



2020 2Q How to Interpret Scripture: Lesson 1 The Uniqueness of the Bible

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

INTRODUCTION

to the Study Guide

Read first three paragraphs, “As Seventh-day Adventists we are Protestants...” What do you think of this idea of *sola Scriptura*?

The argument the lesson and many Protestants take today, is that this means that Scripture is used alone, by itself, without consideration for other threads of evidence to form our doctrines. But this is actually not what the term meant to the Protestant Reformers who coined it, nor how it was used by them.

In fact, there were five *solaes*, and let’s examine the other four to see if they give insight into what *sola Scriptura* meant to the Reformers who coined the term:

- *sola fide* – by faith alone
- *sola gratia* – by grace alone
- *Solus Christus or Solo Christo* – by Christ or through Christ alone
- *Soli Deo Gloria* – glory to God alone

Do these other *soloes* mean that it is only by these alone, or that they are set up against another idea that is being excluded? For instance:

- by faith alone rather than by faith plus works to earn salvation
- by grace alone rather than by grace plus human merit
- by Christ alone rather than by Christ plus church sacraments
- glory to God alone rather than glory to God plus humankind or the church?

Does by faith alone mean without grace and without Christ?

Does Christ alone mean without the Holy Spirit working in the heart?

Do you see how these *soloes* are not about the element alone, but about excluding something from inclusion that was wrongly being included?

So, what would *sola Scriptura* mean for the Reformers?

It would be that our doctrinal truths come from Scripture not from Scripture plus church traditions, church councils, or papal rulings.

Does that mean that our doctrines were not to come from Scripture plus other God-given revelation?



When science shows that a balanced whole-food vegetarian diet is healthier than a diet that includes meat, should we reject the scientific evidence because God gave Israel laws on how to prepare meat or because the New Testament church didn't recommend vegetarianism?

The lesson points out that many people who claim to believe in Scripture alone have false beliefs, but what error in how the doctrine of *sola Scriptura* is understood has contributed to this? Believing that it means that Scripture should not be harmonized with science and experience, or that Scripture should absolutely and always be used alone and by itself to determine our beliefs.

When Scripture is used alone, detached from harmonizing with the laws of God as revealed in nature and detached from our real-world experiences, then it can be twisted to say anything and this is why there are so many Christian groups arguing back and forth, last count over 40,000 different groups.

The Scripture teaches that God has given us three threads of evidence to reveal truth to us:

Scripture teaches that God reveals Himself through His **first book—nature**:

- Job, a righteous man who was perfect in all his ways according to God says, “Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you.” (Job 12:7–8 NIV84).
- “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands” (Psalm 19:1 NIV84)
- “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse” (Romans 1:20 NIV84).

And Scripture teaches that God reveals Himself through His **second book—experiences of life**:

- “Taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8 NIV84).
- “Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.’” (John 20:27 NIV84).

And God’s **third book**—the book that came after nature, after experience, is **Scripture**.

According to one of the founders of the SDA church, Scripture is not the only book that reveals truth to us—but **MUST** be the foundation of all truth—which means we must harmonize our understanding of science and experience with Scripture, but it also means we must harmonize our understanding of Scripture with the design laws of God revealed in nature and how life actually works:

The great storehouse of truth is the word of God—the written word, the book of nature, and the book of experience in God’s dealing with human life. Here are the treasures from which Christ’s workers are to draw. In the search after truth they are to depend upon God, not upon human intelligences, the great men whose wisdom is foolishness with God. **Through His own appointed channels the Lord will impart a knowledge of Himself to every seeker.** –



{COL 125.2} [What are those channels? Scripture, nature, and experience—but all three must be harmonized!]

Rightly understood, both the **revelations of science and the experiences of life are in harmony with the testimony of Scripture to the constant working of God in nature.** {Ed 130.3}

Jesus followed the divine plan of education. The schools of His time, with their magnifying of things small and their belittling of things great, He did not seek. **His education was gained directly from the Heaven-appointed sources; from useful work, from the study of the Scriptures and of nature, and from the experiences of life--God's lesson books,** full of instruction to all who bring to them the willing hand, the seeing eye, and the understanding heart.
{Ed 77.2}

The Scripture says, "All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; ... that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world." Matthew 13:34, 35. **Natural things were the medium for the spiritual; the things of nature and the life-experience of His hearers were connected with the truths of the written word. Leading thus from the natural to the spiritual kingdom, Christ's parables are links in the chain of truth that unites man with God, and earth with heaven.** - COL 17.2

When we separate the three threads of Scripture we have problems:

- Science by itself leads to godlessness
- Experience by itself leads to mysticism
- Scripture by itself leads to confusion, over 40,000 different Christian groups arguing among themselves while claiming Scripture supports their view—why? Because they don't anchor their interpretations in reality, in the laws of nature and thus conjure up all types of irrational beliefs.

