

EXAMPLES OF GOD'S TEACHING & TRAINING – Pt. 3

S179R

Wed - 11/4/2020

Our previous messages on this subject informed us from Scripture, to “rightly divide the Word of Truth from God”, such as (James 5:15-16), “And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

[Any repentant person who will take those Scripture verses to heart and to pray for one another, can enter into and enjoy their Atonement rights in Christ for healing and other things in life, as they ‘rightly divide’ the ‘Word of Truth’ from God (as apostle Paul said). They will also be enabled to realize that when a wrong inference of any passage of Scripture is given by a false teacher (such as they do with Matt.9:12 to support their false teaching to trust on doctors and medicines), then, that is directly opposite to true Bible teaching on ‘divine healing,(and would not be ‘rightly dividing’ the Word of Truth’).]

Many denominational ministers preach for sake of material gain and money, but true Bible teaching instructs us (1 Pet.5:2-3) “Be shepherds of God's flock which is among you. Exercise the oversight not reluctantly but eagerly, in accordance with the will of God; not for ‘base gain’ but with cheerful minds; not lording it over your Churches but proving yourselves patterns for the flock to imitate.”

The Scriptures instruct a minister to “preach the ‘whole counsel’ of God”, and when that is done, it is bound to hurt someone’s feelings. The ‘whole counsel of God’ really means to preach about a complete death of ‘self-life’ (fully delivered from our old ways of doing things, even though they may seem to be right to us);... for it is written that ‘every man’s ways are right in his own eyes’. We all must come to the place where we are compelled to give up our old ways, and accept a new way (Jesus Christ’s way), which is directly opposite to our ways, and may seem to appear to us to be a little difficult to follow.

[The Gospel teaching of the First Century (given by Jesus and His apostles and true followers), may seem to some to be a narrow teaching, but it is the only teaching that can lead us to Eternal Life. Also, if you were to follow other denominational teachings to the ends of the earth, that would not change the Truth of the Word of God, nor would it change God’s ‘spiritual plan’ for everyone, which is, we all must ‘die to self’. That is the one all-inclusive teaching of the ‘whole counsel of God’.

God’s plan for our physical health and well-being is to trust on Him alone whether living or dying, and without doctors or drugs. The Blood of Jesus Christ is all that was provided for us in the entire Bible for our healing, because the precious Blood of God’s only Son was shed for the healing of our body, (and that is all that is necessary for our perfect health) .(Isaiah 53:4-6) “Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

That passage of Scripture was fulfilled by Jesus for our example of the accuracy of God’s Word, when it is ‘rightly divided and applied in our life. (Matt.8:16-17) “In the evening many demoniacs were brought to Him, and with a word He expelled the demons; and He cured all the sick,

in order that this prediction of the Prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled, "HE TOOK ON HIM OUR WEAKNESSES, AND BORE THE BURDEN OF OUR DISEASES."

When it comes to our money, God's plan is for us to lay up our treasure in Heaven. Even though our heart strings are usually entwined around our money, we absolutely must come to learn God's rule about that important issue, because it has eternal consequences, and God's rule is that we are to give our surplus cash to the poor, and so, lay up our treasure in Heaven. It may seem terrible to have to give up a roll of money and receive nothing in return, but God, but that is the grandest, greatest exchange that we could ever make in our life.

Doing as we please with our money (instead of our following God's plan), will rob us of our promised Peace from God. Also it may take us to death and the Lake of Fire; but if we do as God says to do with surplus money, God Himself will take its place for us, as He did in the case of the widow of Zarephath (who made a very good exchange for the only provision that she had left to depend on) (that handful of meal and a little oil). She received the great God in Heaven in exchange for giving up that meager fare that she had left, and in that time when there was a famine of three and a half years duration.

If we had to make a choice like she did, which would we choose? We would need to choose God! That meal and oil was all that poor women had between her and death; but we have lots more between us and death in this land of plenty; if we obey God financially, we would not have to miss a meal.

