

Study # 1 Outline

God's Way -vs- Satan's Way

1. John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

–What is the promise here? —That the Holy Spirit will teach us all things.

–Do we want to be taught by the Holy Spirit?

a. *Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887 (quotation #1-1)

There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out his Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. ... When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come.

–If we want to be taught by the Holy Spirit what do we need to do? —We must “clear the way by removing every hindrance,” and get rid of anything that might be standing between us and God.

2. Proverbs 22:3

Wise people foresee trouble coming and avoid it, but foolish people keep going and suffer.

–Notice what the following quotations says we will need to understand in order to endure the trial before us.

Part 1 **God's Character, Government, and Purposes**

3. *Great Controversy*, page 593 (quotation #1-2)

Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them.

–In order to endure the trial before us we'll need to understand: God's *character*, His *government*, and His *purposes*.

4. 1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

–“God is love” —this is His *character*

a. Genesis 1:31

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

–At the end of creation week, everything God had made was “indeed ... very good.” Exactly what you would expect from a loving Creator.

- So then, why are things so messed up?

5. What would be the most valuable thing to God?

–He can just speak anything He wants into existence. (See Psalm 33:6 and 9.) So the most valuable thing to Him would be something He *cannot just create*.

–For example: Which would be worth more to you? —programming the ‘wallpaper’ on your phone to say “I love you” in some flowery script -or- having someone you love simply smiling at you? Having someone you care about choosing to respond to you is worth so much more than a device which has no choice simply being programmed to say “I love you.”

–Let’s give God a ‘smile’ once in a while!

a. So God created intelligent beings, and gave them the power of choice.

- However, having the power to choose, also provides for the possibility of them choosing against Him.

–And choosing not to cooperate and be in harmony with the “very good” way God has things organized and planned out, ends up causing all sorts of problems —as we see in the world around us.

b. If He instantly destroyed those who chose not to respond positively, people and angels would serve Him out of fear —and that would not be *LOVE*.

- And since God’s character is love, His *government* is also based on love.

c. Ezekiel 28:15 –referring to Lucifer, says,

You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
Till iniquity was found in you.

–There was a time between the creation of the angels, who were intelligent beings with the power of choice, and when Lucifer sinned. During this time the universe was in harmony and at peace —‘perfect.’ But, was the universe secure? —No. There was the possibility that someone would choose not to follow God’s plan.

d. In order for the universe to be secure, this issue must be firmly settled in everyone’s mind.

–Everyone’s mind being firmly settled sounds very similar to the ‘sealing’ process.

S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4, page 1161, (1MR 249) (quotation #1-3)

Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads--it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved . . .

- Everyone must be ‘settled into’ their choice to either follow God’s leading or go their own way. Therefore, to give beings with the power of choice the opportunity to become settled “both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved,” ‘sin’ had to be allowed to happen and to run its course. This is the only way the universe could be secure for the rest of eternity.

6. Nahum 1:9 (last part)

He will make an utter end of it.
Affliction will not rise up a second time.

–After ‘sin’ has run its course, there will be a complete end to ‘sin.’

a. God’s *purpose* therefore, is to have a secure universe for the rest of eternity.

b. And from the prophecies, we know we are getting very close to the end of the time that sin has been allowed to run its course.

–So let’s go back and look at how ‘sin’ began.

Part 2 **Satan’s Way**

7. Isaiah 14:12

How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!

–When we think of ‘Lucifer,’ we associate it with the epitome of evil, but the name means ‘light bear’ —which is actually a good meaning.

a. Ezekiel 28:14-15

You were the anointed cherub who covers;
I established you;
You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.
You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
Till iniquity was found in you.

–Notice here that Lucifer once was the *covering cherub*, the closest angel to God, and he *was perfect* in all his ways. So in between the time when he was created and when he sinned, he was close to God and doing a good job of taking God’s “light” to the rest of the universe!

b. Before he sinned, Lucifer was in heaven and close to God. He had what we are striving for. Yet he chose to give it all up. Why? What could possibly be worth more?

–To find out ‘why,’ let’s fast-forward in time to where Lucifer, (who has now become Satan), has taken the form of a snake and is trying to deceive Eve —another perfect being living in a perfect place— and get her to also choose to give it all up.

