



## Salvation and Preparation for the End Time Lesson 9 2Q 2018 End-Time Deception

by Tim Jennings (announcements at end)

### SABBATH

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What are the most effective deceptions—the ones easy to see or the ones hard to spot?

A little boy with chocolate on his face, when mommy asks “Have you been eating chocolate?” answers “no.” Such deception is easy to spot.

But what was the problem with the Galatians that Paul was dealing with? Many will suggest it was one of works, they were working for salvation—however, Paul elsewhere says that we are to “work out our salvation with fear and trembling.” Can a person be saved without their own participation?

We have a role to play in our own salvation—the species was saved in the person of Jesus without our individual work, but every individual saved has to cooperate with God and make choices—to work out their salvation, not work to earn their salvation, but work to apply and experience what Christ has achieved.

So, what was the deception of the Galatians? Circumcision being a requirement to salvation—and what kind of work would that be? What was the basis of the bodily circumcision? Is it found in design law or imposed instructions?

Thus, the root deception to the Galatians wasn’t circumcision, but the underlying foundation upon which it was based—the lie that God’s law is imposed and not doing the right rules requires arbitrary infliction of punishment.

We will see this is the root lie from the beginning of the conflict in heaven and is the lie we are still fighting today—the deception hidden from obvious view because it presents itself as accepted orthodoxy—I will give you a sad evidence in Fox News yesterday in a few minutes.

Read first paragraph, “Even in heaven...” What was the core lie, the root lie, which undermined trust in God? If Satan’s goal wasn’t reverence for God, what was his real purpose?

What is implied by this description? Could someone be in church leadership, could someone be purporting to be promoting reverence for God today and actually be working against God?

How can we tell if someone is promoting God’s truth, or Satan’s lie—when both are purporting to be interested in reverence for God?

In the book *The Desire of Ages* is a chapter entitled *It Is Finished* the author does an incredible job of giving insights into Satan’s deceptions in heaven and on earth. Let’s go through part of that chapter



and see if you agree:

Picking up the chapter after the death of Christ on the Cross, from the perspective of the angels in heaven watching:

Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. **He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings.** [Who do you believe killed Christ on the Cross, God or Satan and sinful humans? So, the **FIRST test point** in uncovering Satan's lies is to ask who killed Jesus. If someone teaches it was God who killed Jesus, then that would be evidence of the lie. The Penal Substitution view teaches that God, in order to satisfy divine justice, killed Jesus. This is the first test point you can use to expose the end-time deception, of which Penal Substitution is part. If you want references documenting that Penal Substitution theology teaches this lie see either *The God-Shaped Heart* book or the *Designer Dictator* session of Come And Reason's *From Fear to Friends: God And Your Church* seminar video] **Henceforth his work was restricted.** Whatever attitude he might assume, **he could no longer await the angels** as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. [What was the cause of the restriction of Satan's work? Why was Satan's work restricted? Because the truth had been revealed to heavenly intelligences and no lies of Satan would work on them any more. Satan was not restricted by God using might and power; God doesn't work that way. Satan was restricted by truth, revealed in love, leaving intelligences free—God's methods! So, the **SECOND test point** to differentiate end-time deception is to watch the methods being employed. God never coerces, but leaves free!] The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken. {DA 761.2}

Yet Satan was not then destroyed. **The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy.** [What did angels not yet understand? They understood Satan had lied and could not be trusted. They understood God and Jesus told the truth and *could* be trusted—so what did they NOT understand yet?] **The principles** at stake were to be more fully revealed. [What are principles? Design laws! They didn't fully understand God's principles, methods, design laws!] **And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued.** [How is it for our sake that Satan's existence is continued? What benefit could there be for us? Is there a difference in someone telling you your son is a thief, and you catching your son in the act of stealing? Is there any need for Satan to reveal his own nature? And is there any design law involved in our response to this truth?] Man as well as angels **must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve.** [Why must we choose? Because God can only change a heart, heal a mind, transform a character with the free-will choice of that intelligent being involved. If God were to use His power to over-write the choice of the intelligent being God would destroy that being and create a robot. Thus, it is for our good to see the contrast between the two systems and choose. When we choose we are transformed by either opening the heart in trust to



