

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

“O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Isaiah 54:11-13).

Lesson 1 of 34

## INTRODUCTION TO NEW SERIES

The magnitude of sin can be seen in its effects upon mankind. Not only did it drive a wedge between God and His “offspring,” it brought alienation and enmity between them. There is more than a gulf between God and man; more than distance between the created and the Creator! This is never more evident than in the area of understanding spiritual realities. The climactic revelation of this occurred when Christ came into the world. Here was God incarnate and Wisdom personified. The Savior was “FULL of grace and truth” (John 1:14), on display before the sons of men. Grace and truth were not displayed in minimal portions in Jesus – He was “FULL” of them! Real wisdom will discern Him and submit to Him! Valid understanding will comprehend the reality of the matter, “God with us.”

But this did not occur. Instead, earth’s wisdom at its apex rejected the Lord’s Christ, putting Him to death. The variance sin inducted was revealed in the world’s conflict with Jesus!

## THE CLASH OF WORLDLY WISDOM

Paul refers to this clash in his discourse about the vanity of the world’s wisdom. ““And my speech and my preaching was NOT with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should NOT stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet NOT the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which NONE of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath NOT seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God” (1 Cor 2:4-10).

The knowledge of this circumstance determined HOW the Apostle preached. He did not employ the wisdom of men to carry the precious message, because such wisdom had been proven unsuitable as a vehicle of Divine utterance. The wisdom of this world, like its princes, is “passing away.” As such, it can never be merged with the wisdom of God! Notwithstanding that inviolable circumstance, the wisdom of this world is amazingly prominent in the professed church and its schools of higher learning.

## THE DEFICIENCY OF WORLDLY WISDOM

Behold the reasoning of the Spirit. When confronted with the enfleshed “wisdom of God,” the princes of the world saw nothing of value. He was hidden from them. But there was more to the matter than that. Although the world’s most astute could not see that Wisdom, they could sense the enmity of it. It was not merely different, it was in opposition to them. That is why they “crucified the Lord of glory.”

It was not possible for unregenerate man to decipher the mind of God toward His people. It is something that had to be revealed – made known by Deity. This refers to more than the reception of the Biblical text, although it surely involves that. It is not only that man lacked information – he lacked ability, and a text alone cannot resolve that deficiency. There is a strain of theology that teaches man simply did not know enough. When God provided us with Scripture, the position states, He gave us all we need to decipher His Person and purpose. The idea may sound good, but it is not.

The Word of God is not primarily a revelation of things in earth, but things in heaven. Because of this, more is required for spiritual understanding than expertise in earthly matters:—i.e. language expertise, historical knowledge, logical superiority, etc. This is preeminently illustrated in the world’s reaction to Jesus. In Him they had sufficient evidence to come to the right conclusion about God; yet they did not. Their minds, like that of all humanity, had been infected with the virus sin, and they were rendered incapable of deciphering truth on their own. If this were not the case, they would have gladly received Christ.

This series will address that circumstance by chronicling and expounding the glorious revelation, “They shall all be taught by God!”  
– Given O. Blakely

TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 2 of 34

WE NEED DIVINE ASSISTANCE

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.”  
(Verse 4 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

Suffice it to say, we need Divine assistance in the matter of spiritual understanding. “For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be FILLED with the knowledge of His will in ALL SPIRITUAL WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING” (Col 1:9). It is God who “fills” us with wisdom and understanding in spiritual matters, and He does so by TEACHING US.

The marvelous effects of this Divine teaching are seen in the prayer Paul prayed for the Ephesian brethren – which prayer applies to the whole church: "making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of WISDOM and REVELATION in the KNOWLEDGE of Him: The eyes of your UNDERSTANDING being enlightened; that ye may KNOW what is the hope of His calling, and

what [is] the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power" (Eph 1:15-19).

God has NOT made provision for a church that remains in ignorance of Him, the reason why He called us, the riches of His inheritance in the saints, and the exceeding greatness of the power that is toward us. He has provided a means of obtaining these requirements because they are necessary to spiritual growth and productivity. There are heavenly realities that MUST be known in order to overcome the devil and adequately prepare to stand before the Lord and give an account of our lives. There is a brand of "Christianity" being hawked today that leaves the people without what God has provided in Christ Jesus. It is a great transgression that will not be overlooked by the Lord – even though it has produced a superfluity of mega-churches, lifeless churches, and midget "Christians."

At some time it must register upon the conscience of professed believers that God INTENDS for them to "be ABLE to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God" (Eph 3:18-19). It is wrong for people to be led to the conclusion these are not absolutely essential. This is one of the reasons Paul told young proclaimers of the Word, "But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes" (2 Tim 2:23), and "avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain" (Titus 3:9).

There are countless numbers of professing Christians who have no idea of what they actually are in Christ Jesus. They remain in a state of ignorance about the abundance that is provided for them in the Lord. The average "Christian" IQ is so low, it cannot even be registered on a reasonable scale. When I realize how God considers this kind of situation, it causes me to tremble. When the prophet Habakkuk heard of the judgment of God against lethargic and ignorant Israel he said, "When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, He will invade them with His troops" (Hab 3:16). The great salvation of God provides a way to escape this kind of judgment, and walk in Divine favor.

This series of lessons focuses on the unique privilege of being "taught by God." His teaching does not obviate the disciplined involvement of the human heart and mind. Without God's personal instruction, however, all such activities are vain. The New Covenant is not the induction of a deistic enterprise. That is an activity where God is really not present; one where things run by laws and principles. Such is not the case with the regime of Jesus! It is a Person that holds all things together (Heb 1:3), not a mythical "law" or principle.

**TAUGHT BY GOD!**

Lesson 3 of 34

**THE WITNESS OF DAVID**

“And ALL THY CHILDREN SHALL BE TAUGHT OF THE LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

Before the New Covenant, through which the prophets promised the people would be taught by God, those with great faith had a sense of this necessity. The closer they lived to the Lord, and especially when He made Himself known to them, they sensed the need for Divine tutelage. The revelations of God are simply too high for men to process and comprehend them on their own. When it comes to the thoughts of God, they are, in every sense of the word, NOT the thoughts of men (Isa 55:8-9). They come from a realm to which natural men do not have access. They deal with matters that transcend the comprehension of men.

David once confessed, "Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and THY THOUGHTS which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered" (Psa 40:5). Just to repeat the thoughts God had revealed, or to put them in order, was challenging – to say nothing of comprehending them. David confessed, “Thy thoughts are very deep” (Psa 92:5). And again, "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!" (Psa 139:17) – and that was during the inferior light of the Law (2 Cor 3:7-10).

Because of his sensitivity to the Lord, David was a “man after” God’s own “heart” (1 Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22). Other versions read, “pleasing to him in every way” (BBE), “a man loyal to Him” (CSB), “Dear to his heart” (NIRV), “a man following the Lord's own heart” (CEB). You see from the various versions how difficult it is to express the words “a man after His own heart.” Of course, this means there is a sense in which God does not view every man alike. Because of the Lord’s attitude toward David, He revealed more to Him than to other men. That was chiefly because David wanted more understanding than normal Jewish men. That is the kind of man with whom God can work. The percentage of professing “Christians” that are satisfied to remain “without understanding” of the things of God is staggering and startling. Such things ought not to be!

Because of David’s status before God, I am interested in His observations about the teaching of God. David did have a Bible. It was limited, because revelation was limited. He had the writings of Moses, and possibly some of Samuel. However, he devoured the Scripture he possessed, meditating upon it in the night time, and rising early to ingest its message (Psa 63:6; 119:147,148). He hid God’s Word in His heart (Psa 119:11). He pledged to God, “I will NOT forget Thy Word” (Psa 119:16). He fervently desired to “keep” God’s Word, retaining it in his heart and mind (Psa 119:17). He “trusted” in God’s Word (Psa 119:42). He “hoped” in God’s Word (Psa 119:74,81). He knew that God had “magnified His Word above all His name” (Psa 138:2), or “made your word greater than all your Name” (Basic Bible English), or “made your word [even] greater than the whole of your reputation” (Complete Jewish Bible).

Yet, with all of His Scriptural expertise, appetite for the Word, and the realization of the sustaining power of God’s Word, he saw the necessity of Divine tutelage. He wanted to be “TAUGHT BY GOD.” He prayed, "TEACH ME Thy paths" (Psa 25:4), "Lead me in Thy truth, and TEACH ME" (Psa 25:5), "TEACH ME thy way, O LORD" (Psa 27:11; 86:11), “TEACH ME thy statutes," (Psa 119:12,26,33,64,68,124,135), "TEACH ME good judgment and

knowledge" (Psa 119:66), "TEACH ME to do thy will" (Psa 143:10). He confessed that God had "taught" him (Psa 71:17; 119:102,171).

Not only is it imperative that we are taught by God, therefore, but there can be a strong and rewarding desire for His instruction. It is important that you have this desire, and that you know and are persuaded of the promise, "All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And great shall be the peace of your children." (Isa 54:13, NKJV, John 6:45).

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"O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Isaiah 54:11-13).

Lesson 4 of 34

## WHEN DIVINE COUNSEL IS GIVEN

Part of being taught by God, is the receiving of Divine counsel. The Psalmist wrote, "I will bless the LORD, who hath GIVEN ME COUNSEL: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons." (Psa 16:7). Concerning "my reins," other versions read "my heart" (NKJV), "my mind" (NASB), and "my conscience" (CSB). Etymologically, the "reins" refer to the "the seat of emotion and affection" (Strong's). This is the cognitive part of man, where thinking, contemplation, and consideration take place. This is where the conclusion of a matter is reached.

Notice that the counsel of God is paralleled with the instruction of David's mind, or heart. The Psalmist considered the conclusion he had reached to have been the Lord's counsel. There is an inner persuasion that is of the Lord, and yields confidence, and "the full assurance of faith" (Heb 10:22). This was inner instruction, not a voice like young Samuel heard (1 Sam 3:4-10). This kind of experience cannot be expressed in philosophical words, or made plain to a person who is not living by faith. It is not intended to be known by such people, but is "the children's bread," so to speak (Matt 15:26).

Of course, God does have access to the heart. He not only sees what is in the heart, He can effectively counsel the heart. He can direct our thinking without making us intellectual robots or compromising His character! No one should shrink from this thought.

One of the marks of the New Covenant is, "I will PUT my laws into THEIR MINDS" (Heb 8:10). There is such a thing as a mind being "CONTROLLED by the Spirit" (Rom 8:6, NIV). This is how God counsels His people, opening realities to them in their minds, expanding their thoughts, elevating their contemplations. It is true that He uses Scripture, but that in no way removes His Personal involvement. This is why Paul prayed the people of God would be given "the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him" (Eph 1:17), in order that they might "know what is the hope of His calling, and what [is] the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who

believe, according to the working of His mighty power" (Eph 1:18-19). He also prayed that the saints "might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Col 1:9). That was Divine counsel that enabled the people to arrive at proper conclusions.

Once, as Paul and company were endeavoring to preach the Gospel wherever they went, they were stopped from preaching in Asia, and denied access to Bythinia (Acts 16:6-7). Paul then had a vision or a man in Macedonia who cried out, "Come over into Macedonia, and help us" (Acts 16:9). "After he had seen the vision," it is written, "immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly GATHERING that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them" (Acts 16:10). **THEY HAD RECEIVED COUNSEL FROM GOD!**

The Word of God reminds us that God "directs" people. Solomon said, "The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD DIRECTS HIS STEPS" (Prov 16:9). The 37th Psalm records, "The steps of a good man are ORDERED by the LORD: and he delighteth in His way" (Psa 37:23). In the well-known 23rd Psalm, it is written, "He LEADETH ME beside quiet waters . . . He LEADETH me in the paths of righteousness . . . Thou PREPAREST a table before me . . ." These are expressions denoting Divine instruction, or counsel. They emphasize the effectiveness of that instruction. Tranquility, an upright life, and inner nourishment are the results of God's counsel!

## INTERPRETING OUR LIVES

Holy men can look back on their lives and see the hand of the Lord at work. What they have effectively learned has been taught to them by God. The direction of their lives, the outcome of their efforts for the Lord, and the ability to avoid Satanic snares, have all come from the Lord. If we have the eyes to see it, the life of faith confirms that we have been "taught by God." Some expressions from the Psalms will serve to confirm this to our hearts.

"O God, Thou HAST TAUGHT ME from my youth: and hitherto have I declared Thy wondrous works" (Psa 71:17). "Blessed is the man whom Thou chastenest, O LORD, and TEACHEST HIM out of Thy law" (Psa 94:12). "I have not departed from Thy judgments: for Thou hast TAUGHT ME" (Psa 119:102). "My lips shall utter praise, when Thou hast TAUGHT ME Thy statutes" (Psa 119:171).

God really did teach the Psalmist, and the Psalmist really did learn from God. This tutelage did not refer to the writing of Scripture, but to insight into the Scripture. It is the Lord who enables the individual to make a connection between His Word and personal life. Insight into the statutes is not an academic appraisal of Scripture. Rather, God grants the ability to comprehend its intent, and translate it into joyful and spiritually productive living.

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 5 of 34

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS, #1

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

The Lord Jesus Christ is not the "Hero" of believers; i.e., one whose life is unrelated to their own. The relevance of His example is by Divine appointment, and is not merely theoretical. When the “Word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14), God was brought within range of our spiritual faculties. In Him, God became accessible and discernible. Divine Life was lived out perfectly in “Jesus of Nazareth.” He provided us an example of the manner of life that is lived by one who is in God’s favor. His reaction to the earnest seekers was God’s reaction (John 1:38-39). How He responded to hypocrites is how God responds to them (Matt 23:13-39). His intolerance of unbelief was a perfect reflection of how God feels about it (Matt 13:58). When He confronted someone who really wanted what He had, His response projected the attitude of the God of heaven (John 4:15-26). When someone asked Him to do what they knew only He could do, His response was the Divine response (Matt 8:8-13). He responded to “doubt” the same way God does (Matt 14:31; Lk 12:29). When His disciples argued among themselves, Jesus responded to them as God does (Mk 9:33-35).