8. Genesis 3:4-6

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

–He essentially tells her, ‘If you eat this fruit, You will be wise like God, and *you* will know what’s good and bad, right and wrong.’

a. In other words, You won’t need God to tell you what to do anymore —you can do what *you* want!

–Let’s look at this from another angle.

b. Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

–The Hebrew word translated ‘Instruction’ here, also has in its meaning the ideas of ‘discipline,’ ‘training,’ ‘self control’ and ‘restraint’

- God has given us certain abilities. He would like us to use these abilities to help and bless others. But He has also given us the power of choice. So if we choose, we are able to use these abilities to do things that would hurt others—either directly, or by our neglect, indirectly.
- God’s way is to *restrain* ourselves from doing things that would hurt others. This is one reason why the 10 Commandments are given in the negative: “Thou shall not ...” —each commandment describing a way that would hurt others. In contrast, Satan’s way is to just do whatever you feel, or don’t feel like doing—without restraint, or worrying about how it might impact others.

9. Education, page 253 (quotation #1-4)

Faith is trusting God—believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good. Thus, instead of our own, it leads us to choose His way. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness.

–‘Faith,’ believes that God’s know what is best, and therefore leads us to choose *His* way. On the other hand, Lucifer’s felt that improvements and changes needed to be made in God’s plan.

Patriarchs and Prophets, page 38 (quotation #1-5)

While claiming for himself perfect loyalty to God, he urged that changes in the order and laws of heaven were necessary for the stability of the divine government.

–Consider the following example: We put together a plan. And no matter who we are, or how good our plan is, when we share the plan with our group, someone can always offer a suggestion that would make the plan better. Lucifer felt that it was this same way with God, that improvements could be made in His plan.

–Thus, one of the *issues* to be *settled* in the ‘Great Controversy’ is: is Lucifer’s claim valid? -or- in God’s infinite wisdom, is His plan already perfect?

–Notice the claims of these following verses:

a. Psalm 18:30,

As for God, his way is perfect:
The Lord’s word is flawless;
he shields all who take refuge in him.

Proverbs 21:30

There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord.

Proverbs 19:21

Many are the plans in a person's heart,
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

–Every detail of God's plan is already perfect.

- So there is nothing any created being can offer to make God's plan better.

–This has many implications. For example, it is one thing to acknowledge that God's plan is perfect, it can be quite another to actually do it. Remember how Jesus concludes His 'Sermon on the Mount.'

- Matthew 7: 24

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

–And then He goes on to tell the parable of the two builders. Let's not try to make 'improvements' on God's plan by neglecting to actually do what He has told us to do.

–The first mention of 'Babylon' in the Bible is in connection with the Tower of Babel story. Notice what the people building the tower said in the following verse:

b. Genesis 11:4

And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

–This is significant, because when Noah and his family came out of the Ark, God had told them,

Genesis 9:1

So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

–The people at the tower of Babel didn't want to be scattered. Their organization, 'Babylon,' was based on not wanting to follow God's plan. But notice the following verse.

- Revelation 14:8

And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

–As a system, “Babylon is fallen!” Trying to make ‘improvements’ on God’s plan is a “fallen” system. Even though it may appear to prosper for a while, it will end in disaster.

- And it is interesting to note that ultimately, the whole Sabbath -vs- Sunday issue is all about following God’s way -vs- doing things our own way.

c. Revelation 14:12

Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

–To make it through the end-times, we will need the “faith of Jesus” —Jesus’ faith, or the same kind of faith that Jesus had. Since we will need the “faith of Jesus” to make it through what will be our greatest trial, we can expect to see Jesus’ faith demonstrated at His greatest trial —Gethsemene. Notice His prayer.

- Matthew 26:39

He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

–Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemene shows His complete trust in, and willingness to submit to, God’s plan. Therefore to make it through the end-times, we too will need a complete trust in, and willingness to submit, to God’s plan.

–Let’s go back and note another point from the verses we’ve already looked at in Genesis 3.

10. Genesis 3:4-5

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

–Here we have ‘The Lie,’ (as the apostle Paul calls it in 2 Thessalonians 2:11), that you can separate yourself from God, the Source of life, to go your own way, *and still live!*

- a. As we noted earlier, for the sake of going her own way, Eve gave up paradise & her connection with God, just like Lucifer did.
- b. And most of the human race has made / is making the same choice.