God and experiencing His healing presence within, or closing the heart and hardening ourselves. And between what are we choosing, merely to believe in God or not to believe in God? Or, what kind of God we believe in, what methods and laws does God use? But what was the lie that Satan told to start the rebellion?} {DA 761.3}

**In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed**, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, **it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan**; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice.[What is Satan's lie? What kind of law does Satan attribute to God? Imposed, and what role does Satan describe God as fulfilling? Inflictor of punishment for justice sake. So, here is another test point. If you hear theologies that present God as the source of inflicted punishment for sin, this is evidence of Satan's view at work. Such ideas are based on the lie that God's law functions like human law, and God is then presented in character as one no different than a human dictator. God then becomes the one we must fear and from whom we need to be protected. This is a **THIRD test point** to discern the end-time deception: Does a system teach God's law is imposed and God must punish sin? Again, we find Penal Substitution Theology to be promoting the end-time deception.] When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God's favor. **God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner.** {DA 761.4} [Have you heard this line of reasoning from those who hold the penal view? Again, part of the lie. When you hear such things recognize such ideas as diagnostic evidence of Satan's lies at work]

**But even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan.** [We read this paragraph last week—what was different about man's situation?] 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 [In what? A legal payment?] a knowledge of God's love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God.** {DA 761.5} [What kind of law is involved in this process? Design law, the laws of truth, worship, sewing/reaping, exertion, love and freedom]

Through Jesus, God's mercy was manifested to men; **but mercy does not set aside justice.** [What is justice? What law lens do you use? If one uses impose law, justice is infliction of punishment—this is Satan's lie. What is justice under design law—doing what is right, which is what? Restoring people to harmony with God's law—saving and healing, while destroying the death causing infection of sin! For Bible references see either the *God and Your Brain* series lecture 2 Designer or Dictator] **The law reveals the attributes of God's character, [What attributes? Love!] and not a jot or tittle of it could be changed to meet man in his**



**fallen condition.** [Why? For the same reason the law of respiration cannot be changed to meet a drowning person under water. So, if the law of respiration cannot change to meet the drowning person, and if the person is to be saved what is needed, what has to change? Does a legal payment need to be made to the God who made the sea in order to save the drowning person, or does the drowning person need to have his or her position changed in relation to the law of respiration? Thus, Christ came to change the nature of humanity, to put the species back into harmony with God's law of life!] **God did not change His law, but He sacrificed Himself, in Christ, for man's redemption. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself."** 2 Corinthians 5:19. {DA 762.1} [What is the just thing to do? To sacrifice Christ in order to reconcile the world back to God, what does this mean? What was the problem that was separating the world from God? In Satan's view—the penal view—it is God's anger and wrath resulting from breaking rules that require God to inflict punishment. But in God's reality it is our sinful condition—so notice the next paragraph of what God's justice achieved in order to reconcile us]

**The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give.** [According to this commentary, the law does not require legal payment, but a healed and righteous life, just like the law of respiration require we breathe] 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.** [Why do we have remission of past sins—through a legal payment? NO! that is the legal lie of Satan that every sin must be punished. It is through God's forbearance, however God's forbearance is not the same as a cure, a remedy. Thus Jesus came and developed a perfect character as a remedy. It would be like a parent whose child has a sickness and vomits, has diarrhea, makes a mess, but the parent provides a remedy that cures the child, there is no need to make up, pay, or do something to the parent to have them forgive the previous mess; it is forgotten, remitted when the remedy is applied. But if no remedy is taken, they only get worse and die.] 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." Romans 3:26. {DA 762.2} [Notice the justice of God is healing, recreating, and restoring sinners to perfect righteousness—nothing legal!]

