

## **Character of God - October 12-15, 2017**

We are thrilled to have the honor of hosting this **Character of God Weekend, on October 12-15**, and we are bowing low to the ground to invite you to come! We are not aware of any other time when ten speakers, all part of the Character of God emphasis in the church, are all together at the same place at the same time! The speakers are excited to be together, and we hope that you will not miss this chance to be together.

### **Summary:**

**October 12-15, 2017**

**Garden Grove SDA Church, 12702 9th Street, Garden Grove, CA, 92840**

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**Focus:** The central focus of course will be on **the Cross and the Atonement**. Why did Jesus actually have to die? Was it a sacrifice to God? Why would God need that to be satisfied and to be willing to forgive? Or are there are other ways to still have the Cross be central and necessary and saving, but without saying anything that would cheapen or minimize the awesome loving character of God?! Those are the questions all of us have been wrestling with for years. But we have never had the chance to hear them from each other and to test out our own ideas with our peers.

### **Speakers:**

Herb Montgomery, Renewed Heart Ministries

Jon Paulien, Dean, School of Religion, Loma Linda University

Alden Thompson, Professor, Walla Walla University

Dan Smith, Senior Pastor, Garden Grove Church, host

Jean Sheldon, Professor, Pacific Union College

Arla Caraboolad, Speaker, Writer

Tim Jennings, Psychiatrist, President, Come and Reason Ministries

John Webster, Professor of Theology, La Sierra University

**Schedule:** It begins Thursday afternoon with lunch at 12 pm, and goes through lunch, Sunday. The ten speakers will come one right after the other, 25 minute Ted-Talk-style messages, focusing on the highlights and most core points of their understanding of the Cross and the related issues. There will also be time interspersed among the messages for round-table discussions, Q & A Sessions, and Panel discussions.

**Plenary Sessions:** The daytime sessions Thursday and Friday will be terrific, but we assume that the largest crowds will be in the evenings and on Sabbath. If you can get off from work to be here for the whole weekend, you will never regret it! But for sure make it to Thursday and Friday evening, and all day Sabbath!

**Meals:** There will be great free vegetarian meals 3 times a day from Thursday lunch to Sunday lunch, and the meal times are part of the package--we want everybody to be able to sit with the

presenters, and the presenters to be with each other, cross-fertilizing, connecting, following up on what they have heard, exploring, etc.

**Books**--There will be book tables with books for sale from most of the speakers, so bring a credit card or cash and go home with some of the best character of God material possible!

**Hotels:** The speakers will be staying at the Ramada Inn one mile away, in Garden Grove. There are certainly many other hotels close by--we are ten minutes from Disneyland!

We hope you can come for all of it, or as absolutely as much as possible!

God bless!  
Pastor Dan

# CHARACTER OF GOD WEEKEND

OCTOBER 12-15, 2017

## THURSDAY

LUNCH: 12:30-1:45 (Presenters)

### STUDY SESSION #1, 2-5:30 pm

Introduction: Dan Smith (2:00-2:15)

A. Jennings, Tim: (2:15-2:40) "Growing Up in Christ: The Atonement through the 7 Levels of Moral Development"

Q & A: 2:40-2:50)

B. Thompson, Alden (2:50-3:15) "The Substitutionary Theme in Scripture"

Q & A: 3:15-3:25)

Break: 3:25-3:35

C. Montgomery, Herb (3:35-4:00), : "The Cross and the Lynching Tree"

Q & A: 4:00-4:10)

D. Paulien, Jon (4:10-4:35), "God Meets People Where They Are"

The extreme flexibility of God

Q & A: 4:35-4:45)

Break: 4:45-4:55

E. Caraboolad, Arla (4:55-5:20), "Good News That's Bigger Than the Cross"

Q & A: 5:20-5:30

DINNER: 5:30-6:45 (Public)

### EVENING PLENARY SESSION #1: 7:15-9:10

Music, Welcome: 7:15-7:25

1. Smith, Dan: Overview: 7:25-7:35, "Introduction: Why Did Jesus Have to Die?"

2. Paulien, Jon: 7:35-8:05, "The Scandal of the Cross"

Studying the 8 metaphors for the Cross and what they say about the character of God