11. In a very real way, Jesus died so we could make the exact opposite choice that Satan and Eve made.

a. To give up our own way, to re-connect with God, and to follow Him.

Part 3 **God's Way**

—So far we have been studying primarily what Satan's way is about. In order to make an intelligent choice however, we also need to examine what God's way is. Notice what Jesus says in the following verses about what will happen to us if we re-connect with Him.

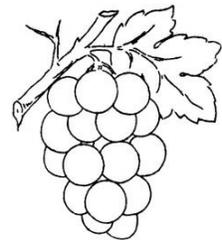
12. John 15:1-8

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

—What will be the result of re-connecting with Jesus? —We will “bear much fruit.” But, what does “fruit” represent?

a. All the main parts of a plant, such as roots, stems and branches, and leaves, are essential for the survival of the plant. However a plant will grow just fine without producing any fruit. So, if ‘fruit’ doesn't really do anything for the plant it is growing on, why did Jesus use ‘fruit’ to illustrate the result of being connected to Him? —He chose “fruit,” because fruit is something plants do, not for themselves, but for *others*! Therefore, “bearing much fruit” represents living not just for ourselves, but to benefit and blessing *others*.



—God wants us to join with Him in His work of benefitting and blessing others. Throughout the world He has things that need to be done, blessings that need to be shared. So He created us to pass on these benefits. We have been created for a purpose —to be *useful*. Notice the following verse and quotation.

b. Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

• *Desire of Ages*, pages 20-21 (quotation #1-6)

In the beginning, God was revealed in all the works of creation. It was Christ that spread the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth. It was His hand that hung the worlds in space, and fashioned the flowers of the field. "His strength setteth fast the mountains." "The sea is His, and He made it." Ps. 65:6; 95:5. It was He that filled the earth with beauty, and the air with song. And upon all things in earth, and air, and sky, He wrote the message of the Father's love.

Now sin has marred God's perfect work, yet that handwriting remains. Even now all created things declare the glory of His excellence. There is nothing, save the selfish heart of man, that lives unto itself. No bird that cleaves the air, no animal that moves upon the ground, but ministers to some other life. There is no leaf of the forest, or lowly blade of grass, but has its ministry.

–As it came from the Creator's hand, everything, both living and non-living exists for the purpose of 'bearing' some kind of 'fruit' —to in some way be a benefit to the things around it. And it is interesting that in all of creation, there are only two groups that don't follow the Creator's plan: demons and selfish humans.

–With all this in mind, let's take a look at the story of the Rich Young Ruler.

c. Luke 18:18-23

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' "

And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

–Like the Rich Young Ruler, we may be tempted to think we can do what God requires without interacting with others. But notice that Jesus essentially told him, 'Brother, you need to go and bear some fruit.' We cannot do what God requires, or fulfill our purpose without helping others.

–God doesn't just expect the things He has created to "bear fruit." Notice in the following verses.

d. Matthew 20:28

... The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

John 14:9

Jesus said to him, "... He who has seen Me has seen the Father; ..."

–So here we find that God Himself lives by this same principle of existing to benefit and bless others.

e. So in a very real way, the 'Great Controversy' is between living unselfishly -vs- living selfishly.

- Therefore, plain, common, ordinary, everyday selfishness is 'sin.'

–Notice what the following quotation says about this Great Controversy.

- *Education*, page 190 (quotation #1-7)

The Bible is its own expositor. Scripture is to be compared with scripture. The student should learn to view the word as a whole, and to see the relation of its parts. He should gain a knowledge of its grand central theme, of God's original purpose for the world, of the rise of the great controversy, and of the work of redemption. He should understand the nature of the two principles that are contending for supremacy, and should learn to trace their working through the records of history and prophecy, to the great consummation. He should see how this controversy enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the one or the other of the two antagonistic motives; and how, whether he will or not, he is even now deciding upon which side of the controversy he will be found.

–In *every act of life* we are being either selfish or unselfish.

f. Remember what we read earlier in John 15. "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away." And "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned." With these thoughts in mind, notice the following parable.