**God's love has been expressed in His justice no less than in His mercy. Justice is the foundation of His throne, and the fruit of His love.** [What is justice in the design law understanding? Doing what is right, and what is the right or just thing for a parent to do if their child disobeys and drinks poison? To seek to heal and save. Thus God's justice is all about providing remedy, salvation, healing, as described in the previous paragraph, which requires restoring sinners to harmony with His design law. But notice Satan's strategy--] **It had been Satan's purpose to divorce mercy from truth and justice.** [How? By getting us to believe justice is not healing, not saving, not restoring to righteousness, but the infliction of



punishment for breaking the law. Do you see the incredible perversion, the horrible, disgusting distortion? People, claiming reverence for God, are actually promoting Satan's lie when they teach God's justice is the punishing of sin. This is divorcing God's mercy from truth and justice. **The FOURTH test point to discern the end-time deception: Is mercy divorced from truth and justice?** The Penal Substitution view again is demonstrated to be on Satan's side of the spiritual war] He sought to prove that the righteousness of God's law is an enemy to peace. But Christ shows that in God's plan they are indissolubly joined together; the one cannot exist without the other. "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Psalm 85:10. {DA 762.3}

**By His life and His death, Christ proved that God's justice did not destroy His mercy, but that sin could be forgiven, and that the law is righteous, and can be perfectly obeyed.** [Remember Satan's lie is that God cannot forgive sin. Sin must be punished. Thus, the Penal Substitution view says every sin was placed on Jesus and God punished every sin when God executed Jesus on the cross. This divorces mercy from justice, as it turns the truth of God's justice (which is healing and restoring sinners to perfection) into the lie that justice is inflicting punishment for sin. Again, the Penal View is a lie. When will God's end-time people stand up and free themselves from this Penal Substitution end-time lie? Parents need to ask that Christian schools and churches stop teaching their children this gross distortion and begin presenting the end-time truth of the 3 angels, worship Him who made the heavens...] **Satan's charges were refuted.** God had given man unmistakable evidence of His love. {DA 762.4}

**Another deception was now to be brought forward. Satan declared that mercy destroyed justice, that the death of Christ abrogated the Father's law.** [What kind of law can be abrogated? So, this lie is again founded on imposed law. What would happen to the universe, as we know it, if the law of gravity were changed? Understanding design law makes clear why nothing about God's law can change because the universe as we know it would cease to exist. But, if we accept the lie that God's law is imposed, then the death of Christ, paying the penalty sets aside the need for God to inflict any more penalties, thus the law and our need to live in harmony (obey) is set aside. It would be like having diplomatic immunity, the law is there, but has no power because you are immune to it thus you don't have to obey. This is what has happened to much of Christianity.] Had it been possible for the law to be changed or abrogated, then Christ need not have died. But to abrogate the law would be to immortalize transgression, and place the world under Satan's control. **It was because the law was changeless, because man could be saved only through obedience to its precepts, that Jesus was lifted up on the cross.** Yet the very means by which Christ established the law Satan represented as destroying it. **Here will come the last conflict of the great controversy between Christ and Satan.** {DA 762.5} [Are you hearing again the tension between design law and imposed law?]

**That the law which was spoken by God's own voice is faulty, that some specification has been set aside, is the claim which Satan now puts forward.** [And in so doing promotes the idea that the law is changeable, or imposed, which is the true deception. But, Satan hides that



true deception beneath the fight over whether one or two specific precepts have been changed] It is the last great deception that he will bring upon the world. **He needs not to assail the whole law; if he can lead men to disregard one precept, his purpose is gained.** [What is his purpose? To get people to operate upon imperial rules of imposition, coercion, force, threat, and legal accounting, thus undermining trust in God and hardening the heart, all the while claiming reverence for God!] For "whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10. By consenting to break one precept, men are brought under Satan's power. **By substituting human law for God's law, Satan will seek to control the world.** [Which is what? Accepting the idea that God's law functions like human law!] **This work is foretold in prophecy.** Of the great apostate power which is the representative of Satan, it is declared, "He shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand." Daniel 7:25. {DA 763.1}

So with all that in mind consider these two quotes:

**The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God.** Upon this battle we are now entering,—a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition. {GC88 582.2}