#### HE CAME TO DEAL WITH SIN

There was at least a twofold purpose for Christ’s life. First and foremost, He came to “put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (Heb 9:26). This entailed being cursed by God (Gal 3:13), “being made sin” for us (2 Cor 5:21), and bearing “our sins in His body on the tree” (1 Pet 2:24). It also involved the destruction of the devil (Heb 2:14), the “spoiling” of “principalities and powers” (Col 2:15), and “blotting out of the handwriting of ordinances that was against us” (Col 2:14). The outcome of this glorious work would be the reconciliation of the world to God (2 Cor 5:18-20). God would thus become both “Just and “Justifier” of “him that believes in Jesus” (Rom 3:25-26). This aspect of the Son of God is first and foremost, forming the foundation for both salvation (deliverance) and sanctification (Divine utility).

#### THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF GOD

Second, Jesus was a precise manifestation of the Father. Scripture refers to Him as “the Express Image” of the Father’s Person (Heb 1:3). The “fulness of the Godhead” was resident in Him “bodily” (Col 2:9). In Jesus, the Father became understandable. His character was lived out before the Sons of men, particularly those aspects of His nature that related to the salvation of humanity; i.e., longsuffering, kindness, mercy, grace, etc. We also see His response to pretension and hypocrisy, as well as insincerity and dishonesty. As you walk through the Gospels, you are being introduced to God Himself. Jesus was, in truth, “God with us” (Matt 1:23).

In the next few lessons I will develop the fact that Jesus is the primary example of a man being effectively “taught by God.” He declared God taught Him, and that He only spoke what He was “taught.” It ought to be obvious that it is a serious miscalculation to imagine that a professed believer does not require Divine teaching. Reading the Scriptures is something that is imperative – but men can read them for a protracted period of time, and yet not understand them – as confirmed in the experience of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:29-35).

The churches of our day are filled with men and women who do not understand the Scriptures. They cannot traffic in the written revelation. I am going to affirm that this condition is simply not acceptable – that it contradicts the entire fabric of salvation, the intention of God, and the ministry of Jesus. I am going to allege that the modern “Christian” attempts to resolve the problems of humanity are affronts to the Living God, and reveal a deplorable level of “spiritual understanding.” God has precisely defined the problem resident in all humanity. It is a condition that absolutely requires that men be “taught of God.

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 6 of 34

### THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS, #2

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

### A CONCRETE EXAMPLE OF FAITH

There is also another indispensable aspect of Christ’s enfleshment. We see in Him how heavenly life is lived out upon the earth. Jesus is a concrete example of the faith-life. While here in a state of humility, having “emptied Himself” (Phil 2:7), He lived by faith.

Scripture highlights the natural and spiritual advance of our Savior when young. It depicts a life of faith, and is provided as an example for His people. “And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him . . . And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:40,52).

His life was lived in dependency upon the same resources required by those He came to save. Speaking of this condition, He said, “But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!” (Luke 12:50). Later translations use the word “distressed” in place of “straitened.” I prefer the latter word, because of the spirit of this text. The word translated “straitened,” or “distressed” (soon-ekh'-o), means to hold together, i.e., to compress . . . preoccupy--constrain, hold, keep in, press . . . be in a strait, straiten, be taken with (Strong’s). The idea is that of restraint – being held in, as it was.

Living by faith is a privilege for us, but it was an abasement for the Lord Jesus Christ! Jesus was restrained and held in by his incarnation. It was a burden to Him, yet was necessary for the salvation of the human race.

The Psalmist prophesied of Jesus, "He TRUSTED ON the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him" (Psa 22:8). Again, the writer of Hebrews said of Jesus, "For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare Thy name unto My brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee. And again, I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me" (Heb 2:13).

On the day of Pentecost, Peter affirmed that Jesus had fulfilled a prophesy of David – one that spoke of attitude of faith and trust: "For David speaketh concerning Him, I foresaw the Lord always before My face, for He is on My right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did My heart rejoice, and My tongue was glad; moreover also My flesh shall rest in hope: Because Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell [hades], neither wilt thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption.

Thou hast made known to Me the ways of life; Thou shalt make Me full of joy with Thy countenance." (Acts 2:25-28; Psa 16:8-11). While the body of Jesus was in the grave, and in His spirit He was preaching to spirits who were disobedient in the days of Noah (1 Pet 3:20; 4:6), He was trusting in God, that He would not leave Him in the abode of the dead. He confessed, "Thou hast made known unto Me the ways of life" – He had been "taught by God."

That is how faith reasons. Jesus trusted God while He walked among men. He confessed that God taught Him (John 8:28; 12:49; 14:10; 15:15; 17:8). He prayed, which is an activity of faith (Matt 14:23; 26:39-44; Mk 6:46; Lk 5:16; 6:12; 9:28-29; Lk 22:32).

While He was in the earth, Jesus "lived by the Father" (John 6:57). That is not how He existed prior to coming into the world. While here, He had to trust God, depending on His direction. The point to be seen is that if Jesus taught by God, and trusted in God for direction and sustaining, then who would dare to suppose we have no such needs?

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 7 of 34

### THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS, #3

"And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

### PROVISION FOR OUR CONDITION

Christ's life of faith provided two requirements for our salvation. No person or group of persons can be saved without these provisions.

### A MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST

First, Christ's tenure in the flesh enabled Him to be a merciful and faithful HIGH PRIEST in things pertaining to God. "Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful HIGH PRIEST in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Heb 2:17).

He is able to be affected by the feeling of infirmity or weakness, thereby providing a means through which Divine resources are given to us. "Seeing then that we have a great HIGH PRIEST, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an HIGH PRIEST which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities;

but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb 4:14-16). His experience as a Man suited Him for His HIGH PRIESTLY ministry.

We are to "consider," or fix your thoughts on, Christ in His capacity as "HIGH PRIEST" – "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and HIGH PRIEST of our profession, Christ Jesus" (Heb 3:1). This will enable us to be consistent in our lives: "Seeing then that we have a great HIGH PRIEST, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession" (Heb 4:14).

Christ's HIGH PRIESTHOOD is associated with our salvation: "And being made perfect, He became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an HIGH PRIEST after the order of Melchisedec." (Heb 5:9-10). As a HIGH PRIEST, He meets our need: "For such an HIGH PRIEST became [is becoming to] us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens" (Heb 7:26).

In summing up our salvation, Christ's HIGH PRIESTHOOD is brought into the summation: "Now of the things which we have spoken THIS IS THE SUM: We have such an HIGH PRIEST, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A Minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man" (Heb 8:2).

Eternal redemption was obtained for us when Christ entered into heaven, becoming our HIGH PRIEST: "But Christ being come an HIGH PRIEST of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." (Heb 9:11-12).

It is Christ's HIGH PRIESTHOOD that enables us to "draw close to God with a pure heart: And having an HIGH PRIEST over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." (Heb 10:21-22)

## JESUS PROVIDED US AN EXAMPLE OF LIVING BY FAITH

Second, our Lord provided an "example" of living by faith. This example ranges from how to suffer, to spiritual productivity. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us AN EXAMPLE that ye should follow His steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously:" (1 Pet 2:21-23).

Both of these ministries involved Jesus being "taught" by God while He walked among men. His example confirms that anyone who is used by God, must be taught by Him.

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

## THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS, #4

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

### SPEAKING GOD’S WORDS

In a dramatic confrontation with His enemies, Jesus delineated the difference between living unto God and living for self. His indictment of the religious elite of that day is severe, and ought to provoke profound consideration by the people of God. “Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am NOT of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins” (John 8:23-24). It ought to be noted that there is a kind of spiritual stupor that prevails among professing Christians in our country. The significance of what Christ has said and done is not discerned at an acceptable level. Too many other things have upstaged the One Man who has God’s unqualified approval, and has been given the preeminent mission.

Lest His enemies suppose that Jesus was merely reacting to their spiritual belligerence, He informed them He was giving the words of God to them. “I have many things to say and to judge of you: but He that sent Me is true; and I SPEAK TO THE WORLD THOSE THINGS WHICH I HAVE HEARD OF HIM” (John 8:26). His words completely eluded them, for “They understood not that He spake to them of the Father” (John 8:27). Jesus therefore said, “When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but AS MY FATHER HATH TAUGHT ME, I SPEAK THESE THINGS” (John 8:28).

Do not miss the power of this saying! Jesus said only what His Father TAUGHT Him to say! Not even the Son of God spoke out of Himself! When He was upon the earth, He lived by faith, relying completely upon the Father. How often this is expressed in the sacred record. “No man taketh it (His life) from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. THIS COMMANDMENT HAVE I RECEIVED OF MY FATHER” (John 10:18). “I speak THAT WHICH I HAVE SEEN WITH MY FATHER” (John 8:38). “For I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father which sent Me, HE GAVE ME COMMANDMENT, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, EVEN AS THE FATHER SAID UNTO ME, so I speak” (John 12:49,50).

The words of Jesus must not be overlooked or minimized – they are the words the Father in heaven gave Him to speak. They are what God wants men to know – yea, what they must know. Other messages, and other emphases must not be allowed to upstage the words given by God – the words that He has taught. I am persuaded this is not generally known among professing Christians. Too many men have usurped, as it was, the teaching ministry of God and of Christ. In the Divine economy, valid and authorized communicators are those who tell the people what God has said. The Lord Himself has set certain people in His church that are to communicate the Word taught by God to the people. They are the highest ranking people in the body of Christ. “And God hath set some in the church, FIRST apostles, SECONDARILY prophets, THIRDLY teachers, AFTER THAT miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of

tongues." (1 Cor 12:28). And again, "And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers" (Eph 4:11). These were given "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Eph 4:12). If the people are not being perfected for the work of the ministry, and the edifying of the body of Christ, either they have heard the truth and rejected it, or they have not heard the truth – and either condition is intolerable.

Those leaders who have been given to the church are to "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim 4:2). They have not been appointed to resolve the issues of the people. They are not in the church to ensure domestic tranquility and the social success of the people. They are not given to build an institution. They are to be people to whom God has given an understanding – which understanding is to be communicated to the people (1 Tim 2:7). Through their prayers and activities they are to seek for the people to be "filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding," in order that they "might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (Col 1:9-12).

In order for all of that to be accomplished, this promise must be fulfilled: "And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children" (Isa 54:13). Again, Jesus said, "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto Me" (John 6:45).

Every believer must experience what is said in these words: "But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BY HIM, as the truth is in Jesus" (Eph 4:21). "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another" (1 Thess 4:9). "I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts" (Heb 8:10). "But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing TEACHETH YOU OF ALL THINGS, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him" (1 John 2:27). "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath GIVEN US AN UNDERSTANDING, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life" (1 John 5:20).

Jesus is the supreme example of being taught by God, and in salvation, you are equipped to be taught by God also. Now, there is something to think about.

TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 9 of 34

SOME DO NOT SEE IT

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

Some will reason that this circumstance – being taught by God – has little to do with our situation. “After all,” some reason, “Jesus was the Son of God, sent to save the world. The Father taught Him because of the gravity of His mission – but the God the Father would never teach us.” Some do not actually voice those words, but they rarely, if ever, make mention of the fact that we are actually “taught of [or by] God” (John 6:45; 1 Thess 4:9), and taught by Jesus Christ as well (Eph 4:2-21; 1 John 5:20). We are even taught by the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:27). In fact, throughout my life, with the exception of my good father, Fred O. Blakely, and an exceedingly small number of seasoned preachers, I do not recall ever hearing a preacher or teacher expound this fact: “Thy children shall be taught of the Lord.” I have heard thousands of sermons – at least three or four a week on a regular basis – for well over seventy years – that would be 10,000-14,500 sermons, and that does not include hundreds of revival meetings I have attended.

Further, a spiritual culture has been developed in our day that does not sensitize the individual to pick up on the need for Divine teaching. Today’s preaching does not emphasize the provisional aspects of salvation, all of which prepare us for glory. Instead, salvation is approached as though it only pertained to life in this world, and the resolution of difficulties associated with life in the body. Consequently, there is little (and often none at all), proclamation and exposition of such things as justification (Rom 4:25; 5:1; 8:30; Gal 3:24), reconciliation (Rom 5:10; 2 Cor 5:18-20; Col 3:21), adoption (Rom 8:15,23; Gal 4:5; Eph 1:5), being “heirs of God” (Rom 8:17; Gal 3:29; Tit 3:7; Heb 6:17; James 2:5), having access to “the grace of God” (Rom 5:2; Tit 2:11-13; Heb 2:14-16), receiving the “wisdom” that is “from above” (Col 1:9; 2:3; James 1:5; 3:17), being called into the fellowship of God’s Dear Son (1 Cor 1:9), and having a “Great High Priest” (Heb 2:17; 3:1; 4:14; 8:1; 9:11; 10:21), etc. The absence of understanding concerning these matters leaves the individual with no awareness of the reality of being taught by God, and the absolute need for it. Preaching that has been adapted to ordinary life in this world prohibits a person from realizing the necessity of being taught by God. If professing “Christians” were suddenly to realize that life is intended to prepare us for standing before God on the day of judgment, being assessed publicly by Him, and being excluded from heaven if they do not fit in, they would immediately realize the critical need for personal involvement with God, which is through the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Holy Spirit.

This is one reason why there is such a thing as “the body of Christ” – which is the church (Col 1:18). The church, or congregation of believers, is an intended environment in which the people “grow up into Christ in all things” (Eph 4:15). The surroundings are designed to bring people to the point where they “may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” (Eph 3:11-19). At that point, it will make sense that we must be “taught by God.”