Luke 13:6-9

He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig

around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.’ ”

–Why did the vineyard owner plant the fig tree? —Because he wanted figs. If the fig tree doesn’t produce figs, he has a right to take it out. In the same way, if we don’t fulfil the purpose of our creation, and produce the ‘fruit’ God needs us to ‘bear,’ He has a right to take us out.

–But, don’t forget what else Jesus said in John 15.

13. John 15:4-5

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

–Jesus doesn’t expect us to “bear fruit” on our own. The *only* way we can ‘bear fruit’ is be connected to Him.

–Notice also what the following passages say about connecting with God and bearing fruit.

a. John 3:19-21

And this is the condemnation, [that is, why people are condemned in the judgement], that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

(Matthew 25:31-46), *Desire of Ages*, page 637 (quotation #1-8)

"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another." Thus Christ on the Mount of Olives pictured to His disciples the scene of the great judgment day. And He represented its decision as turning upon one point. When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering.

–Being connected with God and ‘bearing fruit’ is *the deciding factor* in the judgement.

b. What’s the first thing Adam & Eve did after they sinned?

Genesis 3:8

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

–They hid from God. And at the end, we also find people trying to hide from God.

Revelation 6:15-17

And the kings of the earth, the great men, [j]the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

–All the time in between these two events, people have been trying, in one way or another, to hide from God. And if we are honest, we have to admit that we have this same inclination to hide from God in us. We simply must not let this inclination control what we do with our lives.

–So, a good question to ask ourselves is, “Are we ‘hiding,’ or are we ‘abiding?’ Which are we choosing to do with our lives?”

14. Mark 4:26-29

And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

–Note also the parable of the sower in verses 1-20 of the same chapter. Except for the seed that fell on the road, *all* of the young plants in the parable *started growing*. However, some of the seeds had things around them that either withered or choked out their growth.

–We are either choosing to grow in our relationship with God, or we are allowing our relationship with Him to wither and be choked out, and die.

Christ’s Object Lessons, page 65 (quotation #1-9)

As in nature, so in grace; there can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the development of the Christian life. At every stage of development our

life may be perfect; yet if God's purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime.

–Here we have the ‘grow or die’ principle. We are either growing in our relationship with God, or our connection with Him is dying.

- a. Therefore we constantly need to *choose* to say connected with God and not give in to our natural inclination to hide from Him. As a result we need to be very deliberate and intentional about our choice to maintain and strengthen our connection to Him. So, another question we need to ask ourselves is, are we continuing to grow in our relationship with God?

Part 4 **The Great Controversy —a Values Conflict**

15. James 4:1

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

–The things we ‘desire,’ are things that we value. So all of our “wars and fights” are actually caused by value conflicts. For example: think about the last time you had an disagreement with someone. Undoubtedly it was because you thought something was important that the other person didn’t think was important, or something they thought was important that you didn’t think was important. So, all our conflicts, from interpersonal issues to international hostilities are ultimately values conflicts. The ‘Great Controversy’ is no exception.

a. Isaiah 55:8-9

For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

–The way someone ‘thinks’ about things is another way to describe their values. And what we *do* is also a reflection of these values. The way God thinks about things and the way He does things is much higher than the way we think and do things. So His values are higher than ours!

b. Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

–Being transformed by the renewing of our mind means changing the way we think about things, which amounts to changing our values to be more like God’s values. To tie this in with what was studied earlier, God’s unselfish values are better than human nature’s selfish values. As we re-connect with God and embrace His unselfish values, our selfishness falls away and ultimately becomes disgusting to us, (see Ezekiel 36:26-27, 31).

16. As noted earlier, in connection with Nahum 1:9, God’s ultimate goal is a secure universe for the rest of eternity.
- a. Suppose things were operating according to ‘Satan’s way’ where everyone does whatever they want to do. And somehow, even though we are all doing whatever we want to do, we all decide to get together and sing. However, we each sing whatever song we want to sing. What would that be like? —Chaos! Or suppose we somehow even decided to sing the same song, but we each started singing whenever we want to, sing in whatever key we feel like singing in, and at whatever tempo we like. What would that sound like? —Again, it would still be chaos.

–Note: ‘Babylon’ = ‘confusion’

–The only way for singing to be harmonious and sound good is for everyone to follow a ‘song leader!’ Now this song leader doesn’t have to be bossy and tyrannical in order to lead. Sometimes when we get together and sing, the person who is leading doesn’t even know they are the ‘leader.’ But as long as everyone follows the same person, it still turns out harmoniously.