If we want to interpret Scripture correctly we must use the integrative evidenced-based approach which harmonizes all three threads.

In the fourth paragraph the lesson makes another common error in interpreting Scripture:

In short Scripture is the foundational source of the truths that we believe and proclaim to the world. Or, as the Bible itself says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2Tim 3:16). "All Scripture," of course, means *all* Scripture—even the Scripture that we might not like; that might step on our toes; and that, to use contemporary parlance, might not be "politically correct."

What is the error made in this paragraph that is a dangerous error?



That all Scripture is God breathed—is it?

- What about the apocrypha? Books like:
 - Esdras (Vulgate 3 Esdras)
 - 2 Esdras (Vulgate 4 Esdras)
 - Tobit.
 - Judith ("Judeth" in Geneva)
 - Rest of Esther (Vulgate Esther 10:4 – 16:24)
 - Wisdom.
 - Ecclesiasticus (also known as Sirach)
 - Baruch and the Epistle of Jeremy ("Jeremiah" in Geneva) (all part of Vulgate Baruch)
- What versions of the Bible have included the apocryphal books?
 - Gutenberg Bible
 - Luther Bible
 - Clementine Vulgate
 - King James Version
- Pseudepigrapha?
 - 3 Maccabees.
 - 4 Maccabees.
 - Assumption of Moses.
 - Ethiopic Book of Enoch (1 Enoch)
 - Slavonic Second Book of Enoch.
 - Book of Jubilees.
 - 3 Baruch.
- Book of Mormon?
- Koran?

Do we believe all Scripture is inspired by God? The text should more accurately read, “All Scripture, inspired by God, is useful....” Not “All Scripture is inspired by God...”

So from *The Remedy*:

For all Scripture, inspired by God, is beneficial for teaching, redirecting, correcting and training — to promote character transformation — so that God's ambassadors may be exceptionally competent in application of the Remedy and in every other good work. 2Tim 3:16-17

Once we have determined that the text means *all* Scripture that God inspired is useful, and not that all Scripture is inspired, then we can accept that we should use all of it that God did inspire, even if it is not politically correct.

What might the authors be referring to as Scripture that steps on our toes or is not politically correct?



- Later in the quarterly the lesson focuses on Creation—perhaps it is concerned with accepting the Biblical view of origins and rejecting the evolutionary view?
- If we accept the Biblical view of Creation does that impact other doctrines?
- Are they wanting us to think about God’s design for human relationships?
- Are they wanting us to think about the Sabbath?
- Are they wanting us to think about our bodies—the Spirit Temple—and what substances we put in them—particularly with the legalization of marijuana in so many places?
- What about a belief in God itself—is believing in God considered politically correct? Perhaps—Nancy Pelosi says she prays for the president regularly, so perhaps believing in God is politically correct.
- But what about witnessing for God? Did Tim Tebow get negative feedback from the political elites for his public stance on his faith?
- Why is public witness for God considered politically incorrect by some?

SABBATH

Read memory text, “Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path” (Psalms 119:105 NKJV) What does this text mean to you?

This is how I phrased it in *The Remedy*:

Your word is the lamp that guides my steps —
the light that directs my way.

How does God’s Word, the Scripture, guide our steps and direct our paths or ways?

Is it through studying to find the right list of rules?

Is the Bible a code book of deeds to be done and sins to be shunned?

Or does the Bible enlighten our mind to reality—to our Creator, to His design, His methods, His protocols for life and health and therefore doesn’t merely give us rules to follow, but enlightens us on how to live in harmony with God and His kingdom of love?

Life is filled with choices—how do you make choices in life? Are you an active decision-maker or passive? Do you examine the evidence, weigh out the issues, prayerfully ask for wisdom and enlightenment, considering God’s revelation of truth from Scripture, science and experience and then make an informed choice? Or, do you wait for life events to make choices for you, or for the majority of your peers to decide and then follow the group? Do you let others, perhaps leaders decide what is best?

