like human law, or is God’s law design law, protocols reality is built upon?

So, if God operates on design law, what do we make of the flood and Sodom and Gomorrah?

Was God acting to punish sin, or was God acting in mercy to restrain sin and keep open the avenue for healing and restoration?



First question—what is the punishment for sin, first death—sleep in the grave and then resurrection, or eternal death? Did the people who died in the flood or Sodom die first or second death? First, it therefore is not punishment for sin.

Second question, speaking in a language of those stuck in the false law construct: Does the punishment for sin happen before or after judgment? Or which comes first, the judgment and then the execution of the sentence for the guilty? Had the judgment happened at the time of the flood and Sodom? So, again it cannot be punishment for sin.

So, understanding reality, we realize what happened then was not God punishing for sin, nor God acting vindictively or vengefully. What was happening?

After Adam sinned, what was the condition of the human species? Could the species human be saved without Jesus coming to earth and completing His mission?

Did Satan know this? Genesis three, God tells the serpent the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head. Did Satan know a Messiah was coming?

And what did Satan do? Did he try and prevent the Messiah from coming to earth? How?

Would God have Jesus born to a woman like Jezebel or force a woman against her will to be the mother of Jesus? So, what if Satan gets every person to permanently harden their heart to God? How many righteous people were on the earth at the time of the flood?

So was the flood God acting to punish or God acting in mercy and love to keep open the avenue for Messiah, in order to heal and save?

So the lesson authors see God as the source of inflicted pain, suffering and death—is there a problem with this view of God? What?

What is the truth? God is the source of all good, truth, love and life, sin is deviations from God's design and sin itself results in pain, suffering and death unless remedied by God.

Which God is the one you can trust?

So what are the false teachings? Those teachings about God that make God into the one we must fear, the punisher, the source of pain and death.

Is it surprising to discover that false teachings are found in every denominational organization?



## THURSDAY

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Read first paragraph, “The first substantive reference to Sodom...” First question did Abraham negotiate with God? Hmm... Did God go to Abraham unaware of how Abraham would respond? Did God respond to Abraham’s requests to not destroy for 50, 40 and so on with a lack of knowledge of how many righteous people were in Sodom?

Did the conversation Abraham had with God change the outcome that God told Abraham was going to happen?

In other words, was God negotiating with Abraham or doing something else? What was God doing? God was educating by action the angels in heaven, who long to look into these things, and Abraham by experience on the kind of person God is.

What about the destruction of the cities, what is revealed about God, and about the end of the wicked at the end of time?

That God does not torture, that God will not allow people to suffer eternally but bring an end to the suffering.

## FRIDAY

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In the paragraph it states, “Christ came to release us from the condemnation of the law...” How?

What does this mean?

What law lens?

If the law is like human law, what would it mean to be released from the condemnation of the law? For instance, what does it mean to be released from a speeding ticket? To either have the fine waived or someone else to pay the fine. This is the false theology of penal substitution.

But, when we realize God’s law is design law, what does it mean to be released from the condemnation of the law? For instance, what does it mean to be released from the condemnation of a terminal diagnosis of lung cancer from years of smoking (violating the laws of health)? To be healed by having the cancer put into remission. Now, if the cancer is in remission and one is no longer living in violations of the laws of health, is there anything for the laws of health to condemn?

So, Christ frees us from the condemnation of the law by procuring a remedy and then applying that remedy in us to heal and restore us to live in harmony with His law/design for life.

Read and discuss questions 1-3



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**June 8-10, 2017:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC Event The Struggle is Real in Naperville, IL.

**June 23,24, 2017:** Dr. Jennings will be doing a seminar for the Samaritan Counseling Service in Sarasota FL. For more information [www.samaritangulfcoast.com](http://www.samaritangulfcoast.com)  
(T) 941-926-2959 (F) 941-929-0849

**July 14,15, 2017:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Lakeport SDA church, in Lakeport CA.

**August 18,19, 2017:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Celebration SDA church in Celebration, Florida.

**Sep 5, 2017: Dr. Jennings' new book *The God-Shaped Heart*** will be released by Baker Books. Here is a brief description:

Love is more than emotion, more than compassion, more than positive regard for another; love is power—the power to live, heal and be free. Love is functional, operational, with specific design parameters built into the fabric of reality. Love is intelligent and as we intelligently choose to harmonize with how love functions we not only experience greater health, fulfillment and wellbeing, we are transformed to become forces for good in the world. In *The God-Shaped Heart* Christian psychiatrist Dr. Tim Jennings explores the healing power of love, exposes a belief system infecting Christianity that obstructs love, and identifies eternal truths that open the heart to God's transforming power of love.

**September 15,16 2017:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Church in the Valley, Aldergrove, British Columbia, Canada.

**September 26-Oct 1, 2017:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC World Conference, Nashville TN, and our ministry will have a booth in the exhibit hall.

**October 12-16, 2017:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Garden Grove SDA church in Garden Grove, CA. This will be a multi-speaker event focusing on the atonement. For more information contact:

**Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
12702 9th Street  
Garden Grove, CA 92840  
Church office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Phone:** (714) 534-1987  
**Fax:** (714) 534-3877  
**Email:** [office@gardengrovesda.com](mailto:office@gardengrovesda.com)

**October 27, 28, 2017:** Dr. Jennings will speaking at the Arlington SDA church in Arlington, TX. For more information contact: <http://www.arlingtonadventist.com/>