- b. For everything to work together, and have harmony throughout the universe, everyone will need to follow the same Leader. The only one truly qualified to lead the universe is the Creator. And the only way we will all be willing to follow His leadership is if we share the same basic values.

Part 5 **What Does It Mean to ‘Believe’**

17. John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

–Salvation is for everyone who believes.

–But,

a. James 2:19, 23

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

–Do we have the demon’s type of belief, or a saving belief like Abraham?

- Notice what the demons believe. They believe that God exists, (that is: the ‘facts’/‘truths’ about God)

–Hebrews 11:6 describes a saving belief, note also that Abraham is mentioned as an example just a few verses farther down.

- Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

–A saving belief believes:

(1) God exists (the ‘facts’/‘truths’ about God) —*but it doesn’t stop there!*

(2) He rewards those who diligently seek Him

–Seeking God reminds us of,

b. Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

–Is it worth it to diligently seek God? give Him first place in your life? and work to advance His kingdom? This can only happen if we value the same things God values.

- *Desire of Ages*, page 668 (quotation #1-10)

All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so

blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses.

- c. If we don't *choose* to connect with God, and to put Him first, something else will take first place
- d. The demons, value their independence from God, and they are seeking to advance their own kingdom.
- e. Christianity isn't just 'believing' certain 'truths' (equivalent to what the demons believe), it's a whole different direction we take with our lives.

- Doing things that connect us with God and benefit others.

18. Our response to end-time preparation depends on our understanding of the gospel

- a. There is a prevalent false gospel that states: 'Jesus has done it all' / 'only believe.' In other words, it is enough to have the demon's type of belief.
- b. So, if we believe we can be saved without doing anything, what will we do? —Nothing.
- c. And if we believe that we can be saved without doing anything, what will we feel we need to do prepare for Jesus' coming or the things that are going to happen between now and then? —Nothing.

19. Just like our relationship with God, our end-time preparations, both spiritual preparation and physical preparation, needs to be continually growing and advancing.

- a. In other words, 'preparing' isn't just attending an end-time preparation seminar, and then going back to whatever we were doing with our lives. It isn't putting together a 'survival kit,' and then leaving it to collect dust in the closet.
- b. There is a business principle called 'Incremental Progress.' It refers to the practice of doing at least *something* each day to make progress towards a particular goal —it doesn't matter how large or small it might be, as long as we do at least something each day.

—It could be just completing a project, getting a piece of equipment, practicing a skill, or maybe just reading an article. But do at least something each day to be more prepared.

- By doing something each day, advancing that particular goal becomes a part of who we are —a part of our *character*.

–For example, Noah wasn't content to just attend an 'ark building' seminar, and then go back to what he was doing with his life. On the contrary, building the ark was what he was doing with his life! Noah was an ark builder!

–This is a good principle to adopt for both our end-time spiritual and physical preparations.

20. Luke 14:25-33

Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'? Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

–To be in God's kingdom, are we willing to:

- (1) Give up our own way, to re-connect with God?
- (2) Allow Him to work through us to benefit and bless others?
- (3) Continually work toward preparing, both spiritually and physically, for what is going to happen between now and Jesus' second coming, (the end-times)?

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~ to prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord ~