**There is no such thing as weakening or strengthening the law of Jehovah. As it has been, so it is. It always has been, and always will be, holy, just, and good, complete in itself.** It cannot be repealed or changed. [what kind of law is this? It is design law] To "honor" or "dishonor" it is but the speech of men. {PK 625.1}

**Between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah will come the *last great conflict* of the controversy between truth and error. Upon this battle we are now entering--a battle not between rival churches contending for the supremacy, but between the religion of the Bible and the religions of fable and tradition...**{PK 625.2}

With all that in mind, after another tragic school shooting in Texas yesterday, Fox News posted on their website an article by Max Lucado. Before I read the article I want you to remember the **reference points, the litmus tests, to discern the end-time deception.** If any of the following are taught it is evidence of Satan's lies:

- **God killed Jesus on the Cross**
- **Methods that violate God's law of love, truth, liberty such as coercion, threat, force, deception**
- **That justice requires God to use power to inflict punishment**
- **By separating justice from mercy, by teaching that justice is infliction of punishment and not the healing and restoration of sinners, or the surrendering of sinners to their free-will choice of non-existence, both of which is also merciful**



An online class member, Ben Welebir, sent me the this Fox news article. Evaluate it using the test points above:

**Max Lucado: Texas high school shooting -- This evil will not last forever**

I'm not sure how many more of these we can take. When I saw the words: students shot in Sante Fe school, my reaction was, "Not again." We seem to lurch from tragedy to tragedy, shooting to shooting, bombing to bombing. The kids didn't deserve such a death. Their parents don't deserve such grief. And we received an all too common reminder: life isn't fair.

When did you learn those words? *It's not fair.* What deed exposed you to the imbalanced scales of life? Did a car wreck leave you fatherless? Did friends forget you, a teacher ignore you, an adult abuse you? Have you ever prayed the psalmist's prayer? "O Lord, how long will you look on?" (Ps. 35:17). When did you first ask the question of the prophet, "Why does the way of the wicked prosper?" (Jer. 12:1)?

Why indeed? Why do drug peddlers get rich? Sex offenders get off? Charlatans get elected? Murderers get out? Cheaters get by? Scoundrels get in? Hypocrites get chosen?

**How long will injustice flourish? God's answer is direct: Not as long as we might think. Scripture reveals a somber promise: "For [God] has set a day when he will judge the world" (Acts 17:31).**

**He is not sitting idly by. He is not twiddling his thumbs. Every flip of the calendar brings us closer to the day in which God will judge all evil. A Judgment Day has been chosen. The hour is marked and moment reserved. Judgment is not a possibility, but a stark reality.**

**"Judgment Day" is an unpopular term. We dislike the image of a great hour of reckoning. Which is ironic. We disdain judgment but we value justice, yet the second is impossible without the first. One can't have justice without judgment.** For that reason, "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10).

**Followers of Christ hold to this promise: Jesus will forever balance the scales of fairness. A day is coming, sooner than we might expect, in which we will see the devil pay for all the evil he has inflicted upon the world. Satan, and all who follow him, will hear the sentence: "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Mt. 25:41).**

**Justice will prevail.**



This promise may not matter to you. For some people, life feels fair and just. If that describes you, count your blessings. There are others, however, who fight a daily battle with anger. They've been robbed; evil people have pilfered days they would have had with their loved ones, disease has sapped health from their body. **They believe that justice must be served.**

**I'm one of these people.** My brother was robbed. Alcoholism heisted the joy out of his life. For two-thirds of his fifty-seven years, he battled the bottle. It cost him his family, finances, and friends. He was not innocent, I get that. He bought the liquor and made the choices. Yet, I am convinced that Satan assigned a special goon squad to tempt him. When they found his weakness, they refused to let up. They took him to the mat and pounded the self-control out of him.

**I'm ready to see Satan pay for his crimes against my brother.** I am looking forward to that moment when I stand next to Dee, our bodies redeemed and souls secure. **Together we will see the devil bound and chained and cast into a lake of fire. At that point we will begin to reclaim what the devil took.**

“For [God] has set a day when he will judge the world” (Acts 17:31).