That widow gave up the last visible means of support and chose God, a risk that was dangerous humanly speaking, and we could blame anyone for complaining to have to make such a move if they do not know God. Most all people believe in getting all they can and holding on to it, and they only give what is begged from them (because that is the nature each one of us is born with, the nature of self-life which we must allow God to remove).

Another point is, we are to obey religious leaders who are appointed by God, and who give Scriptural advice to follow (as we are instructed Hebr.13:17) "Obey your leaders and be submissive to them. For they are keeping watch over your souls as those who will have to give account; that they may do this with joy and not with lamentation. For that would be of no advantage to you. Keep on praying for us; for we are sure that we have clear consciences, and we desire to live nobly in every respect."

A minister is to obey and be submissive to God in his duty to serve other, while holding on to his authority over the Church. A minister of any branch of the First Century Gospel Church is in authority over that branch of the Church (the late Pastor explained), and he should be obeyed as God instructed us through Jesus Christ. That is what Jesus told His disciples when He sent them out to preach, saying (Matt.10:40) "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

A true minister of God should be God's witness, as that is the commission that Jesus gave to His disciples (Mark 16:15-18) "Then He said to them, "Go the whole world over, and proclaim the Good News to all mankind. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who disbelieves will be condemned. And signs shall attend those who believe, even such as these. By making use of my name they shall expel demons. They shall speak new languages. They shall take up venomous snakes, and if they drink any deadly poison it shall do them no harm whatever. They shall lay their hands on the sick, and the sick shall recover."

The Bible says of the true disciples of that day (vs.20) "But they went out and made proclamation everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming their Message by the signs

which accompanied it." (That was final proof that they were sent by God (to give His Word of Truth, the "the Good News" to others of the world).

There are lots of false teachers today who have signs and a following, ... but one of the signs that should follow the teaching of the pure and true Gospel is miracles of healing. people being healed by the 'power of God, as we have heard in so many years of testimonies and notes of praise from so many who have accepted God's Word,... for as God's conditions are met the sick should recover to good health.

God also uses conditions in the workshop, and circumstances in our life to teach us and prepare us for Eternal Life (instead of our destruction and the Lake of Fire. The circumstances of life are used by God as instruments to teach and train us, that is, teach us 'lessons of faith and trust' that are beyond all human measures of value. God can open our eyes to see things that we never dreamed possible, or allow something to happen to show us just where we are spiritually, as well as to show us how to be delivered out of that circumstance. God will cause that circumstance to be a stepping-stone to make us wiser and stronger in the Truth, and to have more faith in God's power and love. Circumstances in our life are used by God as instruments to teach and train us about His will and plan for all of us.

Jeremiah said (when considering the Israelites), "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9).

The late Pastor said, that he was talking with a sister who had just been delivered out of great difficulty (a very hard circumstance that she had been faced with). She said, "why did the Lord allow that to happen to me?" (she had always condemned others for saying and doing the very thing that she herself was guilty of).

So' the Pastor told her that it was the best thing that ever happened to her, and he asked, "did you not say that you would never think of saying and doing such things to harm somebody else?" "Oh, yes I did", she said.

That had been hidden in her heart and she did not know it. There is no human being born different from another in their heart; these sins are there, and our "hearts are desperately wicked and who can know it" (the Bible tells us). That sin was in that sister's heart, although it had not come to the surface: but, as she came into the Truth she met with that circumstance which exposed what was in her heart. It was the best thing that could have happened, for it enabled her to meet it right and to overcome. It is the grandest of lessons to learn to overcome evil of any kind in our heart.

The poor soul then asked 'what shall I do?' We assured her the only thing to do was to stand still and see the salvation of God at work. (We heard some time afterward that she had committed that battle into God's hands(the late Pastor said), and that she received perfect victory(from that wrong attitude in her heart).