I have seen so many allowing others to do their thinking—even church leaders? I know of conference presidents who when given some of our materials did not study it out for themselves but sent it off to a



theology professor and asked the theology professor to tell them whether what we teach is okay or not. Is such an approach using God's word as a lamp to lighten the steps? No—it removes God's Word from leading one's life and allows another human being to lead.

This quote was written by one of the founders of the SDA church, consider the implications:

We say decidedly, every minister of Jesus Christ must bind himself to the Source of all light and power and he must not follow in the shadow of any other living man, because there is Christ to whom he must become attached, and he should not bind his heart to any human being and **let man do his thinking for him.** [The Word of God is to be our light to guide us, not other human's thinking about the Word. What happens if we let others tell us what the Word of God means and don't think for ourselves?] He is not filling his position in society or in the world if he simply accepts what his father has said and what his father, or some great and good man in past generations, has done, and sinks himself, his individuality, in them. **Some who think that they preach the gospel are preaching other men's ideas. Through some means they have come to the decision that it is no part of a minister's calling or duty to think diligently and prayerfully. He accepts what other men have taught without asserting his individuality...** {1888 834.2} [Do we see any of this in organized churches? Why?]

Now Satan has his hand in all this work to narrow down the work of God. [What does this mean? Can you see that if people, instead of studying God's word for themselves, instead study their church creeds or fundamental beliefs, restrict the light that God can bring. The Bible is the divine Word of God, and it has truths that are not fully revealed. As we study the Word we gain ever deeper insights. But if we instead study human commentaries on the Scripture we put barriers between us and the source of light and truth.] Ministers of Jesus Christ are to be constantly receiving light from the Source of all light. **They are not to be simply receivers of other men's thoughts,** they themselves not plowing deep into the mines of truth. If a minister is not a worker himself, digging for the truth as for hidden treasure to find the precious jewels of truth, he is forfeiting his God-given privileges. **He is not to put any human mind, any human intelligence, between his soul and God.** There is to come no authority from human minds that will in the least degree interpose between him and God's authority to lead, to guide, and to dictate. **The ministers of Christ should gather up every ray of light, every jot of strength and illumination from other minds whom God has blessed, but that is not enough. They must go to the Fountainhead for themselves. God has given men reasoning minds and He will not hold them guiltless if they trust in man or make flesh their arm.** He wants you individually to come to Him, to draw from Him, **to use the ability God gives to understand the living oracles.** If one man can see light in examining the Scriptures, so may every true Christian have the right to read, to examine, to search the Scriptures with unabated interest, and gather light therefrom. {1888 834.3}

Do you see the balance in the statement—yes we want to learn from others, hear the truths others have gleaned, but then we are to study the Scripture for ourselves and come to understanding and see the truth for ourselves and allow God to teach us from His Word.



Consider, we may have a math teacher who teaches us math—but we are to work problems on our own, and not simply memorize the answers the teacher gives.

I found the second paragraph interesting and encouraging that we can be confident we have an accurate transcript of the New Testament, “There are more than 24,600...”

SUNDAY

The lesson asks us to read Deuteronomy 32:45-47:

When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, 46 he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. 47 They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.” NIV84

What does this text mean? Is Moses telling the people that if they keep the right rules they will do well, but if they break the rules they won’t?

- Well there is some truth in this. If a parent tells a child to brush their teeth and the child does it only because it is a rule, they will still benefit from the brushing. But, if they never understand the purpose of the rule and come to brush because they actually want to be healthy, they remain children and in need of supervision. God wants us to grow up and do what is right because it is right, it is how life works in God’s design, not because of a rule.

What does it mean to take something to heart? Can you obey a rule without taking it to heart?

How many young people obey school rules because they are being monitored but in their heart they are looking for ways to skip classes or get around the rules?

So, this goes beyond rule-keeping, it goes to heart change. This is the New Covenant: God says He will write His law on our hearts and minds—what does this mean? Is this different than Moses was counseling here? Or is it the same?

How does the law get written on our hearts? Is it different than circumcision of the heart by the Holy Spirit or is that the same thing?

The lesson points out that Jesus is the Word made flesh—what does this mean?

Jesus said we are to eat His flesh and drink His blood what does this mean?

The lesson points out in the last paragraph that Jesus is the focus and aim of all Scripture—this is WELL said! Absolutely true.