Study Guide # 1

God's Way -vs- Satan's Way

1. Jn 14:26 –Do we want to be _____ by the Holy Spirit?
 - a. RH 3/22/1887 –If so, we must _____ the way by _____ every hindrance
2. Prov 22:3 –Wise people _____ trouble coming and avoid it, but foolish people keep going and suffer
- Part 1 3. GC 593 –In order to endure the trial before us we'll need to understand God's _____ , _____ , and _____
4. 1 Jn 4:7-8 –God is _____ —this is His *character*
 - a. Gen 1:31 –Everything God had made was indeed _____
 - So why are things so messed up?
5. What would be the most valuable thing to God? —something He _____ create
 - a. So He created intelligent being with the power of _____
 - The power to choose, also provides the possibility of choosing _____ Him
 - b. If He instantly destroyed those who chose not to respond positively to Him, everyone would serve Him out of _____ —and that would not be *LOVE*
 - So God's _____ is also based on love
 - c. Eze 28:15 –In between the time the angels were created, and when Lucifer sinned, was the universe secure? _____
 - d. In order for the universe to be secure for eternity, the issue to be firmly _____ in everyone's mind, (Note: the 'sealing' is a "settling into the truth," 4BC 1161)
 - Therefore, ' _____ ' must be allowed to happen and run it's course
6. Na 1:9 –After 'sin' has run its course, there will be a complete _____ to 'sin'
 - a. God's *purpose* therefore, is to have a _____ universe for the rest of eternity
 - b. From the prophecies, we know we are getting _____ to the end of 'sin's' time
- Part 2 7. Isa 14:12 –The name, 'Lucifer' means ' _____ '
 - a. Eze 28:14-15 –He was the _____ cherub, and _____ in all his ways
 - b. Before he sinned, Lucifer was in heaven and close to God —he had what we are striving for! Yet he chose to give it all up. Why? What could be _____ more?
8. Gen 3:4-6 – _____ will be wise, (like God), and know what's _____ and _____
 - a. _____ don't need God to tell you what to do anymore —do what _____ want!
 - b. Prov 1:7 –'Instruction' also = ' _____ ' and ' _____ '
 - Because we can choose, we *are* able to do things that would _____ others

• God's way = _____ yourself; Satan's way = do whatever _____ want

9. Ed 253, PP 38 –Faith leads us to _____ God's way, but Lucifer essentially claims that God's plan needs to be _____

a. Ps 18:30, Prov 21:30, 19:21 –Every detail of God's plan is already _____

• So there is nothing any created being can offer to make God's plan _____

• Matt 7:24 –Let's not neglect to actually “ _____ ” God's plan

b. Gen 11:4, 9:1, Rev 14:8 –'Babylon' = _____ wanting to follow God's plan

• The whole Sabbath -vs- Sunday issue is about _____ way -vs- _____ way

c. Rev 14:12 –To make it through the end-times, we will need the faith of _____

• Matt 26:39 –Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane shows His complete _____ in, and willingness to _____ to, God's plan

10. Gen 3:4-5 –'The Lie:' you can _____ from God to go your own way, and still live

a. Like Satan, Eve gave up paradise and her connection with God to _____ her own _____

b. And most of the human race has made / is making the _____ choice

11. Jesus died so we could make the exact _____ choice Satan and Eve made

a. To give up our _____ way, re-_____ with God, and follow _____

Part 3 12. Jn 15:1-8 –What will be the result of re-connecting to Jesus? –'bearing much _____ '

a. 'Bearing Fruit' represents living not for _____ , but for _____

b. Eph 2:10 –God created us to be _____ , do things that benefit others

• DA 20-21 –Everything exists to benefit others except _____ and _____

c. Lk 18:18-23 –We cannot do what God requires without _____ others

d. Matt 20:28, Jn 14:9 –God Himself lives by this _____ principle

e. Therefore, the 'great controversy' is between _____ -vs- _____

• And plain, common, ordinary, everyday selfishness is ' _____ . '

• Ed 190 –In _____ act of life we are being either selfish or unselfish

f. Jn 15:2, 6, Lk 13:6-9 –If we don't fulfil the purpose of our creation we'll be _____

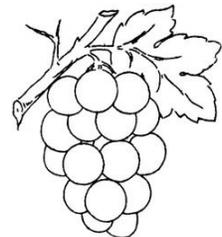
13. Jn 15:4-5 –We cannot 'bear fruit' with out being _____ to God

a. Jn 3:19-21, (Matt 25:31-46), DA 637 –Connecting with God and 'bearing fruit' is also the deciding factor in the _____

b. Gen 3:8, Rev 6:15-17 –Are we _____ or are we _____ ?

14. Mark 4:26-29, (1-20), COL 65 –The _____ or _____ principle

a. Are we continually intentionally _____ in our relationship with God?



