



Education Lesson 5 4Q 2020 Lessons from the Sanctuary

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SABBATH

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6, NKJV).

Any other scriptures coming to mind when you read this passage?

Gen. 1: 3 “Let there be light.”

Ps. 19: 1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.”

John 17: 3 “**And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.**”

Rev. 21: 23 “The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.”

What made/makes Jesus the “Master Teacher”?

SUNDAY

Revealing the Father.

From the lesson: “Jesus also is “the express image of his person”(Heb. 1:3). The term used here, the Greek word *charactēr*, is sometimes used of the impression a seal makes in wax or the representation stamped on a coin. So, Jesus is “the exact imprint of God’s very being” (Heb. 1:3, NRSV). If we wish to know the Father, we must listen carefully to what the Master Teacher says about Him. And we must watch the Master Teacher, as well. The Father is seen in the Son.”

I think this is very well said. How, then, do Adventist Christians promote contradictory doctrines like those contained in the penal substitution theologies if the above is true?

WHICH LAW LENS ARE WE VIEWING THE DOCTRINES THROUGH?



If Jesus is the “express image” of God, then we need to reject many of our Christian [read – Adventist] dogmas.

Can you name some of them?

Sabbath as an arbitrary test of obedience.

Jesus is pleading His merits [or blood] before the Father in order to secure forgiveness from sin or just to allow us to avoid the “punishment” for sin.

God put all sins past, present, and future on Christ at the Cross and punished Him in our place.

God won’t burn you forever – that would be evil. No, He will use his miraculous power to keep you alive in order to burn you only as long as you deserve. Now let’s all gather around, hold hands, and sing Kum-ba-Ya.

MONDAY

Revealing the Father [Cont.]

Consider the EGW quote in the middle of the lesson.

“The Light appeared when the world’s darkness was deepest. . . .
“There was but one hope for the human race . . . that the knowledge of God might be restored to the world.

“Christ came to restore this knowledge. He came to set aside the false teaching by which those who claimed to know God had misrepresented Him. He came to manifest the nature of His law, to reveal in His own character the beauty of holiness.”—Ellen G. White, *Education*, pp. 74–76.

Have you ever considered that Jesus came when the darkness about God was at its deepest?

Didn’t the Jewish church leadership have all of the Scriptures? The oracles of the prophets? The Torah? The ten commandments?

Didn’t they have the lessons from Creation? Didn’t they have their own experiences both as individuals and as a race?

In what manner was “darkness” the deepest when the Jews had all of these advantages?

Did the Jews know God? Of course not. Otherwise they would not have murdered Him.



If you've not yet read Tim's blog on Christ's parables, you're missing out. The overarching theme of all of them is **design law**. Much [? all] of Christ's work in revealing God the Father included revealing God's Law as **design law**.

<https://www.comeandreason.com/index.php/en/blogs-main/842-parables-of-jesus>

Every single parable He told in Scripture revealed God's design for life and how to apply it to our current state of being out of harmony with that design.

The lesson went to great lengths to point out that Jesus's mission was revealing the Father and His character. Was this the only thing needed to provide salvation? What's missing from the lesson?

TUESDAY

Reading the Master Teacher's Mind

The lesson references Philippians 2: 1-11.

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, **did not consider it robbery to be equal with God**, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. NKJV.

Here's the passage from the NSRV.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God as**



something to be exploited,⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Is Paul [generally considered to be the author of Philippians] trying to draw a distinction between Jesus and another being, who thought [wrongly] himself equal to God, and did consider exploitation or “robbery” to get his way?

Does this ring any Scripture bells?

How about Isa. 14: 13-14?

“I [Lucifer] will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; ... I will make myself like the Most High.”

Or Eze. 28: 2-19?

“Because your heart is proud and you have said, “I am a god...; you were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty; ... You were blameless in your ways from the day that you were created, until iniquity was found in you; ... So I brought out fire from within you; it consumed you.”

Get your minds around this. Jesus, fully God – pre-existent, The Source of life, eternal past, present, & future did not exercise power in order to maintain that prerogative. He allowed his creation to murder Him instead of using His power to prevent it.

Meanwhile, a created being was so enamored with himself that he tried to “rob” God of the adoration of other created beings. The Greek word for “robbery” used in the Philippians passage is “*harpagmos*” and is used only once in all of the New Testament. The word implies robbery by violence or “something to which one can claim or assert title by gripping or grasping.”

This is quite a cosmic contrast.

Going back to our lesson’s title – Jesus as the Master Teacher, what does this “teach” us?



WEDNESDAY

The Master Teacher and Reconciliation.

The lesson does an excellent job of bringing out Christ's role as a reconciler, and of God's lead role in the task of reconciliation. It also does well to include the cosmic element of the need of reconciliation referencing Colossians 1: 15-20 – "all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross" [v.20].

In the past, it was difficult for me to conceptualize the need for unfallen angels to be reconciled back to God. Now with a better understanding of Design Law and the remedy for sin, it makes complete sense.

How can we function as reconcilers today?

THURSDAY

The Master Teacher's First Pupils

The lesson asks us to imagine gazing in to the manger on the night of Jesus's birth.

What do you see? What do you smell? What do you hear? Was Jesus born with the ability to speak, or was language learned? Was it cold / warm? Was He crying or peaceful?