This gives a key to understanding Scripture—we must understand its purpose. What is the theme of Scripture? The OT Scriptures primary theme is the plan of salvation focused upon the seed of the woman who will crush the serpent’s head.

So, let’s take a minute and review—how do we accurately read and interpret Scripture, what are some guidelines?

One crucial starting point in understanding God’s Word is to identify the purpose of reading it. The Bible is not an instruction book on mathematics, physics, medicine, chemistry, or many other subjects. Rather, its purpose is to teach the truth about God, the problem of sin, and the plan of salvation. It contains all the truths necessary to lead people back to the knowledge of God in order for them to exercise trust in Him and experience healing of heart and mind.

But understanding the purpose of the book—to communicate the truth to save people—isn’t enough. One must study Scripture with a desire to comprehend the meaning, and not merely to know the words.

I read valuable insight many years ago from the book *Christ’s Object Lessons* that really helped me grasp this:

Merely to hear or to read the word is not enough. He who desires to be profited by the Scriptures must meditate upon the truth that has been presented to him. By earnest attention and prayerful thought **he must learn the meaning of the words of truth**, and drink deep of the spirit of the holy oracles (p. 59, my emphasis).

This is the key to all Bible study—not merely knowing the original words, but knowing the intended meaning. Many get confused on this and end up arguing over the right “word” yet never appreciating the right meaning.

When writing *The Remedy* paraphrase, this was one of the key principles I applied: What is the most accurate and precise meaning? I have received emails from some who take issue with certain verses because the English words I chose were not in keeping with the Greek. But it isn’t the words that matters, for words can change meaning (e.g., consider how the word “gay” has changed meanings over the past century). What matters is the meaning being communicated, so I have always challenged those concerned to tell me what the verse means.

This is what we want to do all throughout the Bible. And it is even more critical to do so when dealing with symbols, metaphors, similes, images, parables, or any other representative expression.

Here are some basic guidelines that I have found to be helpful in rightly interpreting Scripture:

1. We must understand the overall context of Scripture—not just the immediate context, which is what many Bible students focus on and, thus, they lose the forest for the trees; i.e., they lose



the broader message for the local message. The overall context is a cosmic one in which God is love all the time and Satan is a being of selfishness who seeks to destroy what God has created.

2. The battle between God and Satan is not a physical battle, but a battle of ideas, concepts, and beliefs—seeking to win hearts and minds to one side or the other. God’s prime weapons are truth, love, and freedom. Satan’s prime weapons are lies, fear-based selfishness, and coercion.
One of the mistakes many Bible translators do is translate in ways that put God in the role of using Satan’s methods or weapons.
3. The Bible is the revelation of the truth about God, His character and methods, and plans to send Jesus to save humankind. It also exposes Satan as the source of evil, death, pain, and suffering and reveals throughout history the problems that deviating from God’s design cause.
4. Throughout Old Testament times, the cosmic conflict was waged on earth, with God working to fulfill His promise to bring the “Seed” that would one day crush the serpent’s head (Genesis 3:15), and with Satan working to oppose God by seeking to close the avenue through which the Messiah would be born.
5. The Old Testament records real people who did real things; thus, it is a book that is historically accurate. However, of the billions of people who have ever lived, only a few are recorded in Scripture. This is because the focus of Scripture is the plan of salvation. Thus, God inspired His penmen to record the stories that were not only historically accurate but also revealed cosmic truths—were metaphorical for the battle between Christ and Satan and provide insight into the plan of salvation (for examples of this, see my blog [David and the Showbread vs. Uzzah and the Ark](#)).
6. Some specific rules of interpreting Bible prophecy are:
 - If one part of a passage is symbolic or metaphor, then the rest is symbolic or metaphor unless clear reasons for taking it as literal are expressed in the text.
 - The Bible should be used to interpret itself (i.e., symbol interpretations should rely on Bible definitions before other definitions).
 - The general theme is that of the conflict between Christ and Satan.
 - God’s character of love never changes; therefore, interpretations should never result in God being represented with a character other than love.
 - God’s law of love never changes; therefore, interpretations should always be in harmony with God’s law of love.
 - God’s other design laws never change; therefore, interpretations should not violate God’s design laws for life.
 - Interpretations must be internally consistent with Scripture but also harmonize with science and experience.

MONDAY

The lesson points out that the Bible was written by many different people over many years, some of whom were eye-witnesses to the events they wrote about.

But, this gives us opportunity to consider—*How* inspiration works. How is the Bible inspired and how is it different from different from the Koran or Book of Mormon?