If Jesus Christ, God “manifest in the flesh” (1 Tim 3:16), was “taught by God,” what must be required of those who “have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23)? Without further burdening you, the point to be seen is simply this; when our Lord humbled Himself, entering the realm of restriction, He also submitted to be taught by God. If this was the

requirement for Him Who “did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth” (1 Pet 2:22), what must be the requirement for us? We have in Him the supreme Example of dependency – absolute dependency – upon the Father and Him teaching us!

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 10 of 34

## THE TEACHING OF JESUS

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

The most profound teaching of all is that of our Savior. He spoke with perfect clarity and expression. Every person living by faith places a high priority upon the words of Jesus! How appropriate that He said, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). Those who heard our blessed Lord acknowledged, “Never man spake like this man” (John 7:46). Others “were astonished at His doctrine: For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Matt 7:28b-29). We will find this to be particularly meaningful in the matter of being taught by God.

## WHAT JESUS SAID OF HIS WORDS

Jesus drew attention to what He said – His words. There can be no doubt about their importance, and the criticality of believing, receiving, and retaining them.

1. **THEY WILL NEVER PASS AWAY.** “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but MY WORDS shall not pass away” (Mat 24:35).
2. **WE ARE NOT TO BE ASHAMED OF THEM.** “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of MY WORDS in this adulterous and sinful generation; of Him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38). “For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of MY WORDS, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He shall come in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels” (Luke 9:26).
3. **THOSE WHO REJECT THEM WILL BE JUDGED.** “And if any man hear MY WORDS, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not MY WORDS, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” (John 12:47-48).
4. **THE ONE WHO KEEPS THEM WILL BE LOVED BY GOD.** “If a man love Me, he will keep MY WORDS: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.” (John 14:23).
5. **WILL DETERMINE IF YOUR PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED.** “If ye abide in Me, and MY WORDS abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7).

## JESUS IS STILL TEACHING THE SAVED

Apostolic doctrine establishes that Jesus is still teaching His people – and His teaching is still with unmistakable power. This must be received, and only faith will enable the individual to receive it.

#### EPHESIANS 4:20-21

The way in which believers live their lives is determined by their response to the teaching of Jesus. Even though the Ephesian church was in a part of the world Jesus never visited when He walked among men, and, because they were Gentiles, and had never traveled to Canaan to hear Jesus, Paul wrote, even though their past was unacceptable, “But ye have not so learned Christ [not come to know Christ that way, NIV]; If so be that ye have HEARD HIM, and have been TAUGHT BY HIM, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph 4:20-24).

Having been “called into the fellowship of His [God’s] Son” (1 Cor 1:9), Jesus commenced to teach them. Jesus promised He would do such a thing when He said, “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will MANIFEST MYSELF TO HIM" (John 14:21). Here is what He taught them:

1. **ABANDON THE FORMER WAY OF LIVING.** “That ye put off concerning the former conversation [manner of life] the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts” (Eph 4:22). “The old man” is the vestige of our old selves which remain in us, yet have been cut away from our essential new nature by “the circumcision of Christ”(Col 1:11-12). How do people successfully reorient their lives? There are men who have developed plans they claim will do this. But they are not telling the truth. True reorientation is the result of Jesus’ teaching! Just as surely as He made lame men to walk, He can cause sinners to live right. **THIS IS THE RESULT OF CHRIST’S TEACHING.**

2. **BEGIN THINKING IN A NEW AND ACCEPTABLE WAY.** “And be renewed in the spirit of your mind” (Eph 4:23). In Christ we obtain a whole new mindset: we think differently, within the context of salvation, and the world to come. Different things motivate us because our affection is set on things above, not on things on the earth (Col 3:1-2). **THIS IS THE RESULT OF CHRIST’S TEACHING.**

3. **GIVE THE DOMINANCE TO THE NEW CREATION.** “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph 4:24). The “new man” is the “new creation” (2 Cor 5:17), what has been begotten and born of God (1 John 3:9; 4:7; 5:1,4,18). Putting on the new man equates to walking in the newness of life (Rom 6:4). It is living by faith (Heb 10:38), and walking in the Spirit (Gal 5:16,26). **THIS IS THE RESULT OF CHRIST’S TEACHING.**

The resolve of faith to actually hear and be taught by Christ will yield benefits that cannot be realized any other way.

**TAUGHT BY GOD!**

Lesson 11 of 34

## ALL WILL BE TAUGHT BY GOD

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.”  
(Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

The matter of “ALL” of those identified with God being taught by Him is unique to the New Covenant. This was emphatically not the case under the Old Covenant. Moses was taught by God (Ex 34). David was taught by God (1 Chron 28:11-13). Solomon was taught by God (1 Kgs 4:29-30). The prophets were taught by God (Jer 26:5). However, that kind of teaching was NOT given to ALL of the Israelites. All of the Israelites were not allowed in the Tabernacle – either in the Holy Place or the Most Holy Place. But now, in Christ Jesus, Divine tutelage is promised to ALL of the people aligned with Him.

In an extended discourse to the multitudes, Jesus explained why some people came to Him, and others did not. It was not because some were attracted to His manner or appearance, while others simply preferred a different kind of teacher. Christ’s explanation brings us into heavenly places, where true causes are generated. “No one CAN come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.’ Everyone who has HEARD and LEARNED from the Father, comes to Me” (John 6:44-45).

That is a most remarkable saying that could never before be said as Jesus said it. God did not draw the people to Moses. In fact, most of the people rebelled against Moses, even though God Himself had formed that nation. We learn from this that being created by God does not exempt one from being taught by God. Because a person is born again does not suggest they require no more tutelage from the Lord. Yet, it seems to me, that in the church world, this is what people actually think. They live just as though they did not need to be “taught by God.” There is an approach to “religion” that imagines that “study” will appropriate all of the understanding a person needs. Although study is right, and should be embraced, yet even those who study and hear the most must be “taught by God.” That is precisely why Paul prayed for the churches – churches that had been taught: “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know . . .” (Eph 1:17-18). “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Col 1:9).

This saying – “No one CAN come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him” – is abrasive to those “in the flesh,” who are NOT living by faith or walking in the Spirit, but it is music to the ears of those who are attracted to Christ Jesus the Lord. The Father and the Son are imminent in every aspect of salvation. Men do not come to Jesus because they have deciphered His words with worldly wisdom. The Father “draws” them to Jesus, much like He allured Israel into desolate areas, that He might speak comfortably to them (Hosea 2:14).

Jesus is emphatic about this matter. “No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me

draws him.” The individual may choose to reject the truth of these words, but everyone will face them in the world to come! The Father does use means to draw people. He does not mysteriously and irresistibly compel them to come to Christ. Through His grace, they are enabled to see the beauty and accessibility of His Son, and are thereby inclined to come to Him. Jesus called this hearing and learning from the Father. In confirmation of this, our Lord cited the prophet Isaiah; “AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.”

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

“O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Isaiah 54:11-13).

Lesson 12 of 34

## EVIDENCE YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BY GOD

For the comfort and confidence of the saints, there are evidences they have been taught by God. First, fix it firmly in your mind, “And ALL Thy children shall be taught of the LORD” (Isa 54:13). Jesus affirmed, “It is written in the prophets, And they shall be ALL taught of God” (John 6:45). Isaiah prophesied, “And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and HE WILL TEACH US of His ways” (Isa 2:3). The Psalmist exclaimed, “Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will HE TEACH sinners in the way” (Psa 25:8). To be “TAUGHT by God” is to be informed of things that cannot otherwise be known, or grasped.

## HOW CAN WE KNOW GOD HAS TAUGHT US

1. The first evidence you have been taught by God is actually coming to Jesus: “It is written in the prophets, And they shall be ALL taught of God. EVERY MAN therefore that hath heard, and hath LEARNED FROM THE FATHER cometh unto Me.” (John 6:45).
2. A second evidence is stated in our text: “and great shall be the peace of Thy children.” The presence of “peace” confirms you have, in fact, been taught by God. That is a peace that can actually “Keep your heart and mind” (Phil 4:7), effectively prohibiting fear and trepidation from dominating you. When peace rules your heart (Col 3:15) in a way that cannot be explained, you know you have been taught by God.
3. A third evidence you have been taught by God is the fact that you love the brethren – the brethren of Jesus first, and you second: “But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are TAUGHT OF GOD to love one another.” (1 Thess 4:9).
4. A fourth evidence is your ability to reject ungodliness and world lusts. When you can effectively do this, you have been taught by God: “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, TEACHING US that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts” (Tit 2:11-13).
5. A fifth evidence is a measure of success in living in a godly manner: “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men “TEACHING US . . . that we should live

soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12).

6. A sixth evidence is an increase in the understanding of God of God Himself: "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath GIVEN US AN UNDERSTANDING, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life" (1 John 5:20).

7. A seventh evidence is the ability to "put off the old man," and to "put on the new man." "But ye have not so LEARNED CHRIST; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been TAUGHT BY HIM, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Eph 4:20-24).

In summary, the evidence of Divine tutelage is a preference for Jesus! Drawing near to Him to appropriate salvation is a manifestation of the Father's teaching. That is what Jesus said! It is true that He uses the Gospel, and even circumstance – but it is the Father who effectively teaches people to have enough sense to come to Christ! Divine drawing is accomplished in a manner altogether consonant with our moral nature. We are not coerced to come to Christ, but effectively "taught" to do so. Those who have come to Christ, therefore, are to give God the glory! They have come to Jesus because they heard and were taught by the Father.

#### TAUGHT BY GOD!

"O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Isaiah 54:11-13).

Lesson 13 of 34

#### TEACHING THROUGH THE SON

The reality of Divine instruction is further expounded by the Lord Jesus. With a full and unmixed grasp on reality, He affirmed that no one really knows the identity the Father and the Son. "All things are delivered to Me of My Father: and NO MAN KNOWETH WHO THE SON IS, but the Father; and WHO THE FATHER IS, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will REVEAL Him." (Luke 10:22). That is certainly stated with adequate clarity, and it is something that must be believed. This kind of knowledge cannot be acquired by merely reading various books, and dialoging with certain people. While all of that is commendable, and to some degree necessary, it is not effective until Divine teaching is brought into the matter: "And ALL thy children shall be TAUGHT OF [by] THE LORD."

In a prayer to His Father, Jesus prayed in the midst of the people rejecting Him. He made this statement: "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight" (Matt 11:25-26). On the surface, it appears that men are confined to the room of ignorance when it comes to being able to identify the real Son, and the Father. And, indeed,

without Jesus in the equation, that is precisely the truth. No amount of Scriptural expertise can produce this kind of knowledge – as the state of the scribes and Pharisees confirms. They knew the text, but Jesus said to them, “Do ye not therefore err, because ye KNOW NOT the scriptures, neither the power of God?” (Mark 12:24).

Neither, indeed, will a most excellent knowledge of the Hebrew and Greek languages enable a person to know who the Son is, and who God is. The field of apologetics cannot yield this kind of knowledge, nor can the science of Hermeneutics. Neither can it be acquired by a gifted and disciplined mind. There is no field of scholastic research that can discover these diamonds of truth – who the Son is, and who the Father is. This is because both Father and His Son dwell outside of the domain of nature, and there is no form of earthly knowledge or expertise that can bridge that gap. Of old time, from Adam through John the Baptist, the only people who knew anything about God were those to whom He had revealed Himself. While it may appear to the sophist that this leaves mankind in a hopeless state, this is not at all the truth.

Immediately after saying no man knew who the Son and the Father were, Jesus said these illuminating words: "All things are delivered unto Me of My Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him" (Mat 11:27). In other words, Jesus has been given the charge to make the Father known, and He alone can do it – and it is not until the Son is known that the Father can be known and bring the needed advantages.

Having stated the human condition, and His own indispensable role in coming to know Himself and the Father, Jesus delivered these comforting words: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of [from] Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light" (Matt 11:30).

Notice, Jesus invites us, “Come and learn of Me!” The phrase “learn of Me” means “Learn from me,” as all other versions read. The word “learn” is translated from a word meaning, “to learn, be apprised; universally: absolutely, to increase one's knowledge” (Thayer), “learning through instruction be taught, learn from someone” (Friberg). In other words, Jesus Christ Himself is the Teacher – the Teacher who first brings us to know who the Father and the Son are, then to teach of the further intricacies of the Kingdom (Eph 4:20-21; 1 John 5:20).

Without Divine intervention, men grope for God and Christ. Because both the Father and the Son are beyond the perimeter of our senses, we cannot identify or come to them on our own. Everyone that “knows the Son” has experienced the revelation of God. The Father has “revealed” the Son to them (Matt 16:17). Again, He has used appointed means, but the means do not obviate the involvement of the User of the means – the Living God. The Scriptures are employed, and they are powerful. Their power, however, is due to Divine influence, not human ingenuity. As it is written, the Word of God is the “sword of THE SPIRIT” (Eph 6:17).

What soul is there that would rob us of this blessing? Jesus has something to say, and it is what the Father has given Him to say (John 8:28). He is even forward to teach us, showing us the way, illuminating life, and opening the Scriptures (Lk 24:32,45). Thus, the promise is fulfilled, “They

shall all be taught by God.” Jesus has opened up that saying by revealing that the dispensing of that knowledge is a work that has been given to Himself.

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

“ . . . And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

Lesson 14 of 34

## THE PROPHETS FORETOLD THE BLESSING

One of the tests of a valid Gospel is whether or not the Prophets foretold it, together with some of its key benefits. It is written of the birth of Jesus, "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord BY THE PROPHET" (Matt 1:22). Where Jesus was born was according to what "is written BY THE PROPHET" (Matt 2:5). When Joseph, Mary, and the young Jesus left Egypt and returned to Canaan, it was "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord BY THE PROPHET, saying, Out of Egypt have I called My Son" (Matt 2:15). John the Baptist was "he that was spoken of BY THE PROPHET Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight" (Matt 3:3).