Let this covenant abate the anger you feel at the hurting world. Devastations have wounded every home. Just last week I met with a family whose six-year-old twins were sexually abused by a grandparent. Two nights ago, our neighbors were assaulted and robbed in their own home. One of our church members spent two years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The guilty party went free. He went to jail. It's not right, it's not just, it's not fair that evil prospers. **When you wonder if wickedness will go unpunished or injustices will go unaddressed, let this promise gratify your desire for justice.** God will have the final word. “God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day” (Ps. 7:11).

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2018/05/18/max-lucado-texas-high-school-shooting-this-evil-will-not-last-forever.html>

Did you hear the gospel of Jesus Christ or Satan's end-time deception?

Sadly, this article presents the lie—why? Because it is all based on a fundamental failure to understand reality—it views God's law functioning no differently than the laws sinful humans make. Thus, God is viewed as governing no differently, holding tribunals and inflicting punishment.

This view fails to understand the nature of sin—sin damages and destroys those who are not delivered from it. He presented the idea that those who commit crimes and are not caught and punished by human governments get away with their crime—this is a lie. No one gets away with it, why? Because of God's design law—you cannot violate it without damaging yourself.

His view would be like saying the teen who smokes cigarettes but doesn't get caught by his parents





gets away with it. No they don't!

Sin warps the character, sears the conscience, hardens the heart and ultimately results in death. No one ever gets away with it!

Can you see in this article Satan's end-time deception? How many people in your church will agree with Max Lucado?

## **SUNDAY**

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Read second paragraph, "Revelation shows us just..." What is Satan's power?

- Lies Heb 2:14, John 17:3
- Fear
- Selfishness
- Coercion

How does Satan wield his power?

The lesson suggests Satan gets people to doubt in his existence. Certainly, if we have no awareness of an enemy we are more vulnerable—but is it possible he gets people to doubt his existence by getting them to reject the belief in God?

And how has Satan gotten millions, if not billions, to reject the belief in God?

By presenting an arbitrary dictator who is the source of inflicted pain and suffer, a being of cruelty and unreasonableness. And if there is no God, why would there be a Satan?

## **MONDAY**

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Read the last paragraph, "Through the two great errors..." Before we unpack the impact of these two errors, we should confirm the assertion that they are in fact errors.

Bible Text Evidence that immortality of the soul is an error:

- "The soul who sins is the one who will die." Ez 18:4
- "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. Gen 3:22-24
- "God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light..." 1Tim 6:15,16
- "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom



6:23

- “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can **destroy** both soul and body in hell.” Mt 10:28

And there are many more texts that say the same thing. So, the evidence of Scripture is that there is only one immortal being—God. Humans are mortal and can receive the gift of immortality from God, but we do not in our own selves possess immortality.

Second evidence that the idea of immortality of the soul is an error are the implications and what it would mean if immortality of soul were true:

- Does God have foreknowledge?
- If yes, then God foreknew humans would sin and God still created them with immortality foreknowing some would only live less a few years but then spend all eternity suffering in the flames of hell. What kind of a god would that be? Sadistic, cruel?
- If no, then what kind of a god is he—limited, finite—not truly God. But more than that, such a being is either unwise because such a god couldn’t even anticipate the possibility of an immortal being rebelling, or cruel as he did anticipate and created beings to suffer eternally anyway?
- So, if God is love, and God has foreknowledge, would God make beings with inherent immortality knowing when they rebelled they would experience unending eternal suffering? How many of you would do that to your children? And this is the real goal of the doctrine of immortality of the soul—to undermine trust in God by teaching horrible things, like God would torture His own children for all eternity.

We dealt with the question of Sunday sacredness a couple of weeks back. All Bible scholars from every denomination acknowledge that the Sabbath of the Bible is Friday sunset to Saturday sunset, and that Sunday as a day of worship came about slowly over a couple of centuries as more and more pagans converted to Christianity while at the same time the Jews became greater enemies of Rome. The combined impact caused a gradual move away from the Bible Sabbath to Sunday worship, which eventually caused the church to legislate Sunday as a day of worship.