3. Montgomery, Herb: 8:05-8:35, "What If Jesus Had Been a Woman?"

8:35-9:00--PANEL DISCUSSION: All Presenters

## FRIDAY

BREAKFAST: 8:00-9:00 (Presenters)

STUDY SESSION #2: 9:00-12:00

Music, Welcome: Dan Smith—9:00-9:15

F. Thompson, Alden (9:15-9:45), "Substitution as a Demand of the Sinful Human Heart"

Q & A: 9:45-10:00

**G. Sheldon, Jean (10:00-10:30), "Babylon and the New Jerusalem: Two Models for Atonement"**

Comparing the history of what led to the main models for Atonement

Q & A: 10:30-10:45

Break: 10:45-11:00

**H. Smith, Dan 11:00-11:25 "I Was Blind, But Now I See!"**

The case for a revelatory substitution theology of the Atonement.

PANEL DISCUSSION: 11:20-12:00 All Presenters

LUNCH: 12:00-1:30 (Public)

## **STUDY SESSION #3: (1:30-3:30)**

**I. Caraboolad, Arla (1:35-2:00), : "Atonement vs. At-one-ment"**

Q & A: 2:00-2:10

**J. Paulien, Jon (2:10-2:40), : "A Different Kind of War"**

A study of the war theme in Revelation 12

PANEL DISCUSSION: 2:40-3:30

Paulien, Jon; Jennings, Tim; Montgomery, Herb; Thompson, Alden; Sheldon, Jean

## **PLENARY SESSION #2: 3:30-5:15**

Music—3:30-3:40

**4. Sheldon, Jean 3:40-4:05 "Two Voices in Conflict: A Canonical Critical Study of Divine Anger"**

How to distinguish between God's major and minor voices

Round Table Discussion: 4:05-4:15

**5. Thompson, Alden 4:15-4:40, "The Case for Radical Divine Accommodation in Scripture"**

Round Table Discussion: 4:40-4:50

PANEL DISCUSSION 4:50-5:15: Presenters

DINNER: 5:30-6:45 pm (Public)

## **PLENARY SESSION #3: 7:15-9:05**

Music, Welcome: 7:15-7:25

**6. Jennings, Tim 7:25-7:50 "What Jesus' Death Accomplished"**

**7. Paulien, Jon 7:50-8:20, "Romans & The Reformation"**

Round Table Discussion 8:20-8:30

**8. Montgomery, Herb 8:30-9:00 "Substitution and Divine Surrogacy"**

## **SABBATH**

BREAKFAST: 8:30-9:15 PRESENTERS

## **PLENARY SESSION #4: 9:25-12:40**

FIRST SERVICE (Fellowship Hall): 9:25-10:30

9. Sermon: Montgomery, Herb 9:45-10:15) "First Century, Jewish Good News"  
What the early Jewish community of Jesus followers proclaimed as "good news" both before and after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus

SABBATH SCHOOL (Sanctuary)—10:35-11:25

10. SS Lesson: Jennings, Tim "The Investigative Judgment—the Healing View"

SECOND SERVICE (Sanctuary): 11:30-12:40

11. Sermon: (11:55-12:30) Herb Montgomery "

LUNCH: 1:00-2:15 (Public)

## **PLENARY SESSION #5: 2:30-5:15**

Music, Welcome: 2:30-2:40)

12. Jennings, Tim (2:40-3:20)

Q & A: 3:20-3:35

13. Smith, Dan (3:35-4:00) "Is God Really Good—All the Time?"

A look at the last five minutes of the world before the creation of the New Earth

PANEL & Questions & Answers 4:00-5:00

DINNER 5:30-7:30: Public

# **SUNDAY**

BREAKFAST: 8:00-9:00 AM (PRESENTERS)

## **PLENARY SESSION #6: 9:00-12:00**

Music, Welcome: 9:00-9:15

14. Interview: Pastor Dan, Tim Jennings 9:15-9:35

15. Interview: Pastor Dan, Alden Thompson, 9:35-9:55

16. Webster, John, "The Advent as Atonement" 9:55-10:30

Break: 10:30-10:45

PANEL: 10:45-11:45

WRAP-UP, NEXT STEPS: 11:45-12:00

LUNCH: 12:00-1:30 (PUBLIC)