What took place in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost was "that which was spoken BY THE PROPHET Joel" (Acts 2:16). When the early disciples and leaders settled the issue of circumcision, it was because their decision did "agree [with] the words of THE PROPHETS" (Acts 15:15-18). Paul said of his preaching, "I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which THE PROPHETS and Moses did say should come" (Acts 26:22). "The righteousness of God" which is now being experienced "without the Law" is "witnessed by the law and THE PROPHETS" (Rom 3:21). Concerning the "salvation" we experience in Christ Jesus it is written, "Of which salvation THE PROPHETS have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you" (1 Pet 1:10).

In the Gospels, the words "THE PROPHETS" occur thirty-one times. In Acts they occur thirteen times. In Romans thru Revelation they are found twelve times. They are never mentioned incidently, but are always referenced to buttress what was being said – because what God is going to do, He makes known to His prophets (Amos 3:7).

God used the prophets to prepare the world for the great work of salvation. It is His manner to do nothing until He has made it known to the people through THE PROPHETS. Therefore it is written, "SURELY the Lord GOD will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants THE PROPHETS" (Amos 3:7).

Throughout history, the Lord has functioned this way. He did not send the flood until it had been revealed to Noah (Gen 6:13). He did not deliver Israel from Egypt until it had been revealed to Abraham (Gen 15:14), Joseph (Gen 50:24), and Moses (Gen 6:7-10). The Messiah did not come

until the prophets had told of His coming (Deut 18:15,18; Isa 9:6-7). Jesus did not begin His ministry until John the Baptist went before Him (Isa 40:3). Throughout Scripture, it is the ungodly who are surprised by the working of the Lord. His people are apprised of what He will do (Amos 3:7), and thus associate the ministry of Jesus with fulfillment. When what you experience in Christ is confirmed by the apostles and prophets, you know you have the real thing. Beware of a gospel that was not foretold by the Prophets. Such a gospel is appropriately called "another gospel, which is not another" (2 Cor 11:4; Gal 1:6).

One of the acid tests of the legitimacy of any spiritual experience is whether or not it was in some way foretold by the prophets. When Peter confirmed the reality of what was happening on the day of Pentecost, he did so by appealing to the prophets Joel (Acts 2:16-21), and David (Acts 2:25-34). When Peter preached in Solomon's porch, he buttressed what he was saying by appealing to "all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days" (Acts 3:24).

It is no different in the matter of being "taught by God." The prophets foretold the time when God would teach all of His people. We are in those times, praise the Lord! I will tell you that during our times there is a startling volume of things being preached that were never announced or foretold by the prophets. There are recovery plans, plans of salvations, and erroneous emphases that were never mentioned by the prophets. Of course, all of this postulates that the people of God are familiar with the writings of the prophets. The fact that those in Christ would be "taught by God" was a fact foretold by the Prophets (Psa 25:8-12; 32:8; Isa 2:3; 54:13; Jer 31:34; Micah 4:2).

During the time of Isaiah, there were false prophets who even promoted "wizards." The Lord moved Isaiah to write, "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa 8:19-20). They were to test what they heard by what had been revealed in writing. That same rule applies to us today. As regards this series of lessons, if what is being preached cannot be confirmed by the prophets, there is no possibility that it is true. That is precisely why Paul declared to Agrippa, "Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying NONE OTHER THINGS than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that He should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles" (Acts 26:22-23). When he began witnessing in Rome while a prisoner, it is said of him, "And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening" (Acts 28:23).

I understand that this approach to preaching and teaching is not in vogue today, and may even be strongly opposed by some. But it is the truth. It is well past time for the professing church to cleanse itself of all false teachers and erroneous gospels. God does not, and will not, work through such humanly devised means.

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 15 of 34

### INEFFECTUAL TEACHING UNDER THE LAW

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

Employing means, God taught Israel. Solomon prayed, "Then hear Thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy servants, and of Thy people Israel, when THOU HAST TAUGHT THEM the good way, wherein they should walk" (2 Chr 6:27). God Himself lamented, "And they have turned unto Me the back, and not the face: though I TAUGHT THEM, rising up early and teaching them, YET THEY HAVE NOT HEARKENED to receive instruction" (Jer 32:33). Again He said, "And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but YE ANSWERED NOT" (Jer 7:13); and again, "I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but YE HAVE NOT HEARKENED (Jer 25:3).

Jeremiah testified, “And the LORD hath sent unto you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but YE HAVE NOT HEARKENED nor inclined your ear to hear" (Jer 25:4). The Lord said to them, "I have sent also unto you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but YE HAVE NOT INCLINED YOUR EAR, NOR HEARKENED UNTO ME" (Jer 35:15m. And again, "Howbeit I sent unto you all My servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate. But THEY HEARKENED NOT, nor inclined their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense unto other gods" (Jer 44:4-55). It is written in the Chronicles, "And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by His messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because He had compassion on His people, and on His dwelling place: But THEY MOCKED THE MESSENGERS OF GOD, AN DESPISED HIS WORDS, AND MISUSED HIS PROPHETS, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy." (2 Chr 36:15-16).

Moses said of Israel, "For the LORD'S portion is His people; Jacob is the lot of His inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; He led him about, HE INSTRUCTED HIM, He kept him as the apple of His eye" (Deut 32:10). Jeremiah testified, "But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, NOR RECEIVE INSTRUCTION" (Jer 17:23).

God was timely in instructing Israel, speaking through the prophets at critical periods, before Israel lapsed into spiritual insensitivity. Yet, the ancient people did not learn. How tragic the lament of the Lord through the prophet Jeremiah. "And they have turned unto Me the back, and not the face: THOUGH I TAUGHT THEM rising up early and TEACHING THEM, yet they have NOT hearkened to receive instruction" (Jer 32:33).

Why did Israel refuse to receive instruction from God? Why did they reject His teaching? It certainly was not because God was not the most excellent Teacher! God Himself provides the answer: "To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? Behold, THEIR EAR IS UNCIRCUMCISED, and THEY CANNOT HEARKEN: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; THEY HAVE NO DELIGHT IN IT" (Jer 6:10).

By Divine intention, the Law, with all of its meticulous instruction and procedures, could not change the people. It was not made for a people who COULD BE instructed, nor was it intended for the righteous. As it is written, "Knowing this, that the law is NOT made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine" (1 Tim 1:9-10). Then Paul adds, "According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust" (1 Tim 1:11). WHEN THE REAL GOSPEL IS REALLY PREACHED, THIS WORD COMES ALONG WITH IT!

If this was true of God's Law – a Law that was holy, just, good (Rom 7:12), and "spiritual" (Rom 7:14), it is certainly true of every man-made law, routine, procedure, or program. Those who hawk "recovery" programs they have developed, whether wittingly or unwittingly, are holding out a powerless system to the people. If God did not give His power through His law, who is the fool who imagines He will do so through men's programs. Yet, entire congregations have adopted such plans, purchased the required literature, and told the people they would receive the grace of God through those programs. They tell the people up front that they are dealing with the development of new habits. BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT GOD IS DOING. God is re-creating people, begetting them anew (1 John 5:18), and bringing them through a new birth (John 3:3,7; 1 Pet 1:23). He is giving them a new heart, and a new spirit (Ezek 36:26) – creating them in Christ Jesus (Eph 2:10). Such people are "the workmanship of God" (Eph 2:10), not the result of a program! Those who have been born again, by virtue of that new creation, ARE TEACHABLE – gladly receptive of the instruction of God. They WILL BE "taught by God."

Where people are not effectively taught by God, it is because they CANNOT be taught by Him. It is because they have not been born again. We are living in "the day of salvation" (2 Cor 6:2) when all the people in Christ are effectively "taught by God." O, that this was perceived by the "Christian" multitudes!

TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 16 of 34

GOD'S TUTELAGE – A SIGN OF DIVINE FAVOR

"And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

Though unworthy, the people of God were promised a time when ALL THE PEOPLE would be taught by God. What a revelation!

How revolutionary this must have sounded. Of old time, only a few people were taught by God. In this teaching Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and the prophets occupied unique places among the sons of men.

#### NOAH

God taught Noah about THE COMING FLOOD, how and WHY IT WOULD OCCUR (Gen 6:5-17), HOW TO BUILD AN ARK (Gen 6:14-16), WHEN THE FLOOD WOULD OCCUR (Gen 7:6-10), and WHAT WOULD TAKE PLACE when it came (Gen 6:8-21). HE WAS TAUGHT BY GOD!

#### ABRAHAM

Abraham was taught about THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISRAEL (Gen 12:2; 21:18), the development of a sizable percentage of THE GENTILE WORLD (Gen 17:20; 21:13), and of ISRAEL'S EXPERIENCE and DELIVERANCE (Gen 15:13-16). HE WAS TAUGHT BY GOD!

#### MOSES

Moses was taught about THE DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL from bondage (Ex 3:4-22), GOD HIMSELF (Ex 34:6-7), the MAKING OF A COVENANT with Israel (Ex 34:10-27), THE LAW, which was a mirror of God's character (Ex 34:27-28; Num 31:21; John 1:17; Ex 20 ), and given some glimpses of THE COMING SAVIOR (Deut 18:15,18). HE WAS TAUGHT BY GOD!

#### DAVID

David was taught unique THINGS ABOUT GOD (Psa 7:11; 14:5; 45:6; 47:7-8; 75:7; 116:5), a perspective of WAYWARD ISRAEL (Psa 78:56-59), the COMING OF A SAVIOR (Psa 2:7-12; 118:22-23), some of the EXPERIENCES OF THE COMING SAVIOR (Psa 16:9-11; 22:6-18 ), HOW LIFE IS TO BE LIVED (Psa 1:1-3; 22:26; 132:16; 145:10-12), and THE NATURE OF THE WICKED (Psa 10:2-11; 11:2; 36:1; 37:12). HE WAS TAUGHT BY GOD!

#### THE PROPHETS

The prophets were taught about THE REAL NATURE OF ISRAEL (Isa 1:4; 5:1-4; Jer 2:21; 7:24), THEIR DESTINY (Isa 11:11-13; Jer 23:3-6; 29:14; 32:37-41), THE COMING SAVIOR (Isa 9:6-7; 11:1-5; 40:11; 42:1-4; 53:1-11; Jer 33:15; Dan 7:13-14; Hag 2:7; Zech 9:9; 13:1; Mal 3:1-3), and even THE END OF THE WORLD (Isa 34:4; 51:6; 54:10). God taught them! THEY WERE TAUGHT BY GOD!

#### THE APOSTLES

The Apostles were taught by the spirit of SALVATION (Rom 5:1; 8:1,29-30; Eph 2:1-5,10; 2 Cor 5:17; 6:17; 2 Cor 6:2; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2), ITS REALITY (Rom 6:14-21; 1 Cor 3:9; 6:11; Gal 5:1; 1 Pet 2:10,25), WHAT CAUSES IT (Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 1:30; Eph 2:13; Heb 9:26; 10:14), and ITS EFFECTS (Acts 13:39; Rom 8:2; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 5:22-23; Eph 1:6; Col 1:12; Heb 9:14). THEY WERE TAUGHT BY GOD!

Let it be clear that none of these things could have been discovered by men. They were not the result of human reasoning. No man, or even an angel, could possibly conclude that, after man

sinned, a salvation of this magnitude would be accomplished and implemented by the God against whom man had sinned. The experiences of Enoch, Noah, and Abraham, together with the writings of Moses could not lead any man to what was revealed to chosen men by God. They were “taught by God,” and there can be no question about it.

God’s intention, however, was for “ALL” to be taught by Him, not merely a select few. Thus it is written, "O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And ALL THY CHILDREN SHALL BE TAUGHT OF THE LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children” (Isa 54:11-13).

Isaiah was announcing a time of Divine favor; a time of unparalleled blessing. Divine tutelage would be preceded by a time of spiritual turbulence and unrest – a time that would require comfort that could only be given by God Himself. Indeed, this would be the case! The people of God would be characterized by beauty, comeliness, and stability. It would take place because all their children would be “taught by the Lord.” The outcome of this teaching would be “great peace,” or a peace that “passes understanding” (Phil 4:7).

This is the promise to which our Lord alluded, and it is to be embraced by everyone calling upon the name of the Lord. It does not have to be reconciled to man’s understanding of other apparently contradictory Scriptures (as some sophists imagine). It is to be believed, for by the promises we “become partakers of the Divine nature” (2 Pet 1:4).

**TAUGHT BY GOD!**

Lesson 17 of 34

**TAUGHT OF GOD’S WAYS**

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Isaiah 54:11-13).

There is a certain mindset extant in our time that is not comely. In fact, it is wholly erroneous, and is indicative of a spiritually uninformed and misunderstanding spiritual posture. It is this: that when God teaches us, He is always telling us what we are to do – that His teaching has strictly to do with the control of man’s behavior. That such teaching is necessary cannot be denied – but it is not the preeminent form of Divine instruction. This, of course, was the sole emphasis of the Law – what men were to DO. In fact, the Law in summary was this: "Ye shall therefore keep My statutes, and My judgments: which IF A MAN DO, he shall live in them: I am the LORD" (Lev 18:5; Ezek 20:11,13,21; Lk 10:28; Rom 10:5; Gal 3:12). This emphasis was necessary because sin had not yet been “put away,” as it now has been by Jesus Christ (Heb 9:26). Men were not yet “born again” (John 3:3,5; 1 Pet 1:23). The devil had not yet been “destroyed,” as Jesus has now done (Heb 2:14). A reconciliation had not yet been accomplished as it has been by Jesus (2 Cor 5:18-20). There was no such thing as a “new creation” (2 Cor 5:18), being “joined unto the Lord” (1 Cor 6:17), and being “created in Christ Jesus unto good

works” (Eph 2:10). Therefore, the Law was given “that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God” (Rom 3:19). Its sole ministry was to inform the people what they should DO. The Law could not change anyone, but only prepare them to be saved, by convincing them they were sinners.