**And that is the problem—note what the problem actually is. It is not a problem to go to church on Sunday, or to worship God on Sunday—the problem is to treat God’s law like imposed law and suggest one can legislate such changes.** So, Sunday as a church VOTED holy day is the problem, not going to church or worshipping on Sunday.

One of our online listeners, Dr. George Graves, sent me this quote from one of the founders of the SDA church, demonstrating worshipping God and studying the Bible on Sunday is not a problem:

To defy the Sunday laws will but strengthen in their persecution the religious zealots who are seeking to enforce them. **Give them no occasion to call you lawbreakers.** If they are left to rein up men who fear neither God nor man, the reining up will soon lose its novelty for them, and they will see that it is not consistent nor convenient for them to be strict in regard to the



observance of Sunday. **Keep right on with your missionary work, with your Bibles in your hands**, and the enemy will see that he has worsted his own cause. **One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he realizes the wisdom of keeping the peace by refraining from work that gives offense, doing at the same time a work of the highest importance.**

**When we devote Sunday to missionary work**, the whip will be taken out of the hands of the arbitrary zealots who would be well pleased to humiliate Seventh-day Adventists. **When they see that we employ ourselves on Sunday in visiting the people and opening the Scriptures to them, they will know that it is useless for them to try to hinder our work by making Sunday laws.** {9T 232}

There is nothing wrong with church attendance, Bible study, missionary work on Sunday—the problem is coercion, treating God’s law like imposed law and getting people to think that one can change God’s law.

So the two lies, immortality of the soul leading to spiritualism i.e. the belief that souls are suffering in hell and souls might come back and haunt us leads to fear and distrust of God. And imposed law constructs lead to fear and distrust of God.

This is what Satan wants, for us to be motivated by fear and distrust in God so that we seek to save ourselves.

## **TUESDAY**

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Read all three paragraphs, “In recent decades...”Are such stories evidence of immortality of the soul? Why or why not?

Reports of NDE experiences go back almost 2000 years and are reported by approximately 20% of people who suffer a heart attack and are revived.

Interestingly, however, a person does not have to be *near death* to experience a NDE. A 1990 study at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center in Charlottesville of 58 people who had experienced NDEs found that half would have survived without medical care—in other words, they were not near death. Something as innocuous as fainting can produce an NDE.

There are many theories about the cause of NDEs to include hypoxia (lack of oxygen to the brain), which could trigger seizures in the temporal lobes and cause the symptoms of NDE, hypotension (loss of blood pressure to the brain), release of endorphin and enkephalin (brain produced mood elevators and pain killers) in the brain, drugs injected during resuscitation, low blood sugar, and other metabolic processes.

Recently, Kevin Nelson, a neuropsychologist at the University of Kentucky, has done research into



NDEs and offered a most reasonable explanation. NDEs are actually a form of sleep disorder called REM intrusion in which dreams occur in a non-sleep state. During this time a person is awake but paralyzed, may experience the sensation of floating, will have vivid dreams that would be experienced more like a hallucination, and have out-of-body experiences. All of this will be remembered quite vividly after the event is over with a sense of conviction to the veracity of the experience.

A study published in 1994 by Thomas Lempert, then at the Rudolph Virchow Clinic in Berlin, Germany, documented how volunteers made themselves faint through a combination of hyperventilating while seated, then standing and holding their breath. Many of them experienced euphoric NDE-like sensations such as floating out of their body, entering another world, or encountering supernatural beings. This is thought to be due to activating the vagus nerve which stimulates the brainstem to cause these NDEs. This would explain the high occurrence of NDE in people being resuscitated from a heart attack as vagal nerve stimulation occurs during this process.

Did you notice the reason the lesson gave about why NDEs are not reliable? “nothing about sin, and nothing about judgment to come—the most basic biblical views.”