The Book of Mormon or Koran purports to be a transcript of writings brought by angels to the persons who transcribed them.

The Bible purports to be written by people who actually witnessed events and/or were inspired to know truths to write.

Further, the Bible has many authors, not just one, and the harmony among all the books, despite the various authors, is further evidence of its divine origin.

But how does inspiration work? Do we believe in word or thought inspiration?

Word inspiration is the idea that the very words of Scripture are inspired.

Thought inspiration is the idea that the Bible writers were given inspired wisdom into concepts and ideas and they chose the words from their life experience to best communicate the idea, so the message is inspired, but not the words themselves. Thus, it is legitimate to replace Hebrew and Greek words with English words as long as the message or idea is accurately retained.

Is the power of Scripture in knowing the words or knowing the meaning, which ultimately leads to knowing God?

Can one know the words of Scripture and sometimes the right meaning and still not know God? Consider the Jewish leaders who answered Herod's question about where the Messiah was to be born—they answered Bethlehem, but were they supporters of Christ?

What is the lesson for us in this?

TUESDAY

The lesson focuses our attention on Bible prophecy, particularly the prophecies about Jesus, read the second paragraph, "There are at least 65..."

Because Bible prophecies are true, and particularly the prophecies about Jesus are true, does this give us confidence to trust the rest of Scripture and confidence in God?

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, "The Bible is unique..." Why is this important and how is it different than writings of other religious material?



Other religions have writings that are philosophical (Buddhism, Confucianism), others have writings that were said to be revealed by an angel (Islam, Mormonism). The Bible is unique in that it has philosophies, poetry, prophecy, revelation, but it most importantly is historical in that it records in history God's dealing with real people to carry out the plan of salvation. This gives the Bible a certain gravitas, authenticity, reliability that no other religious writings have.

But the Bible is not only a history book, which it is, as it records the life of real people who did real things in history, but what is so amazing about the Bible is that those historical events are also object lessons to teach us the larger reality of the Great Controversy and the plan of salvation.

Here are some examples:

- Seven Miracle Births—which I have spoken about many times so won't review here again
- Joseph—metaphor for Christ—sold into slavery, stays loyal, exalted to deliver people
- Moses—did not think becoming ruler was something to be grasped and instead became a wanderer, only to speak to God face to face as a friend, deliver the people from bondage and set up the sanctuary—thus Moses is a real person whose life experiences teach about Christ
- Nehemiah Ezra building up the walls—repair the breach 3 releases, 1844, 1888, Rev 18, final message of mercy to lighten the world God's design law with rev 14 worship creator
- Daniel lion's den—betrayed and stays faithful and protected, in the last days Satan is a roaring lion seeking to destroy those faithful to God, but those who stay united with God will be delivered from his power
- Enoch/Elijah—object of those who are translated into heaven

So the Bible records real people who did real things, but these lives also teach larger realities.

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, "In 621..." What happened here? God had given the Scripture years before, but it had been lost and thus error and apostasy had crept in. The rediscovery of the Scripture led to revival and reformation.

Has this happened at any other time in human history?

The Reformation—during the Dark Ages the Scriptures were locked away from the people and all kinds of superstitious teaches crept in, and what triggered the Reformation was not merely Martin Luther's 95 thesis, but translating the Bible into the language of the people. Bible truths freed the minds of the people and led to reformation and revival.

But today the Christian world has again forgotten the Bible. It has been said that Christianity is a group of people who are Biblically illiterate.

An article in Christianity Today reports:



Around 30 percent of British parents don't know Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, or the Good Samaritan are in the Bible. To make matters worse, 27 percent think Superman is or might be a biblical story. More than 1 in 3 believes the same about Harry Potter. And more than half (54 percent) believe The Hunger Games is or might be a story from the Bible.

More than half of evangelicals (59 percent) believe the Holy Spirit is a force and not a personal being—in contrast to the orthodox biblical teaching of the Trinity being three Persons in one God. As a whole, Americans, including many Christians, hold unbiblical views on hell, sin, salvation, Jesus, humanity, and the Bible itself.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2015/july/epidemic-of-bible-illiteracy-in-our-churches.html>

And as America and western countries forget the Bible has society become more decadent?