In this day – “the day of salvation” – it is an insult to Jesus Christ to EMPHASIZE what men are supposed to do. This is not what the Gospel is intended to accomplish. It is a joyful message to those who have already been convinced they are alienated from God, and earnestly desire to do something about that dilemma. Today we have a virtual flood of professed Christian teachers who major, and are virtually limited to, behavioral correction. They are all uninformed novices. Instead of teaching, they need to be taught – “taught by God.”

Isaiah and Micah prophesied of a time when people would expectantly seek Divine instruction. Rather than shrinking back in unbelief, they would press to the very mountain of the Lord – His residence – in order to be taught by Him. The language of the prophets is precise, and is characterized by a beauty that attracts the soul. “And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and HE WILL TEACH US OF HIS WAYS, and we will walk in His paths” (Isa 2:3; Micah 4:2).

Of old time, God gave indication of the type of teaching required. When Moses pled with God saying, “Show me Thy glory,” God did not give the Ten Commandments – not at that time. Instead, He proclaimed who HE was “And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the Name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation” (Ex 34:5-7).

Commenting on this, the Psalmist wrote, “He made known HIS WAYS unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel” (Psa 103:7). Israel saw what God DID, Moses was given to see WHY His acts were done. God told Israel why they needed to know about His “WAYS.” “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, saith the LORD” (Isa 55:8). After centuries of working with Israel, the Lord said, “Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they HAVE NOT KNOWN MY WAYS” (Heb 3:10).

Even the Law, God said, required the people to “Walk in all HIS WAYS” (Deut 10:12; 11:22; Josh 22:5). After his dedicatory prayer for the Temple, Solomon said, “The LORD our God be with us, as He was with our fathers: let Him not leave us, nor forsake us: That He may incline our hearts unto him, TO WALK IN ALL HIS WAYS” (1 Kgs 8:57-58).

David prayed, “Show me Thy ways” (Psa 25:4). The Prophets proclaimed a time when the Lord would teach the people about “His ways.” “And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and HE WILL TEACH US OF HIS WAYS, and we will walk in His paths” (Isa 2:3; Micah 4:2). Hosea declared, “Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? Prudent, and he shall know them? For THE WAYS

of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein" (Hosea 14:9).

Being effectively taught the "WAYS" of God equates to coming to "KNOW HIM" – and knowing Him is eternal life. As Jesus prayed, "And this is life eternal, that they might KNOW THEE the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 18 of 34

LAW AND GRACE

"And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Isaiah 54:11-13).

UNDER THE LAW AND THE OLD COVENANT

The language of the prophets shows the marked contrast of "the Law" with grace – the "Old Covenant" with "the New Covenant." Under Law, the people were not aggressive to learn from the Lord. Their honor was not sufficient, and their hearts were defective. Their religion was only with their lips. Their heart was far from the Lord. As it is written, "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me WITH THEIR MOUTH, and WITH THEIR LIPS do honor Me, but have REMOVED THEIR HEART far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught BY THE PRECEPT OF MEN" (Isa 29:13). The Amplified Bible reads, "Forasmuch as this people draw near Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips but remove their hearts and minds far from Me, and their fear and reverence for Me are a commandment of men that is learned by repetition [without any thought as to the meaning]."

God often indicted Israel for their lifeless and heartless religion: "Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the Name of the LORD, and make mention of the God of Israel, BUT NOT IN TRUTH, nor in righteousness. For they CALL THEMSELVES of the holy city, and STAY THEMSELVES upon the God of Israel; The LORD of hosts is His name" (Isa 48:1-2). God cried out through Jeremiah, "And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks. And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD" (Jer 3:8-10). In His assessment of them God said, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith 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." (Isa 55:8-9).

In other words, theirs was a religion of TALK – "mouth" and "lips" – nothing more. They were

like a “degenerate plant of a strange vine,” that had a good start, but lapsed into a state of unprofitability, deserving of the curse of God (Jer 2:21).

The Law, which was the basis of the Old Covenant, was good, just, holy, and spiritual, as Paul confirmed (Rom 7:12,14). Yet, the Law contained nothing that could change the hearts and minds of the Israelites. The Law was never intended to be an agent of spiritual change. It provided people with “the knowledge of sin” (Rom 3:2), and was designed to make ready a people for Christ (Gal 3:24-25). It was in truth, as has been revealed, “the ministration of death” (2 Cor 3:7), and “the ministration of condemnation” (2 Cor 3:9). It allowed people to “talk,” but not to “walk” in an acceptable manner.

## UNDER GRACE AND THE NEW COVENANT

Now however, in Christ, and as regards the New Covenant, "the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power," or "is not a matter of talk but of power" [NIV] (1 Cor 4:20). Even though our time finds an enormous amount of powerless religious “talk,” that is not a proper representation of grace and the New Covenant. AN UNACCEPTABLE LIFE IS THE SIGN OF AN UNACCEPTABLE PEOPLE.

God declares it would not always be as it was “under the Law.” The time would come when “many people” would confidently come to the dwelling place of God. They would be assured that God would teach them of His ways, RESULTING IN them walking in His paths (Isa 2:3; Micah 4:2). Those in Christ are told, "For sin SHALL NOT have dominion over you: for ye are NOT under the law, but under grace" (Rom 6:14). Grace is an effective teacher. As it is written, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, TEACHING US that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13). Thus, grace effectively and efficiently teaches those who receive it to live in a way that is acceptable to God, and to anticipate the coming of the Lord. Where these qualities are consistently missing, personal salvation cannot be confirmed or verified. The lack of such things is undeniable evidence of being under the Law, not of being under grace. That is precisely why it is written, "For what the law COULD NOT DO, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit " (Rom 8:4).

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 19 of 34

## NEW LIFE

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

Isaiah was prophesying that people who formerly COULD NOT learn, would be effectively

taught by God. At the time he wrote, the people had uncircumcised ears (Jer 6:10), had “hardened their necks”(Neh 9:16), did not “hearken” to Him “nor incline their ear” (Jer 7:26), “refused to obey” (Neh 8:17), “refused to walk in His law” (Psa 78:10), “refused to receive correction” (Jer 5:3), “refused to hear” God’s “word” (Jer 11:10), “refused” God’s “judgments and statutes” (Ezek 5:6), and “refused to hearken” and “stopped their ears” (Zech 7:11). They were “obstinate” (Isa 48:4), “counted” the things of God’s Law “a strange thing” (Hos 8:12), consulted with “the astrologers, the stargazers, and the monthly prognosticators” (Isa 47:13), forsook the Lord “and went backward” (Jer 15:6), were “contrary” (Ezek 16:34), and were “polluted with their idols” (Ezek 23:30).

How is God going to teach a people like that?? The answer is that HE WILL NOT TEACH A PEOPLE WITH THOSE TRAITS – HE EMPHATICALLY WILL NOT! Yet, speaking of such marvelous teaching the Lord said, “They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine” (Isa 29:14). In arresting language, the effects of God’s teaching are proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah. “Then the eyes of those who see will not be blinded, And the ears of those who hear will listen. And the mind of the hasty will discern the truth, And the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak clearly” (Isa 32:3-4, NASB).

And what is responsible for this remarkable transformation? It is not that men became more intellectual, or more adept at deciphering Biblical texts. No special technic was discovered for interpreting Scripture – like a new hermeneutical principle! A better understanding of the Hebrew language would not be used to enable the people to understand. The difference would be caused by the Lord! The people were willing – YES – but it would owing to this fact: “Thy people shall be willing in the day of THY POWER” (Psa 110:3).

God would make the people “NEW.” He initially chronicled this remarkable change through Moses: “And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live” (Deut 30:6). He continued to expand on this new condition through the prophets. “A new heart also will I GIVE you, and a new spirit will I PUT within you: and I will TAKE AWAY the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will GIVE you an heart of flesh” (Ezek 36:26). “And I will PUT My Spirit within you, and CAUSE you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them” (Ezek 36:27). “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will PUT My law in their inward parts, and WRITE it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Jer 31:33). “And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will PUT My fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from Me” (Jer 32:40). God would make the people anew – give them new capacities, a new will, and new power. They would be willing. Then, all of the people would be “taught by God.”

Where people are spiritually stubborn, recalcitrant, unwilling, and going backward, they need to be made new. Settle it in your mind that God will not teach a people who remain in that unacceptable state. In Christ Jesus, He creates people that are teachable, willing, and eager to press toward the mark. Those are the people He will teach – and how glorious is His teaching!

**TAUGHT BY GOD!**

## EFFECTIVE TEACHING IN THE NEW COVENANT

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

As might be expected, Divine instruction is more precisely defined and realized within the New Covenant. The promised teaching would be effective, ending the dominancy of “flesh,” or the “sinful nature” (NIV). Anyone who has struggled with sin knows the human need for effective Divine teaching and leadership. How is it possible to have a basic inclination toward the Lord? To have a fervent love for the truth? To be in fundamental agreement with God and His will? These are the benefits of the New Covenant, and they are owing to Divine instruction. From the fall of Adam and the entrance of sin, there has not been a single individual who was not controlled by sin until a very real conversion occurred. The fact of the matter is that sin cannot be controlled, or managed. The sinful nature has to be firmly nailed to the cross, or crucified, and remain there. This is not a mere wish, for it is written, “And they that are Christ’s HAVE CRUCIFIED the flesh with the affections and lusts” (Gal 5:24). There is no such thing as a legitimate believer who has not done this – and, let it be clear, all those who are in Christ CAN and MUST do this. Paul’s confession on this matter is the acknowledgment of all who are in Christ Jesus: “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom THE WORLD IS CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I UNTO THE WORLD” (Gal 6:14). Other versions read, “through which this world has come to an end on the cross for me, and I for it” (BBE), “By His cross my relationship to the world and its relationship to me have been crucified” (GWN), and “Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world’s interest in me has also died” (NLT).

When a person is “born again” (1 Pet 1:23), “saved” (1 Cor 1:18; Eph 2:5), baptized into Christ (Gal 3:27), and becomes a “new creature” (2 Cor 5:17), or “His workmanship” (Eph 2:10), a VERY REAL AVERSION AND DISTASTE FOR THE WORLD COMMENCE. Satan becomes our “adversary” (1 Pet 5:8), and the saved can testify: “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” (Rom 8:2).

All of that is involved in being “TAUGHT BY GOD” – the saved come to realize they have been “delivered from this present evil world” (Gal 1:4). They are no longer what they used to be. As it is written, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: BUT YE ARE washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor 6:9-11). That moral and spiritual deliverance is as real as impotent people walking (John 5:7-8), lepers being cleansed (Matt 8:2-3), insane people having a “right mind” (Lk 8:27-35), and a man with a withered hand stretching it out and beginning to use it (Mk 3:1-5). What shall we say of those who teach supposedly converted people that they are still “addicted” to this or that? What kind of salvation is that? That is like a lame man being healed, but still having to walk with a cane or crutches, or a person healed of leprosy still having some

leprous spots throughout his body.

Once again, read the New Covenant in all of its blessedness. “But now hath He obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT, which was established upon BETTER PROMISES . . . But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will PUT MY LAW in their inward parts, and WRITE IT in their hearts; and WILL BE their God, and they SHALL BE my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they SHALL ALL know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I WILL forgive their iniquity, and I WILL remember their sin no more” (Jer 31:33-34). This is the covenant that Jesus is presently mediating (Heb 8:6-13).

The word of promise is this, “I WILL put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts.” This is another way of saying, “THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT BY GOD.” The latter expression emphasizes THE SOURCE of the instruction. The former accentuates THE EFFECT of the instruction. Who but God can put His law into our “inward parts,” and “write it” upon our “hearts?” The book of Hebrews quotes this passage in these words, “I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts . . . I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them” (Heb 8:10; 10:16).

What does it mean to have the laws of God “put” into your heart and mind, or “written” in your mind and heart? This is nothing less than being “TAUGHT BY GOD.” This is teaching that results in unanimity with the Lord, or agreement with Him. Those so taught find the commandments are “not grievous” (1 John 5:3).

This experience is expressed by David prior to the inauguration of the New Covenant. He was a man who lived ahead of his time, possessing a spirit more akin to the New covenant than the old one under which he lived. The expression is found in Psalm 27:8. “WHEN Thou didst say, ‘Seek My face,’ MY HEART said to Thee, ‘Thy face, O LORD, I shall seek.’ That is being effectively “taught by God!”

This is not the privilege of a chosen few within the new covenant; it is the blessed condition of EVERYONE “in Christ.” This is what actually happens in the new covenant – not what should happen! “ALL” within the covenant of blessing are “taught by God”– EFFECTIVELY “taught by God!”

**TAUGHT BY GOD!**

Lesson 21 of 34

**THE TEACHING OF PAUL**

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

Because of his unique role in the Kingdom of God, I am particularly interested in Paul’s teaching

on this subject: “And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord.” It is true, his word is no more God’s Word than Matthew, Peter, or John. However, his role was to expound these things to those who were by nature “wild olive branches.” He was appointed by Jesus to “open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in” Christ (Acts 26:18). Those with closed eyes cannot turn from Satan or to God! They cannot receive the forgiveness of sins or an inheritance among the sanctified ones.

How does Paul speak about this subject – the one through whom the Gospel has been both preached and expounded to the Gentiles?

## BROTHERLY LOVE

Throughout church history, the matter of brotherly love has become an issue. Those who wear the name of Jesus, yet walk in the flesh, are often reminded of the nature of new life in Christ. Pointedly, John declared, “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also” (1 John 4:20-21). John makes no allowance for an absence of love for Christ’s brethren, and neither can we.

These days, much of the church is addressed as though they really did not love the brethren. John states this is the EVIDENCE that we are no longer dead in sin. “We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death” (1 John 3:14). Jesus Himself said, “By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35). No amount of personal testimony or skewed theology can offset that statement.

Peter reasons from the standpoint of our new birth, exhorting believers to love one another fervently. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit UNTO UNFEIGNED LOVE OF THE BRETHREN, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (1 Pet 1:22-23). A professed spiritual birth that is not attended by an affection and preference for the people of God is no birth at all!

