

## Sabbath School Lesson #1 – Reality Check – 28 March-3 April 2026

**C**hrist says, “As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you: continue ye in My love” (John 15:9). Reality check: do we know the love of Christ? It is incomparable with any love between humans. The closest we have recorded of great human love is the love that was between David and Jonathan. When David learned of the death of Jonathan he mourned greatly, “I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women” (2 Samuel 1:26). Great, however, as was the love of Jonathan for David, it was but a feeble representation of that which Christ bestows on us. So closely has Christ knit His soul with ours “that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39). He puts upon us His own raiment, “for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:10). He equips us with His own weapons and armour, bidding us “put on the whole armour of God,” and take “the sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:11-17). He is the Son of the Supreme King and heir to the throne of the universe, but He left everything and “became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9), and He calls whosoever will to sit down with Him on His throne. Truly, His love to us is “wonderful, passing the love of women.” “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they way forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands” (Isaiah 49:15-16). “I have loved thee with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3). “As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you.” To know the love of Christ, is to be filled with all the fulness of God.

**Sunday: Our Condition** – Read Revelation 3:14-17, where Jesus describes the spiritual condition of His people today; how well do these verses describe you personally? It is not enough for us to simply admit the correct application of this startling rebuke to ourselves at the present time. We should ponder its fearful import with care and let its terrific threatening move us to immediate action. The Lord has reproved us through the writings of Ellen White; many cherish a hatred to such writing. These see no need of reproof. This spirit is increasing among our people. Sadly, those who dare speak plainly and decidedly against prevailing wrongs and sins among us make themselves a prey to a bitter spirit of rebellion in those who have been often reproved and have stiffened their necks against correction. The deception upon the minds of our people is a fearful one. The prophecy to the last stage of the church of Jesus Christ, given through John, looks forward to our present time, even to this year 2026, and describes, with minute exactness, the condition of things among us, utters a terrific warning of utter rejection without zealous repentance, counsels the only way of escape, and then, in strains of fullest benevolence and tenderest affection, promises the nearest and dearest communion with Christ to all who hear the voice of warning and open the door of their hearts by zeal in repenting of the sins which have barred the dear Saviour from them. And now, let it be remembered that this testimony to the church of the Laodiceans is from the True Witness. It is from the Son of God. It appeals to our people at the present critical hour. It describes their true condition of blindness as to their standing before God; and nothing has done so much to bring our people into this condition, as the influence of those who have cherished a feeling of dislike, with some it has amounted to determined hatred, against the reproofs which the Lord has given His people through His faithful servants.

**Monday: Rebuke, Repent, and Reward** – Read Revelation 3:20. What are we promised here? But what must we do to receive that promise? If we love God, we will accept His rebuke, we will repent, and then be partakers of the reward for the saints. The trouble is, there is a barrier in the way of our love toward God. Sin placed that barrier there; it is self. The door of the natural heart is closed to that which is Divine. Jesus says, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and sup with him, and he with Me.” Open that door, and the love of God will come in. Jesus will come in, and we shall see Him, “the chiefest among ten thousand,” and “altogether lovely” (Song of Solomon 5:10, 16); and love will be the inevitable consequence. But until the door

is open, we do not see Christ. There is much rubbish about the door, which must be cleared away, – the rubbish of self, selfish ambition, pride, jealousies, and all the other works of the flesh. We cannot see Christ through self. Though He is the beauty and majesty of heaven, so long as we look at self, we shall not be able to discern Him. We may remove this rubbish by counting ourselves dead unto sin (Romans 6:11), dead to all selfish desires and selfish acts. Then there will be no difficulty about opening the door; then we shall see our Heavenly Visitor in His beauty, and our hearts will be filled with His grace. We will abide in Him.

**Tuesday: Everlasting Love** – How does the Bible show the everlasting love of God through Christ? Christ and His Father loves us with love that is not easily repulsed. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not” (1 John 3:1). “The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee” (Jeremiah 31:3). “I have spread out My hands all the day unto a rebellious people” (Isaiah 65:2). Though often rejected, He still woos sinful men, seeking to draw them to Himself. There is a void in the heart of God that can be filled only with the love of man. A lover in fancy clothes the object of his affection with all charms and graces, but the Lord does so really to His people, for whom He gave Himself. His love will transform them, and clothe them with the beauty of His own righteousness. “So shall the King greatly desire thy beauty” (Psalm 45:11). “He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing” (Zephaniah 3:17).

While we were still in sin, God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, “not imputing their trespasses unto them” (2 Corinthians 5:19). Harshness repels, love draws. That is how God draws men to Himself. “I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee” (Jeremiah 31:3). But “the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared” (Titus 3:4) in Christ; for “God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:5). Therefore, Christ said: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me” (John 12:32). It is the goodness of God, that leads men to repentance (Romans 2:1). The word “goodness” as applied to God, means all that anybody means by goodness. It means more than what is ordinarily thought of as strict conformity to the law of right; it means kindness, benevolence, pity, sympathy, forbearance. These are the qualities by which God draws men to Himself. No others can attract. All these are manifested in Christ. “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them” (2 Corinthians 5:19). “Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more” (John 8:11). “This Man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them” (Luke 15:2). “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 13:34). Peter denied his Lord with cursing in the hour of His sorest need; “and the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter” (Luke 22:61). That look melted Peter, and made a new man of him. Oh, what gentleness and tenderness toward frail sinners was manifested in Christ!

**Wednesday: Abide** – Read John 15:1-11; what did Jesus say here, and what does that mean for us? These texts of scripture shows clearly that the fruit borne by the branch that abides in Christ, is deeds of righteousness. The statement is that whoever abides in Christ brings forth much fruit, while separate from Him we can do nothing. Doing nothing is made equivalent to not bearing fruit. So then bearing fruit in the vine is identical with doing something. There is nothing more passive than the bearing of fruit; and yet there is nothing in which more intense activity is shown than in a fruitful tree. The tree can do nothing to make itself bear fruit, yet the bearing of fruit is a period of activity, which activity is of Christ.

**Thursday: Linked to the Vine** – Read Luke 11:13 along with Jeremiah 31:3, 1 John 4:19, and Romans 8:9-11; what is the essential message here for us? The Father gives us the Spirit of His Son. The essential message is to have the Spirit of Christ to be linked to the Vine, as Christians, for “if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Romans 8:9), which Spirit is Christ Himself, as “the Lord is that Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:17), for Christ being “the last Adam was made a quickening Spirit” (1 Corinthians 15:45) and “because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts” (Galatians 4:6), and for these reasons, let us have Christ, as Ellen White says, “It is not safe to catch the spirit from another. We want the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ” {9LtMs, Lt 66, 1894, par. 18}.