Part 4 15. Ja 4:1 –All our conflicts are caused by having different _____

a. Isa 55:8-9 –God's ways and _____ are higher than ours

- b. Rom 12:1-2 –Transforming mind = changing way we think = change our _____
16. Na 1:9 –God’s ultimate goal is a _____ universe for the rest of eternity
- a. If everyone went their own way, there would be _____
- b. Everyone would need to _____ the same Leader, and share the same basic _____
- Part 5 17. Jn 3:16, Rom 1:16-17 –Salvation for everyone who _____
- a. Ja 2:19, 23 –But do we have the _____ belief, or a _____ belief
- The demons believe God _____ (the ‘facts’/‘truths’ about God)
 - Heb 11:6 –A saving belief believes:
 - (1) God _____ (the ‘facts’/‘truths’ about God) —*but it doesn’t stop here!*
 - (2) He rewards those who diligently _____ Him
- b. Matt 6:33 –Is it _____ it to diligently seek God and advance His kingdom?
- DA 668 –“If we consent ... when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our _____ impulses”
- c. If we don’t _____ to connect with God, and to put Him first, something else will take first place in our lives
- d. The demons value their _____ from God and are seeking to advance _____ kingdom
- e. Christianity isn’t just ‘believing’ certain ‘truths,’ it’s what we _____ with our lives
- Doing things that _____ us with God and _____ others
18. Our response to end-time preparation depends on our understanding of the _____
- a. Prevalent _____ gospel —‘Jesus has done it all’ / ‘only believe’ (demon’s belief)
- b. If we believe we can be saved without doing anything, what will we do? _____
- c. And if we can be saved without doing anything, what will we feel we need to do prepare for Jesus’ coming or for what will happen between now and then? _____
19. Our preparations, both spiritually and physically, should be continually _____
- a. Don’t just put together a survival kit and leave it in the _____
- b. ‘Incremental Progress’ = do something _____ to advance spiritually/prepare
- Because this is something we do every day, it becomes part of our _____
20. Lk 14:25-33 –To be in God’s kingdom, are we willing to:
- (1) Give up our own way, to re-_____ with God?
 - (2) Allow Him to work through us to bless _____ ?
 - (3) Be _____ preparing for the end-times both spiritually and physically?

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#1-1. *Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887

There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out his Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. ... When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come.

#1-2. *Great Controversy*, page 593

Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them.

#1-3. *S.D.A. Bible Commentary Vol. 4*, page 1161, (1MR 249)

Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads--it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved--just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed, it has begun already; the judgments of God are now upon the land, to give us warning, that we may know what is coming (MS 173, 1902).

#1-4. *Education*, page 253

Faith is trusting God—believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good. Thus, instead of our own, it leads us to choose His way. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness.

#1-5. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 38

While claiming for himself perfect loyalty to God, he urged that changes in the order and laws of heaven were necessary for the stability of the divine government.

#1-6. *Desire of Ages*, pages 20-21

In the beginning, God was revealed in all the works of creation. It was Christ that spread the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth. It was His hand that hung the worlds in space, and fashioned the flowers of the field. "His strength setteth fast the mountains." "The sea is His, and He made it." Ps. 65:6; 95:5. It was He that filled the earth with beauty, and the air with song. And upon all things in earth, and air, and sky, He wrote the message of the Father's love.

Now sin has marred God's perfect work, yet that handwriting remains. Even now all created things declare the glory of His excellence. There is nothing, save the selfish heart of man, that lives unto itself. No bird that cleaves the air, no animal that moves upon the ground, but ministers to some other life. There is no leaf of the forest, or lowly blade of grass, but has its ministry.

#1-7. *Education*, page 190

The Bible is its own expositor. Scripture is to be compared with scripture. The student should learn to view the word as a whole, and to see the relation of its parts. He should gain a knowledge of its grand central theme, of God's original purpose for the

world, of the rise of the great controversy, and of the work of redemption. He should understand the nature of the two principles that are contending for supremacy, and should learn to trace their working through the records of history and prophecy, to the great consummation. He should see how this controversy enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the one or the other of the two antagonistic motives; and how, whether he will or not, he is even now deciding upon which side of the controversy he will be found.

#1-8. *Desire of Ages*, page 637

"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another." Thus Christ on the Mount of Olives pictured to His disciples the scene of the great judgment day. And He represented its decision as turning upon one point. When the nations are gathered before Him, there will be but two classes, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done or have neglected to do for Him in the person of the poor and the suffering.

#1-9. *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 65

As in nature, so in grace; there can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the development of the Christian life. At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God's purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime.

#1-10. *Desire of Ages*, page 668

All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses.

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