Paul takes the matter of brotherly love to a new dimension. He brings God Himself into the scenario. Yes, we are to engage in a hearty effort to love one another! Yes, we are to do so fervently, in faith seeking to add brotherly love to our lives. Now, Paul rises into the heavenlies, grounding our confidence in God, and expressing confidence in the advancement of believers in this matter.

"Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are TAUGHT BY GOD to love one another" (1 Thess 4:9). The power of this verse is also seen in some of the other translations. Young’s Literal Translation puts it this way, “And concerning the brotherly love, ye have no need of [my] writing to you, for ye yourselves are God-taught to love one another.” The Amplified Bible reads, “you yourselves have been

[personally] taught by God to love one another.” “God has taught you to love each other” (Gold’s Word). “you have yourselves learnt from God to love one another” (New Jerusalem Bible).

You would be hard pressed to find an individual that would frame these words in his mouth. They do not appear to fit in with the requirement of diligence in brotherly love. The text presumes spiritual attentiveness on the part of the Thessalonians. That kind of inner quality eliminates the need for a constant flow of words about what we “should” be doing. Make no mistake about it, this is not a form of license that relieves men of the need for exhortation. It is a clear proclamation that provision is made in Christ for effecting tutelage in the area of loving our brethren. It is to the advantage of every believer to be alert to and receptive of that blessed instruction. God does not make provision for a condition in which those in Christ do not love one another!

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 22 of 34

### 100 THINGS UNIQUELY TAUGHT BY PAUL, #1

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

The apostle Paul is “ordained a preacher, and an apostle, a TEACHER OF THE GENTILES in faith and verity” (Rom 11:13; 1 Tim 2:7; 2 Tim 1:11). His apostleship is a Divine “appointment.” Notwithstanding that provision, the Gentile church is abysmally ignorant of the writings of Paul. Some professed believers have been exposed to more of the writings of Solomon than to those of Paul – whom God has provides for the Gentiles.

There are a number of things that Paul taught that no other Scriptural writer expounded. While I am not providing an extensive listing of those matters, the next three lessons will list one hundred things that Paul taught, that noone else taught as he did. The first list and second listings will contain thirty of these things, and the last will contain forty.

1. That the church is the body of Christ (Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:12-27; Eph 1:23; 2:16; 3:6; 4:4,12-16; 5:23,30; Col 1:16; 2:19; 3:15).
2. Jesus Christ as the Head of the body (Eph 5:23; Col 1:18;l 2:19).
3. The merging of Jew and Gentile in Christ into “one new man” (Eph 2:15-16,19).
4. The exposition of justification by faith (Rom 3:20-5:18; Gal 2:16-17; 3:8-24).
5. The distinction between the Old and New Covenants (2 Cor 3:6-14; 7:22; 8:8-13; 10:16-17; Gal 3:15-17; 4:22-28; Heb 9:15-20).
6. The reality of “the old man” and “the new man” (Rom 6:6; Eph 5:22-24; Col 3:9-10).
7. The inner warfare experienced by those who live by faith (Rom 7:15-25; Gal 5:17).
8. The spiritual logic that declares the coming conversion of the Jews (Romans chapters 9-11).
9. The High Priesthood of Christ (Heb 3:1; 4:14-15; 5:5,10; 6:20; 7:26; 8:1; 9:11; 10:21).
10. The relation of Abraham to those who believe (Rom 4:1-16; Gal 3:6-18).

11. The significance of Melchizedec (Heb 5:6,10; 6:20; 7:1, 10-21).
12. The eternal purpose of God (Rom 8:28; Eph 1:11; 3:11; 2 Tim 1:9).
13. What took place behind the scenes when Jesus died (Col 1:20; 2:14-15; Heb 2:14; 9:26).
14. The whole armor of God (Rom 13:12; 2 Cor 6:7; Eph 6:10-18).
15. Spiritual weaponry (2 Cor 10:4-5; Eph 6:17).
16. Believers battling with principalities and powers (Eph 6:12).
17. The fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23; Eph 5:9).
18. The works of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21).
19. The office of a Bishop (1 Tim 3:1-7; Tit 1:7-11).
20. The office of a deacon (1 Tim 3:10-13).
21. The exposition of spiritual gifts, and how they are administered (Rom 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12:1-31; 14:1-12; Eph 4:11-16). (Peter does offer a brief word about this (1 Pet 4:10-11).
22. Why men cannot be justified by works (Rom 3:26; 4:2; Gal 2:16; 3:2-5).
23. The imputation of righteousness upon the basis of faith (Rom 1:7; 3:22-25; 4:5-25; 10:6-10; Phil 3:9).
24. Extensive teaching concerning baptism into Christ (Rom 6:1-23; Gal 3:27; Eph 4:5; Col 2:11-15).
25. The comparison of Adam and Christ (Rom 5:14-21; 1 Cor 15:22,45).
26. Extensive teaching on the resurrection of the dead (1 Cor 15:15-57).
27. The ministry of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:11-14, 26-27; 2 Cor 3:3-18; Gal 4:6, 29; 5:5,16-18,22-24; 6:8; Eph 2:22; Eph 5:9).
28. The intercession and mediation of Christ Jesus (Heb 7:25; 1 Tim 2:5; Heb 8:6; 9:15; 12:24).
29. The intercession of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:26-27).
30. Predestination and election (Rom 8:29-33; 9:11; 11:5-7,28; Eph 1:5,11; Col 3:12; 1 Thess 1:4; 2 Tim 2:10; Tit 1:1). Peter says some about this (1 Pet 1:2; 2:9).

There are advantages to being conversant with these teachings that cannot be obtained through anyone one else.

**TAUGHT BY GOD!**

Lesson 23 of 34

**100 THINGS UNIQUELY TAUGHT BY PAUL, #2**

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Isaiah 54:11-13).

**NUMBERS 31-61**

31. The body being for the Lord (Rom 12:1-2; 1 Cor 6:13-20).
32. God’s objective for believers (Rom 8:29-30; Eph 3:15-30; 4:12-16; Col 1:9-11).
33. The resurrection body (2 Cor 5:1-5).
34. The accomplishments of the cross (Eph 2:16; Phil 2:8; Col 1:20; 2:14-15).
35. Extensive teaching concerning the Lord’s Table (1 Cor 10:21; 11:23-29).
36. Types and shadows (Gal 4:24; Col 2:17; Heb 8:5; 9:24; 10:1).

37. Extensive teaching of the grace of God (Rom 3:24; 4:4,16; 5:2, 15-17, 20-21; 6:14-15; ; 11:5-6; 12:3-6; 1 Cor 15:10; 2 Cor 8:9; Gal 1:15; Eph 2:5-8; 2 Thess 2:16; 1 Tim 1:14; 2 Tim 1:9; Tit 2:11-12; Tit 3:7; Heb 2:9; 4:16; 12:28).
38. Heavenly hosts being tutored concerning God's wisdom through the church (Eph 3:10).
39. Angels being present in the assembly of the saints (1 Cor 11:10; Heb 12:22).
40. How the church is to respond to immoral people among them (1 Cor 5:1-9).
41. With the exceptions of six references to the "Gospel" in the book of Acts, and five references in the epistles and Revelation, every mention of that word from in Romans through Revelation (seventy-five) is found in Paul's writings.
42. The ascension of Jesus and its bearing on the gifts given to the church (Eph 1:20; 4:8-11; 1 Tim 3:16; Heb 1:3; 4:14; 9:14).
43. The use of the word "heavenly" (1 Cor 15:48,49; Eph 1:3,20; 2:6; 3:10; 2 Tim 4:18; Heb 3:1; 6:4; 8:5).
44. The degeneracy of the Gentile world without Christ (Rom 1:19-32).
45. With the exception of two references in First Peter, and one in Third John, the remaining teaching concerning Gentiles is given by Paul (48 references).
46. The fact that some of the Jewish branches were broken off, and some Gentiles were grafted into the Jewish olive tree (Rom 11:11-24).
47. The "man of sin" and the "son of perdition" (2 Thess 2:3).
48. The destruction of the man of sin at the coming of the Lord (2 Thess 2:3-10).
49. Receiving the love of the truth, and the consequences of not doing so (2 Thess 2:10-12).
50. What was involved in the condescension of Christ coming into the world (Phil 2:5-8).
51. What we are "come to" in Christ Jesus (Heb 12:22-24).
52. In showing the folly of seeking to be justified by Law, the allegory of Hagar and Sarah in explaining the distinction of the New Covenant (Gal 4:21-31).
53. The circumcision of Christ and of the heart (Rom 2:29; Col 2:11-12).
54. Newness of life and newness of spirit (Rom 6:4; 7:6).
55. The church is the Temple of God (1 Cor 3:16-17).
56. The church is built together for a habitation of God through the Spirit (Eph 2:22).
57. A warning to take heed how one builds upon the foundation of Christ (1 Cor 3:10-11).
58. Products of preaching referred to as wood, hay, stubble, gold, silver, and precious stones – some to be ultimately rejected, some to be received (1 Cor 3:12-16).
59. Whoever defiles the temple of God with inferior converts will be destroyed (1 Cor 3:17).
60. Delivering a professing Christian to Satan for the destruction of the flesh (1 Cor 5:5).
61. The means of supporting the proclaimer of Word as being typified under the Law (1 Cor 9:11-14).

How privileged the Gentile believers are!

TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 24 of 34

"all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children."  
(Isaiah 54:11-13).

## 100 THINGS UNIQUELY TAUGHT BY PAUL, #3

### NUMBERS 62-80

62. The faithful receiving praise from God (1 Cor 4:5).
63. The purpose for civil government (Rom 13:1-7).
64. That the grace of God teaches the saved to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Tit 2:11-12).
65. That “the flesh,” or the “old man” is to be crucified (Rom 6:6; Gal 2:20; 5:24; 6:14).
66. That we can walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:16,25).
67. That is we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Gal 5:16,25).
68. That there is “no condemnation” to them which are in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:1).
69. That we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1).
70. All of the teaching on reconciliation to God (Rom 5:10; 11:15; 2 Cor 5:18-20; Eph 2:16; Col 1:20-21; Heb 2:17).
71. With the exception of two brief references by Peter (1 Pet 1:2; 3:15), and one by Jude (Jude 1:1), all of the doctrine concerning sanctification comes from Paul (Rom 15:16; 1 Cor 1:2,30; 6:11; Eph 5:26; 1 Thess 4:3-4; 5:23; 2 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 2:21; Heb 2:11; 10:10,14,29; 13:12).
72. A comparison of the glory of the Old Covenant as compared with the glory of the New Covenant (2 Cor 3:7-11).
73. That those who indulge the flesh will have no part in the inheritance reserved for those in Christ Jesus (1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-21; Eph 5:5-7).
74. On the subject of reprobacy (Rom 1:18; 2 Cor 13:5-6; 2 Tim 3:8; Tit 1:6).
75. The restoration of Israel (Rom 11:1-36; 2 Cor 3:13-16).
76. Jews and Gentiles being joined comprising “one new man” (Eph 2:11-15).
77. The lost condition described as being “dead” (Rom 5:15; Eph 2:1-5; Col 2:13)
78. The sin of division (Rom 16:17; 1 Cor 1:10; 3:3:18).79.
79. The “law of sin and of death” (Rom 7:23,25;8:2).
80. The “law of the spirit of life: (Rom 8:2).

Last of the listing tomorrow.

### TAUGHT BY GOD!

“O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Isaiah 54:11-13).

Lesson 25 of 34

## 100 THINGS UNIQUELY TAUGHT BY PAUL, #5

### 81-100

81. Walking in the Spirit (Rom 8:1,4; Gal 5:16,25).

82. Being buried with Christ (Rom 6:4; Col 2:12).
83. Being dead with Christ (Rom 6:8; 20).
84. Being joined to the Lord (1 Cor 6:17).
85. Comments about “heavenly places” (Eph 1:3,20; 2:3; 3:10).
86. Reigning in life (Rom 5:17).
87. Reigning with Christ (2 Tim 2:12).
88. The saved being heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17).
89. With the exception of First Peter 1:4, all of the references to our “inheritance” are given by Paul (Gal 3:18; Eph 1:11,14,18; 5:5; Col 1:12; 3:24; Heb 9:15).
90. Grieving or quenching the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30; 1 Thess 5:19).
91. The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19-20).
92. Defining spiritual weakness and how it is to be treated (Rom 4:19; 14:1-2,21; 15:1; 1 Cor 8:7-12; 9:22; 1 Thess 5:14).
93. Things that minister “questions” rather than edification (1 Tim 1:4; 6:4; 2Tim 2:23; Tit 3:9).
94. Some of the personal involvements in apprehending Christ (Phil 3:8-15).
95. Elaborating on why Christ died (Rom 14:9; 2 Cor 5:15,18-20; Gal 1:4; Eph 2:16; 5:25-27; Tit 2:14). Peter also made a comment about this (1 Pet 3:18).
96. Why Christ ascended (Eph 4:11).
97. That Christ’s death for sin enabled God to be just, or righteous, in justifying sinners (Rom 3:25-26).
98. That men are “made righteous” in Christ (Rom 5:19).
99. That there is a certain behavior that is to be found in the house of God (1 Tim 3:15).
100. That the church is the “pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim 3:15).