That one circumstance had taught her the great lesson, that she of herself was no good at all, and that she was helpless and hopeless in herself; secondly, that she could do nothing to make herself any better. She had to surrender the 'will of self' and allow God to change what was in her heart. Is that not worth knowing? "There is no more profound Truth to be found within the covers of this Book, the Bible, but that God uses every circumstance of our life to teach us some important lesson" (spiritually and otherwise).

That woman learned three great lessons in a short amount of time; first, that she was just as liable to do she was condemning others for doing; secondly, that she had no power in herself to right that wrong; third, she learned that God could and would do it for her (it she committed it into His hands).

We can consider what apostle Peter learned from Jesus in just one lesson while fishing off the seashore. The teaching he had received in a synagogue had convinced him that he was right, in that he was a descendant of Abraham (which was fooling many people and still is today), who are living a poor quality of morality or church membership, and that being their 'hope of Heaven'. They will all tell you that they do nobody any harm, are members of churches, and pay honest debts; but they could not and do not trust for the health of their body without drugs or medicine; neither could they trust God for supply of daily financial needs.

On one occasion Jesus said that the publicans and harlots would enter the Kingdom of God ahead of Scribes and Pharisees (those professed people of God), because they would realize their need for repentance and need to have God in their life, more quickly than the Scribes and Pharisees would realize that, who thought they were already righteous and ready to enter Heaven. But, in reality, they were in rebellion against Jesus Christ the Son of God, and they opposed His teaching in every respect (the only teaching that can lead us to Eternal Life with Christ and God)!!

When the Holy Spirit teaches us like He taught Peter, He will reveal those things of hidden rebellion to us. Jesus came on the shore and said, 'Peter, let me have your boat for a while.' Jesus then stood on the boat and taught the people; while Peter could not help but hear what Jesus was saying to all. Peter may have been thinking, 'what kind of doctrine is that? It does not sound like what they teach in our synagogue.'

Jesus then gave Peter a command to 'let down your nets for a draught of fish', and that was Peter's second lesson. Peter, James, and John had been fishing all night and caught nothing (and since they thoroughly understood the fishing business, they knew there were no fish there to be caught.) "Master", Peter said, "we have toiled all night and have taken nothing", nevertheless, 'at your Word we will do it'.

It is written in the Bible that their nets enclosed a great multitude of fish. The Holy Spirit taught Peter a wonderful lesson through that little circumstance of life,... for Peter said, "depart from me, Lord; for I am a sinful man."

Previous to that Peter had no Salvation, but, that day, the bottom dropped out of the 'little bit of religion' he had, and he realized that he only had an empty profession of religion. Jesus used that small circumstance to teach him that he was a 'sinful man' (as Peter confessed), and through the workings of the Holy Spirit he saw exactly what kind of a person he was.

Jesus answered Peter's confession saying; "Fear not; from this time forward, you shall be a catcher of men." (Luke 5:10). Jesus meant "be calm and restful because your sins are forgiven; from now on you shall engage in seeking to help souls to repent, and save them from the wrath to come, as you teach them the way of life-eternal."

A person may say, "I have so much trouble in my home, or, I wish my spouse would act better." It is a valuable thing to have somebody in your home who is contrary and disagreeable. One might say, "I thought we were to have peace?" "You will not have that peace until you learn your lessons of meeting things and difficulties (that it may seem as if Satan is piling on us in your home, workplace, or elsewhere), and meeting those things as God's Word directs us."

It is written in the Bible "and if there is a 'son of peace' there, your peace will rest upon it." If there is a little rebellion in your heart, some certain circumstance will act as a test for you, and you will flare up and say, "I took it as long as I could take it", or you might say, "It would try the 'patience of Job' to live in that home, and to have to deal with that person (or people)."

The late Pastor said, "we want to say, that when you have said your last word, worried your last worry, and have done your last act of the self-life in that home where some unsaved loved one is disturbing your peace,... the Holy Spirit is then going to enter to rule and reign in your home. That