Hmmm... last week the lesson pointed out that when the thief on the cross was dying, near death experience, and put his faith in Christ that Jesus did not bring up his sin, or mention the judgment, only that he would be with Jesus in paradise. Should we say, “Well Jesus didn’t mention his sin or judgment the most basic biblical views, this can’t be a reliable experience?”

This is a bad argument and we should reject this argument and base our rejection of NDEs as evidence of an immortal soul on other more reliable evidence.

## WEDNESDAY

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The lesson speaks about the theory of evolution as an end-time deception. I agree that it is a deception, why do you think it has arisen, and why do you think so many people hold to it?

My view is that evolutionism arose in response to the imposed law concept. The false dictator view of god caused thinking people to recognize that nature did not operate the way religion suggested so they sought an explanation on their own. Unfortunately, they instead of finding the truth found the law of sin and death in nature—which is the survival of the fittest principle.

Naturalists did not make up this law, it is there, but it is an infection to God’s design and causes suffering and death. The law of love is God’s design, the principle of giving. In nature these two forces are at war. But without Scripture many fail to comprehend accurately what they see.

Had the church not so grossly misrepresented God as arbitrary and severe, I believe the break between science and Christianity would not have occurred.

Which is more scientific creation or the Big Bang? We have a new 5 minute video blog out this week



which goes through the evidence.

## THURSDAY

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The counterfeit trinity:

- Dragon—counterfeits the Father
  - Power and authority given to the other beasts
  
- Sea beast—counterfeits the Son
  - Receives deadly wound and recovers, in power 42 months (3.5 years, 1,260 days)
  
- Earth beast—counterfeits the Holy Spirit
  - Promote interest of sea beast, brings fire down from heaven



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**JUNE 2, 2018: COME AND REASON WILL MEET AT Hamilton Community Church at 10:20 a.m.**

**NEW TV PROGRAM: Each Tuesday watch our new TV Program—The Dr. Tim Jennings Show on WBTN.TV Network.** God to TimJenningsMD.com for more info.

**New Video Blogs**—If you don't follow us on Facebook, then be sure to visit our website we are posting new blogs again, the go up every Thursday.

**May 25, 26, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking in London England at the Stanborough Park SDA Church, 609 St Albans Road, Watford, WD25 9JL

**June 16, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be doing a one day seminar at Folsom Women's Prison in California.

**September 14,15, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be Keynote Speaker at Crossroads Community Church in Georgetown, Delaware.

**September 27-29, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Mega National Conference of the American Association of Christian Counselors in Dallas, TX

**September 30-Oct 2, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at NAD of SDA Mental Health Education retreat for pastors at Kettering, OH.

**November 9,10 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at Houston, TX, in conjunction with the AACC

*In partnership with Come and Reason Ministries and Hixson United Methodist Church  
**Mental Health Matters** Community Gatherings for Help, Hope and Healing*

### **The Aging Brain Thursday, August 13, 2018**

What happens to the brain as we age? This presentation will examine the evidence-based lifestyle and non-pharmacological interventions which will protect your brain and diminish your risk of dementia. Dr. Jennings brand new book, The Aging Brain, will be available.

### **Fix for Failing Families Thursday, September 13, 2018**

Families are under attack, more than 50% of marriages end in divorce, in the U.S. almost 900,000 children are victims of abuse each year, and 77% of childhood deaths are caused by one or both parents. Discover principles and practice to bring healing to your family.

### **The Science of Belief Thursday, October 12, 2018**

In this seminar we will examine the science of belief and demonstrate how modern quantum understanding provides a scientific basis for the impact belief, including prayer, has on our physical health and can even impact the physical world around us.

### **Guilt Resolution Thursday, November 8, 2018**

Do you struggle with guilt? Discover the difference between legitimate and illegitimate guilt and how to resolve each and how to prevent people from manipulating you with guilt.

### **The God-Shaped Brain Thursday, December 13, 2018**

Our brains are in a constant state of flux. Moment by moment new connections are forming, idle tracks are being pruned back and brain circuits are changing. Discover how our beliefs change our brain wiring, our physical health, and even which genes are turned on or turned off. Do your beliefs matter – more than you ever knew!