The fact that the vast majority of Christendom is abysmally ignorant of nearly all of these subjects confirms that the ministry of Paul has been largely rejected in our day – rejected by the Gentiles to whom God made Him a “preacher,” an “apostle,” and a “teacher” (1 Tim 2:7). God chose through Paul to show to the Gentiles “the unsearchable riches of Christ.” As it is written, “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach **AMONG THE GENTILES** the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Eph 3:8). These revelations were given to him for the church – the body of Christ, particularly the Gentiles, for whom He has been appointed “apostle” and “teacher” (Rom 11:13; 1 Tim 2:7; 2 Tim 1:11). The things I have listed in these last few lessons are among “the unsearchable riches of Christ.” Yet, they have been grossly neglected in favor of other things. The Gentiles should know of these riches more than anyone else – including the Jews. Few churches are hearing them preached, and, consequently, few know them. How innocent can that circumstance be? If God has revealed these riches, and has dispatched someone charged with making them known to the Gentiles, then why are they not known? To ensure they were not forgotten, Paul wrote them down, and dispensed them to the churches of his time. For some time, there were faithful men who declared them, and the church knew them. Then, however, a generation came that did not care to know them, and thus neglected to proclaim them. Because these “unsearchable riches” were essential for spiritual life, deterioration set in, and the church grew weak, and even carnal. This very day, the teachings of Paul are grossly neglected. Even though “a greater than Solomon” has arisen (Matt 12:42), who gave these things to Paul to declare among the Gentiles, there are no small number of churches that hear more of what Solomon said, than what Paul declared – who was made an apostle to the Gentiles by Jesus Christ Himself (Acts 26:13-18). This is not an acceptable situation!

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 26 of 34

### GOD WILL REVEAL IT TO HIM

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.”  
(Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

What do you do with people who do not see critical issues as you see them – real issues that are perceived correctly? Paul faced this challenge, and provided some insights by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Having shared his earnest quest to “know Christ” and experience the “fellowship of His sufferings, and the power of His resurrection,” he challenged the Philippian brethren to have this kind of mind. Here is his testimony. "But what things were gain to me, those I **COUNTED LOSS FOR CHRIST**. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss **FOR THE EXCELLENCY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST JESUS MY LORD**: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, **THAT I MAY WIN CHRIST**, And **BE FOUND IN HIM**, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: **THAT I MAY KNOW HIM**, and **THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION**, and **THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS**, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might **ATTAIN UNTO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD**. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may **APPREHEND THAT FOR WHICH I AM APPREHENDED** of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **FORGETTING** those things which are behind, and **REACHING FORTH** unto those things which are before, I **PRESS** toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:7-14).

How appropriate his words are for our time! Take them in and digest them! A noble goal, indeed! However, it is not a frame of spirit to be had only by an Apostle, or even some special class of believers. **IT IS FOR ALL** that are mature in Christ – all who have “grown up into Him in all things.” This is a Kingdom mindset, and it is not only for apostles!

Paul’s exhortation to his readers (which include us) is challenging: “Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, **HAVE THIS ATTITUDE**; and if in anything you have a different attitude, **GOD WILL REVEAL THAT ALSO TO YOU**” (Phil 3:15, NASB). Mind you, Paul is not writing to fellow Apostles! He is writing to a body of believers – just like us! The attitude of pressing toward the mark is to be possessed by **ALL** that are mature. Surely you have seen that this type of attitude is exceedingly rare in our time. Many believers do not know of a single person with such a frame of mind. However, and make no mistake about it, all believers are to “grow up into Christ in all things” (Eph 4:15), and when they do, the mindset Paul has revealed is to be found in them.

However, if there are some that are not able to see the sense of this admonition, Paul does not give up on them! He says that God will “**REVEAL** that also to you.” This, of course, postulates the necessity of informing the people of this Divine requirement. A person may choose to reject

this reasoning, but that does not remove its power for those who receive it. If we will only be in earnest in our quest to be know and fellowship with Christ, engaging in a sustained effort for Him, GOD WILL CORRECT OUR MINOR MISCONCEPTIONS. In the words of our text, “GOD SHALL REVEAL EVEN THIS UNTO YOU.” If that seems too good to be true, hear the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, your King. “If any man is willing to do His will, HE SHALL KNOW OF THE TEACHING, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself” (John 7:17). The NRSV reads, “Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own.” The NIV translates this verse as follows: “If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”

Mark it well, Paul teaches, but revelation comes from God! However well a teacher may teach, and however powerfully a preacher may preach, true wisdom comes “down from above” (James 3:17). Those who “walk humbly” with their God, will soon be “taught” by Him! It makes little difference how this may impact upon personal or corporate theologies. God has spoken on this matter, and there is no room for varying opinions. That is why God WILL “reveal” the truth of a matter to those who walk according to the same “rule” or principle as Paul – seeking above all else to “know Christ!” If you are firmly anchored in the faith, the Lord will help you to understand otherwise troublesome matters. It is ever true, “They shall ALL be taught by God!

TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 27 of 34

GOD WILL REVEAL IT TO HIM, #2

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Isaiah 54:11-13) . . . “Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, GOD WILL REVEAL even this unto you.” (Phil 3:15)

Through Paul, the Lord holds out to us the proper approach to life (Phil 3:7-14). What is gained in Christ requires the loss of some things: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ," (Phil 3:7-8).

At no point can salvation be taken for granted, for, as long as we are in this world, we have not experienced the entirety of salvation. The most obvious evidence of that reality is our body, which has not yet been redeemed. It has, however, been “purchased.” As it is written, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the Earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory" (Eph 1:13-14).

It is my persuasion that these things have not been made clear to the “average Christian” – if there is such a thing. However, these realities must be perceived. The approach declared and

experienced by Paul, postulates several things.

FIRST, life on earth will not last. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb 9:27).

SECOND, Since the entrance of sin, life in the flesh is, by design, temporal. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom 5:12).

THIRD, as a person you are going to outlast the heavens and the earth, which are destined to "pass away" – as it is written, "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Pet 3:10). But you will still exist to be judged by the Lord (Heb 9:27).

FOURTH, men will exist after the temporal order has passed away – with the Lord, or without Him. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matt 25:21), OR "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt 25:41).

FIFTH, the prelude to existing after the present heavens and earth are "removed" (Isa 24:20), will be the day of judgment, in which all men will publically give an account of their thoughts, words, and deed, to the Lord: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Cor 5:10)

SIXTH, you must be prepared for the day of judgment, for there will be no leniency at that time: "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." (1 John 4:17).

SEVENTH, the salvation of God, and only the salvation of God, can prepare you for your destiny after the temporal order has suffered its appointed demise: "For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor 6:2).

EIGHTH, to be forever with the Lord (1 Thess 4:17), one must be prepared, or oriented to be in His presence: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready" (Rev 19:7).

NINTH, in order to make proper preparation, you will have to be "taught by God," for the things appointed for the saved cannot be appropriated by worldly wisdom: "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto Me" (John 6:45).

**TAUGHT BY GOD!**

Lesson 28 of 34

**A CHANGE OF LIFE**

"And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

Spiritual growth is the result of Divine tutoring – of being taught by the Lord. It is not the result of mere human discipline, and the ability to refrain from sins men refer to as "additions" and

“habits.” Spiritual growth postulates the activity of the One who begat the individual (1 John 5:18), and through whom they were birthed anew (1 Pet 1:23; 1 John 3:9; 4:7; 5:1,4,18). The unwavering acceptance of this fact would put a staggering number of religious professionals out of business.

There are people that “become callous,” having “given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness” (Eph 4:19, NASV). Often, such individuals wear the name of Jesus, professing themselves to believe in God and be a “Christian.” This is a tragic condition to consider, for such people are under the dominion of the flesh and Satan, not Jesus. To justify the legitimacy of such a claim, one would have to produce a lame man that was healed by Jesus, who was still a lame man; or a blind man healed by Jesus who was still blind.

When speaking of this unfortunate consideration (being dominated by the flesh), Paul states, “But you did not learn Christ in this way” (Eph 4:20, NASV). There is a consistency in spiritual life that forbids lapses into the flesh. Learning Christ is actually appropriating the Divine nature. The raw material used in this appropriation is the promises of God. As it is written, “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (2 Pet 1:4). The One who teaches and vivifies those promises is the Lord Jesus Himself. This involves Divine instruction and human learning. Here are the words of the Spirit that follow the statement about learning Christ; “If so be that ye have HEARD HIM, and have been TAUGHT BY HIM, as the truth is in Jesus: that ye PUT OFF concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and BE RENEWED in the spirit of your mind; and that ye PUT ON the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph 4:21-24, NASV). The Amplified Bible reads, “But you did not so learn Christ! Assuming that you have really heard Him and been taught by Him, as [all] Truth is in Jesus [embodied and personified in Him], Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion; And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude] And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God’s image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.”

Here is an aspect of being taught by God that is exceeding precious! The Lord EFFECTIVELY teaches us to subordinate the sinful nature and give heed to the Divine nature – a most remarkable achievement! Because this comes to us through the channel of God’s grace, it is written, “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Tit 2:11-12). Grace instructs us through a Person. We are “taught of God,” and He does it through His grace. While a change in life involves the discipline and activity of the believer, it actually happens BECAUSE OF the teaching of the Lord! Christ teaches us to effectually say “NO” to the flesh and “YES” to the Spirit! In this way, we are “taught by God.”

This is the way it really is, not the way it ought to be.

**TAUGHT BY GOD!**

Lesson 29 of 34

## HE IS SPEAKING FROM HEAVEN

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.”  
(Verse 13 Isaiah 54:11-13).

The exalted Christ is not merely sitting IN HEAVEN, He is SPEAKING FROM HEAVEN. He is not simply watching FROM HEAVEN, He is SPEAKING FROM HEAVEN. He has something to say that the church collectively and individually needs to hear. While He dwells within, technically, He speaks “FROM HEAVEN.” HEAVEN is the base of His operation, His function, His ministry, His High Priesthood, His intercession, and His mediation. It is all done “FROM HEAVEN,” where there is no discord, competition, or tumult.

It is axiomatic that IF the Lord is speaking FROM HEAVEN, He needs to be heard. He is not simply throwing out meaningless words! They are words addressed to redeemed humanity – words designed to acquaint them with Himself and the purpose of God, and lead them to glory. They are not words you add to the Bible, but words that enable you to understand the Bible – particularly the Gospel and its relevancy to you personally. The word to us concerning this HEAVENLY instruction is clear. "See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh FROM HEAVEN" (Heb 12:25). See that you do not refuse to listen to Him? See that you are not indifferent about Him and His tutelage. He is speaking FROM HEAVEN – where the justified are scheduled to be with Him. Jesus said to His disciples, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; THAT WHERE I AM, THERE YE MAY BE ALSO" (John 14:3). The saints of God are being prepared to dwell in the place Jesus has prepared for them – IN HEAVEN.

Ponder the emphasis that is placed on “HEAVEN.” The Kingdom is “the Kingdom of HEAVEN” (Matt 3:2,17; 14:18). The reward is “IN HEAVEN” (Matt 5:12). God’s will is to be done on earth “as it is IN HEAVEN” (Matt 6:10). Your treasures are to be “laid up IN HEAVEN” (Matt 6:20). Fifteen times, Jesus referred to “your Father which is IN HEAVEN.” Jesus spoke of things that are “bound” and “loosed” IN HEAVEN (Matt 18:18). The redeemed presently have a “house which is FROM HEAVEN” (2 Cor 5:2). The people of God are described as “the whole family IN HEAVEN and earth” (Eph 3:15). Our “conversation,” or manner of life, “is IN HEAVEN; from whence we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil 3:20). Our “hope” is “laid up IN HEAVEN” (Col 1:5). When He comes again "the Lord himself shall descend FROM HEAVEN with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God" (1 Thess 4:16). Jesus is appearing in the presence of God for us “IN HEAVEN” (Heb 9:24). We “have IN HEAVEN a better and an enduring substance” (Heb 10:34). Our inheritance, which is “incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away,” is “reserved IN HEAVEN for you” (1 Pet 1:4).

It is simply wrong for the professed church to be speaking so much about what is in the earth, and so little about what is IN HEAVEN, and is coming FROM HEAVEN. Those who are enamored of the world are NOT being “taught by God.” Jesus comes to the church to “teach” it

(Eph 4:20-21), but an inordinate number of religious men have chosen to ignore Him, and embrace the teachings of men. People are being added to the church on earth who have little interest in Jesus. Some churches invite them to come and be a part of their own recovery plan, while they neglect, and even reject, the Divinely provided recover plan. Anyone who imagines this is all an innocent matter needs to think again. God has exalted Christ, giving Him all power IN HEAVEN and in earth. He is seated IN HEAVEN at God's right hand, and is adjudicating the Kingdom – ruling in power and might. He is speaking FROM HEAVEN, and He is not to be refused. I plead with you, Do not be so earthly minded you are of no HEAVENLY good!

TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 30 of 34

ONE MORE WORD

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

The word the Lord speaks to us is specific. It is one of His teachings: "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN. And this word, YET ONCE MORE, signifieth THE REMOVING of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which CANNOT be shaken may remain." (Heb 12:26-27).

This is a glorious promise to the faithful, and a solemn warning to the unfaithful. Isaiah prophesied of a time when the Lord would “SHAKE the earth” (Isa 2:19). Again, the prophet said, "Therefore I will SHAKE the heavens, and THE EARTH SHALL REMOVE OUT OF HER PLACE, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger" (Isa 13:13). The prophet Joel wrote, "The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall SHAKE: but the LORD will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel" (Joel 3:16). The prophet Haggai wrote, "For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will SHAKE the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land" (Hag 2:6). Again, Haggai prophesied, "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will SHAKE the heavens and the earth; And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will DESTROY the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen" (Hag 2:21-22).

This is part of the teaching of the Living God. When it is accepted, men will not center their lives in “this present evil world,” from which God has graciously delivered us (Gal 1:4). We believers have been called into the realm of eternity, and have entered and received a Kingdom “that cannot be shaken” (Heb 12:27). It is stable, and contributes to moral and spiritual stability. It is not possible to live with an acute awareness of this unshakeable kingdom, and, at the same time, be personally unstable in spirit and temperament. This Kingdom, into which we have entered by new birth (John 3:5), and which we have “received” (Heb 12:28), is characterized by “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” (Rom 14:17). It is a kingdom that "is not in word, but in power." (1 Cor 4:20). God is teaching us about His kingdom!