The Bible was supposed to bring revival and spiritual advancement to the infant SDA church in 1888 when Jones and Waggoner brought the message of righteousness by faith—the message that when we have faith, or trust in God, we open the heart and the Spirit comes in and we become righteous. Just as the Bible teaches:

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2Cor 5:21 NIV84

But this Bible message was rejected by the leadership and replaced with a legal fraud that we are declared to be legally righteous in a courtroom setting in heaven, even though we are not actually righteous. This rejection of Bible truth led to, like Israel, a wandering in the wilderness since that time.

EGW, after the rejection of this message in 1888, wrote the following:

“When I purposed to leave Minneapolis, the **angel of the Lord** stood by me and said: **[The following is a quote from the angel of the Lord]** "Not so; God has a work for you to do in this place. **The people are acting over [re-enacting] the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.** I have placed you in your proper position, **which those who are not in the light will not acknowledge; they will not heed your testimony;** **[What was EGW advocating? For the healing view of the gospel promoted by Jones and Waggoner. Righteousness by faith message—which is actual, real, genuine righteousness within the heart/mind of those who trust in Jesus. The rebuilding and healing of our characters when we trust in Jesus—the fulfillment of the day of at-one-ment metaphor, the cleansing of the bride, the groom purifying His bride bringing her into unity/oneness with Him, the cleansing of the sanctuary. All the same. But church leadership rejected this healing view and chose instead to embrace the false imperial legal view of declared righteousness even though we are not. This, is, according to the angel of the Lord, like Korah saying “we can’t succeed in going into the promised land.” And church leaders, who prefer the imperial law view, have been telling Adventists ever since that we can’t succeed in experiencing Christ’s righteousness, which prepares us to stand in His presence; we**



can only be declared legally righteous, even though we are not.] but I will be with you; My grace and power shall sustain you. **It is not you they are despising, but the messengers and the message I send to My people.** [Friends of Come and Reason around the world, realize that when you are told you are not welcome, you cannot teach your SS class, that you cannot share the wonders of God's love that has so transformed your life—that it is not you they are rejecting but Christ they are rejecting—just like Korah.] **They have shown contempt for the word of the Lord. Satan has blinded their eyes and perverted their judgment; and unless every soul shall repent of this their sin, this unsanctified independence that is doing insult to the Spirit of God, they will walk in darkness.** I will remove the candlestick out of his place except they repent and be converted, that I should heal them. **They have obscured their spiritual eyesight.** [What does this mean? How? By refusing the truth of God's design law, by holding to Rome's imperial law lie, they have blinded themselves to how reality actually works and live in a fantasy of confusion and contradictions mirroring this sinful world with a god who is the source of pain, suffering and death which they call justice.] They would not that God should manifest His Spirit and His power; for they have a spirit of mockery and disgust at My word. Lightness, trifling, jesting and joking are daily practiced. They have not set their hearts to seek Me. They walk in the sparks of their own kindling, and unless they repent, they shall lie down in sorrow. Thus saith the Lord: "Stand at your post of duty; for I am with thee, and will not leave thee nor forsake thee." These words from God I have not dared to disregard."—Letter 2a, 1892, pp. 4, 5. (To "Dear Nephew and Niece, Frank (F.E.) and Hattie," Nov. 5, 1892.) {3MR 191.2}

What happens when we reject Bible truth—darkness of mind, hardness of heart. But when we promote the truth of the Bible the Holy Spirit is poured out to empower the truth to do its work in both transforming hearts and minds and spreading to others.

Read second paragraph, "One of the most powerful testimonies..." How is the Bible powerful—by bringing truth—it is the truth about God which destroys lies and wins to trust and leads to opening of the heart to the Holy Spirit. The Bible itself is not the source of the power, God is the source of the power, but the Bible is the sword of the Spirit, the tool used by God to cut through lies and pierce stubborn hearts and bring conviction to lead us to make new choices, primarily to reject lies and embrace the truth about God.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Power of Love Training and Equipping Course is now available on the Come And Reason Ministries website. View FHD videos, MP3 audio tracks (and iTunes podcast), PowerPoint slides, and get the PDF course workbook/syllabus.

April 17,18, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakewood SDA church in Lakewood OH.

September 17-19 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC National Conference in Dallas, TX

October 3, 2020: Come and Reason will have a one day seminar in Chattanooga TN on Healing the Mind, Recovering from Sexual Abuse, the Impact of Digital Media on Kids and more. Details coming soon.

November 6-7, 2020: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at an AACC River Conference at Plano, TX. More info at <http://theriverconference.com/>