The entire universe has been blighted by sin, and is scheduled for destruction. We are informed of this fact in Scripture. It is taught to us by God, through Christ Jesus. The Psalmist wrote, "Of old hast Thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of Thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt Thou change them, and they shall be changed": (Psa 102:25-26). Isaiah wrote, "The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again" (Isa 24:20). And again, "Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but My salvation shall be for ever, and My righteousness shall not be abolished" (Isa 51:5-6). Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." (Matt 24:35). Paul wrote, "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment" (Heb 1:10-11). Peter wrote, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Pet 3:10). In the vision John received on the Isle of Patmos, he "saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea" (Rev 21:1).

The environmentalists are wrong. The earth is not to be revered as though it will last forever. "The bondage of corruption" has been imposed upon the earth, and it is in a state of deterioration – all because of man's sin (Rom 8:20-23). The myth of global warming is nothing more than a misinterpretation of the earth's state of decline. God has taught us about this, and there is no excuse for being confused about it.

When we have been instructed by the Lord on this matter, we will make preparations appropriate for the passing away of the present heavens and earth. When you are not taught by the Lord, you ignore the fact and live as though the earth is going to last forever. The difference between those who are "ready" for the return of their Lord and those who are not is simply this: the prepared ones have NOT refused Him that is speaking from heaven (Heb 12:25). The unprepared HAVE refused Him!

TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 31 of 34

THE TEACHING OF PETER

"And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children." (Isaiah 54:11-13).

Peter also spoke of Divine instruction—being "taught by God." He masterfully blended the teaching of God with giving heed to the Scriptures. As he neared the end of his earthly sojourn, he bolstered the confidence of believers by appealing to their expectation. They did not live with the introductory provisions given to Israel, but had been given a Word that was more solid and

productive. “We have also a MORE SURE word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until THE DAY DAWN, and THE DAY STAR in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pet 1:19-21).

The phrase “more sure word of prophecy” means “the prophetic word confirmed” (NKJV) i.e. , the prophets told what was coming, the Gospel proclaims what HAS COME.

The phrase “no prophecy is of any private interpretation” means “came about by the prophet’s own interpretation” (NIV) i.e., the prophets did not write what they thought God’s word meant (as too many translators do today), but what was actually said – nothing more.

### A MORE CERTAIN WORD

The word of the prophets is “made more certain” in Jesus i.e., it has been FULFILLED in Him. It will bear remarkable fruit if given due attention! Pay attention to it, Peter says. Put your heart and soul into it! Ponder it! Meditate upon it! You are dwelling upon ultimate truth when you dwell on the prophetic word i.e. , the Word concerning the coming Savior, which has been fulfilled. And what will happen as you contemplate the “glorious Gospel of the blessed God?” GOD WILL TEACH YOU!

### THE DAY WILL DAWN

All 56 versions that I have read the same: “until the day dawns.” The New International Readers Version (1998) reads, “It will shine until the day Jesus comes” (2 Pet. 1:19). This is a serious corruption of the text, as will become clear in Peter’s further word.

Take these marvelous words into your heart: “the day dawns and the Day Star rises in your hearts.” This speaks of the time when the Gospel all makes sense, and you are “able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” (Eph 3:19). As you give heed to the Message, pondering it, and dwelling upon it, the heart of the message will become apparent to you. The Word of God will make sense to you, and become clear to you. You will be able to “walk in the light as He is in the light” (1 John 1:7). You will no longer stumble, like those walking in the darkness of night (John 11:9-10). The things of God will “fall together” for you! This is not a goal. It is a promise! However, this will not, and cannot, happen if other messages and other emphases dominate your thinking. There are things that are legitimate areas of thought, but are not an appropriate emphasis, accent, stresses, or of special significance or importance. This would include an emphasis on family, health and wealth, evangelism, holiness, the Holy Spirit, the church, etc. When such things, become the point of emphasis, or what is stressed, the day will never dawn, and the Day Star will never rise in the heart. The thrust of the Gospel will not be seen, and therefore spiritual growth will come to a grinding halt. We are addressing a matter that is that serious.

### WHAT CAUSES THE DAY TO DAWN?

What causes the dawning of this spiritual day, and the rising of the “Day Star” (which is Jesus Christ) in your heart? How is it that Jesus begins to be “formed” in you (Gal 4:19)? It is because you have been “TAUGHT BY GOD!” Human intelligence cannot produce “the light of the glory of the knowledge of God in the face of Christ Jesus” (2 Cor 4:6)! The well of human knowledge is not deep enough to yield “springs of living water!” (John 4:14). “This is the LORD’S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes” (Psa 118:23). In order for those things to be realized, attention must be given to “the record God has given of His Son” (1 John 5:10-11)i.e. , WHO Jesus is, WHAT He accomplished, WHERE He is now, WHAT He is doing now, that He IS coming again, and that He WILL judge the world in righteousness. All of the Epistles are expositions of Christ—a declaration of the record God has given of His Son. All correction is owing to a distorted message or an erroneous manner of life. Those matters that required correction were obscuring the Gospel – which is the means through which God works to teach us, and make the grand panorama of redemption clear. Until that happens, a righteous life does not make sense to the people – that is why they do not live that kind of life.

Peter instructs us to devote ourselves to the word of the Gospel, expecting Divine intervention to enhance our perspective of the things of God. It is true, “They will all be taught by God!”

TAUGHT BY GOD!

Lesson 32 of 34

THE TEACHING OF JOHN, #1

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

The fact that God teaches His people was chronicled by the Prophets (Isa 2:3; 54:13), affirmed by Jesus (John 6:45; 14:26), declared by Paul (Eph 4:20-21; 1 Thess 4:9), expounded by Peter (2 Pet 1:19), and now corroborated by John the beloved. There should be no question about the reality or effectiveness of this Divine tutelage.

John the beloved, like all of the apostles, had a burden for the people of God. We do not have any epistle written to the unsaved – not so much as a single small one. God has provided for the salvation of every man. Jesus died for every person, provides a salvation for all, and seeks and saved sinners. But when it comes to the heart of Deity, and the instruction from above, it is limited to the saints of God – those who have been “washed, sanctified, and justified” (1 Cor 6:11). These are the people toward whom the power of God is directed (Eph 1:19). They are the ones in whom the Holy Spirit takes up residence to lead (Rom 8:14), intercede for (Rom 8:26-27), and “change” (2 Cor 3:18). Know that a weak and uninformed church brings no glory to God, is a reproach to Jesus Christ, and a source of grief to the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not die, rise from the dead, return to heaven, and assume a reign of grace in order to produce such a church. Yet churches that are so described are without number. Everywhere in the world where “Christians” exist, this kind of church can be easily found. That condition, and make no mistake about it, belies the great salvation of God – one that involves God Almighty teaching all of His people.

John had been in the presence of “the Word of Life” when He walked among men. His eyes had beheld Him, and his hands had handled Him (1 John 1:1). Yet, he did not keep these marvelous experiences to himself, but bore witness to them, proclaiming them accurately and faithfully to the people of God (1 John 1:2). He knew what God was doing – teaching His people – and therefore declared and clarified that reality.

It might appear to the readers of John’s epistles that he had access to understanding not available to all the saints. After all, he was an Apostle! The aged man of God is careful, however, to assure his readers that they also have access to Divine instruction. It is true, “they shall all be taught by God!” What God has revealed can be discerned in its depth, breadth, and height by “all saints” (Eph 3:18).

John informs his readers of the existence of false teachers. These imposters propagate doctrines that endanger the individual, obscure the truth, and disarm the soul. “Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. THEY WENT OUT FROM US, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us” (1 John 2:18-19).

How could believers hope to survive such an insidious assault on their souls – “Many antichrists” flooding the Christian community? They were not OBVIOUSLY against Christ, or easily detected. Had that been the case, they would have been identified without difficulty. These, however, were individuals that had companied with the Apostles and leaders of the early church. They had been the right place, been with the right people, and possessed apparently valid credentials. Yet they were as threat to the community of believers.

Believers are told that God has provided for their protection. He would not simply cause the false teachers to avoid believers. The saints were going to have to confront them, evaluate their message, and decide whether they were of God or not. Only the Lord can make a person equal to that challenge! Praise be to God for the glorious promise, “They shall all be taught by God!”

John will proclaim the Divinely appointed means of “knowing all things.”

**TAUGHT BY GOD!**

Lesson 33 of 34

**THE TEACHING OF JOHN, #2**

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Verse 13, Isaiah 54:11-13).

"But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as THE SAME ANOINTING TEACHETH YOU of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath TAUGHT YOU, ye shall abide in Him." (1 John 2:27)

## THE WAY TO KNOW ALL THINGS

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John informs us that we have received an Anointing from the Holy One, the Lord Jesus Christ. Elsewhere, that “anointing” is declared to be the Holy Spirit Himself: “Now He which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts” (2 Cor 1:21-22). That Anointing makes us equal to the challenges of life, whether they involve false teachers, enemies, the demands produced by our faith.

Here are John’s inspired and wonderful words. “But ye have an UNCTION [anointing, NKJV] from the Holy One, and ye know all things . . . But THE ANOINTING which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man TEACH you: but as THE SAME ANOINTING TEACHETH you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath TAUGHT you, ye shall abide in Him” (1 John 2:20,27). This word was not written to apostles, who, at the time of this writing, had probably finished their course, and left the world. This was written to those in Christ, who had believed “the record God has given of His Son” (1 John 5:10-11).

The phrase, “and ye know all things” must not be understood to mean omniscience, or expertise in all fields of knowledge. Other translations bring out more of the sense of the text. “. . . and you all know” (NASB, RSV); “. . . and all of you know the truth” (NIV). The idea is that believers are not deficient in any area critical to spiritual life. That is, they do not require additional instruction on HOW to use the truth, or the practical aspects of living by faith. The Holy Spirit is the “Anointing,” making them able to reject the artifices of the servants of Satan that come disguised as “ministers of righteousness” (2 Cor 11:15). That same Anointing leads them in doing what they are commanded to do – i.e., put to death the deeds of the body (Rom 8:13-14). The Holy Spirit is the sole Teacher of “HOW TO” do what God requires of you, yet provides no written instructions on the matter.

## APPLYING THE TRUTH

There is glorious aspect to this teaching. The “Anointing” teaches us “about all things” (NASV). He effectively teaches us to correctly apply the truth. These days, there is a lot of emphasis on “HOW TO.” Some professed religious leaders have become independently wealthy instructing people on the application of truth. The average religious book store is filled with “how to” books, on subjects ranging from evangelism, church planting, and personal growth in Christ, to financial expertise and domestic issues. Let me be clear about this, I am declaring that such an approach to living, as some say, “the Christian life,” is altogether false, and fails to take into account the provisions for “how to” living that have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

This is an aspect of spiritual life addressed by Divine instruction. Isaiah wrote of this tutelage in comforting words. “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left” (Isa 30:21). That is the Anointing! The Spirit will personalize the truth to your heart, enabling you to translate it into life that will be honored by God. Every child of God needs this Anointing! Every child of God has access to this Anointing! Every child of God can be “taught by God!”

If you have a working acquaintance with Scripture, particularly the teaching of Jesus, and Apostolic doctrine, you know there is an astounding absence of “HOW TO teaching in the New Covenant writings. There are certainly some things we are commanded to do. To name a few: “be ye holy” (1 Pet 1:5-16), “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Tim 6:12), “husbands, love your wives” (Col 3:19), “ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands” (1 Pet 3:1), “perfect holiness” (2 Cor 7:1), “put off the old man” (Eph 4:22), “put on the new man” (Eph 4:24), “let not your good be evil spoken of” (Rom 14:16), “present your bodies a living sacrifice unto God” (Rom 12:1-2), “be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment”(1 Cor 1:10), “be subject one to another” (1 Pet 5:5), “put on the whole armor of God” (Eph 6:10-17), etc. The details on HOW to do these things are not provided. Things like “modest apparel” (1 Tim 2:9), “good works” that have been ordained for us to walk in them (Eph 3:10), and “love one another” (Rom 13:8), are not accompanied with defining lists of how to accomplish these things. Men make such lists, but the Lord did not!

This kind of teaching – the “how to” part – is the work of the Lord, not of man. It is included in the kind of teaching provided by “the grace of God,” as distinguished from the teaching of men: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, TEACHING US that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13).

This is what is involved in the saying, “Now the just shall live by faith” (Heb 10:38; Rom 11:7; Gal 3:11). This is why we are commanded, “Grieve not the Spirit of God” (Eph 4:30, and “Quench not the Spirit” (1 Thess 5:19). He is the Teacher, and if you stifle His influence, you simply become unteachable. No system, routine, methodology, workshop, or conference, can resolve that dilemma.

## TAUGHT BY GOD!

“O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.” (Isaiah 54:11-13).

Lesson 34 of 34

## CONCLUSION

When it comes to learning the things of God, Christ brings us all to Mount Zion! The Law left some in the nether regions, and a few were permitted on the mountain of revelation – but it is not so in Christ Jesus! Here, in the blessed environ of the Godhead and angelic hosts, we traffic in the light. Thus it is written, "For ye are NOT COME unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the

sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) But ye ARE COME unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel" (Heb 12:18-24). This is the unvarnished truth, and it is something that can be known experientially!

Would you like the Lord to "confide in" you? There is no reason why this cannot happen! He can make His covenant "known to" you. There is no need for you to grope in darkness when it comes to the wonderful things of God! The saints are "all taught by God," in strict accord with revealed Divine intent, prophecy, and apostolic exposition. You do not have to be ignorant of the profound truth of Christ, redemption, and the world to come. If, by faith, you will dwell in the secret place of the Most High, you will experience Divine instruction. There, you will surely "abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psa 91:1). The Psalmist affirmed – and let all believers embrace it – "The LORD confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them" (Psa 25:14, NIV). He can make His covenant "known to" you.

The promise is, "They will all be taught by God." I challenge you to be in that number. You will find it most refreshing to your soul, enlightening to your mind, and encouraging to your heart!  
– Given O. Blakely