

TAUGHT & TRAINED BY GOD

(SPIRITUAL GROWTH & PREPARATION-II)

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A previous message on this subject informed us from Scripture, that when a Christian allows themselves to be trained spiritually and taught by God Himself, the Holy Spirit will enable them to judge and discern all things and circumstances in life, in their true light.

Also, that although God allows men to become instruments of his to teach others about His Word, many of them become teachers of false doctrine because of unbelief on their own part in regard to the power of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So, we all need to be taught and trained by the Holy Spirit, to enable us to discern if a Minister is giving the real Truth or a false substitute.

Then a Christian taught by God, will be enabled to realize the terrible spiritual condition of the professed Christian world today, where spiritually blind leaders (ministers) are leading those blinded from the Truth, because they refuse to believe on the resurrection power of Jesus Christ. and so, cannot trust on that almighty power.

Are not many denominational ministers of today destroying the lives of people? (The late Pastor questioned), while they take people's money but give them nothing in return (in the way of giving them Scriptural advice). I want to say, that when a minister visits a sick person and tells them to get a doctor and trust on man and his medicines, the minister would be guilty of that person's death if they were to die, just as much as if that minister had taken the life of that person. His advice should have been in accordance with the Bible Scriptures, which tell us: "cursed be the man who trusts in man, and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the Lord." (Jere.17)

The minister should tell that person that if they trust in man, they are very likely to die, but if they trust in God they can be made well and healthy. Then if that person would persist in trusting on the 'arm of flesh', the minister would not be responsible for their death if that became the case. However, if the minister has "shunned to declare the whole counsel of God", they could be responsible if that person were to die.

Apostle Paul addressed the Elders of a Church in Asia as he departed from them, and he told them (Acts 20:26-28) "Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

He meant that harm which came to them such as death, spiritual loss, long drawn-out illness, or other troubles, could not be laid to his charge because of any failure on his part to teach the full Truth

of God to them. The apostle also said (vs.20-21) and "how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

Our only hope for Eternity is to be taught and trained by God to the place where we can receive an understanding of the Gospel, which is (and should be) the all-important thing in every person's life. We must be developed in the true Christian life by God Himself, if we ever hope to receive any true know-ledge of God's will for us.)

Sin is a terrible thing; it makes people spiritually deaf, dumb, and blind toward understanding God's Word, so that we will call black, white, . and white, black. However, when we allow God to get us into His training school, we can then begin to see things eye to eye, and we will hear and understand heart to heart, because we have allowed God to be on the inside, and so, will be enabled to see and understand how terrible it is for anyone to preach anything but the 'whole counsel of God'.

We can read Ezekiel 34 to see what God thinks about those shepherds of His flocks who do not teach and declare the 'whole counsel of God'. (vs.2,4,7-10) "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: as I live," says the Lord GOD, "surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock". "Therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep."

For ministers who give false teaching and wrong advice, God will hold them responsible for danger, harm, and loss sustained or taken place among the flock in their care. The reason they have to answer for things, is because they have not declared the 'whole counsel of God' (counsel which would not advise people to trust on man and the 'arm of flesh'). "Cursed be the man who trusts in man, and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the Lord." (Jere.17:5).

We have no Scriptural right to accept one word of advice from any man who is not called of God Himself, trained, and sent by God, and who is not living in the center of God's Will. And who is not teaching straight and full repentance toward God in all things, and faith in Christ Jesus for everything spiritually physically, and financially.

When God sent out Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Elijah, Elisha, and Isaiah in the Old Testament, and Peter, James, John, Paul, etc. in the

New Testament;... from the moment they started to preach they declared the 'whole counsel of God'; they trusted God alone for their spirit, soul, and body, as they lived in God's will and plan for their life. Every shepherd of God's flock today, must be willing to do the same (in a personal life of trust on God, as those God-appointed shepherds of His flock).

When Paul was struck down on a road to Damascus and could not see, he did not go to a hospital to have his eyes treated. If anyone takes sick in the churches of the world today, they would either be sent home and a doctor called for, or be sent to a hospital, instead of a minister and other believers joining in prayer for their healing from God. (That is how far those ministers and their congregations have gotten away from trusting on God alone for healing and other needs).

When the widow's son was attacked with sickness from the devil in the days of Elijah, she had been taught by God through the prophet Elijah, so God enabled her to realize where to go for help; she went to the prophet of God (who prayed for her son to be healed, and God healed the boy in answer to their prayers).

That widow also realized what had caused the boy's illness, for she said, "what have I to do with thee, O thou 'man of God? "Art thou come unto me to 'call my sin to remembrance', and slay my soul?" (She knew (realized) that there was a spiritual cause for the attack on her son, and she had a repentant spirit within her surrendered heart, because she had believed God's spoken Word through the prophet, and so, she enjoyed the privilege of being taught by God Himself). (In the same way, we are to believe the written Word of God, and so allow ourselves to be open to personal teaching and training from God and His promised Holy Spirit, sent to teach us His Way and Plan for our life. (John 16: 13) "But when He has come—the Spirit of Truth—He will guide you into all the truth—and He will make known the future to you."

There is as much difference between the teaching of nominal church ministers of today (compared to the teaching of Elijah's ministry), as is the difference of noonday to midnight.

Apostle Paul was preaching one night at length, and a boy who fell asleep and fell from a third level loft had died from that fall. No doubt Luke (who was referred to as "Luke a physician' before he was converted to true Christianity and became a believer in Christ), (and who traveled with Paul in his ministry) was in attendance that night. The late Pastor recalled that "someone had said to him one time, Dr. Luke always traveled with Paul to attend to his health." "Imagine anyone talking like that who has been in the ministry for thirty years" (he said), (and with Luke having been convicted and converted to true Christianity, and then suffering much adversity along with Paul, in order to spread God's "Gospel Message of Salvation" through faith on our Lord Jesus Christ!] "It is appalling to think that someone like that would have the eternal destiny of people in their hands."

The Bible does not say that anyone in Paul's congregation asked Luke to attend to the boy who had fallen from the loft. Instead, Paul went down to the boy, and they prayed with him, lifted him up, and brought the boy back alive. That is quite a lot different from what

is done today (in the world of un-believers), for they would call for medical help if someone got sick in most denominational churches. They do not give God a chance to help in the case, rather, they go to some specific type of a doctor for help, for they are willing to trust in anything or anyone else, instead of going to God.

There is a vast difference in the ministry of those in the Bible, and that of ministers of today, most of whom do not teach anyone to trust only on God, instead of on the 'arm of flesh' of man. Apostle Paul made that assertion (1 Cor.2:1-5) "And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

That was the main subject of Paul's ministry, who never preached about anything but the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross, and he said that, that was also the one object of his ministry (1 Cor.2:4-5) "And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

His whole object was to bring them to the place where they would trust God for everything in life. That is the object of every man sent out by God, so if you listen to other teaching no matter how sweet the preacher may talk, you must know that you are doing so at your own peril, both temporal and eternal.

The teaching and training of God is to be done by the Holy Spirit; as He is with us all the time, at our side, and can be counted upon as much as God in Person. He is God the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity.

A true 'minister of God' must be an experienced graduate of God's training school, one who has truly learned and proven in his own life, how to meet temptation and overcome the enemy's attacks in every part of his life. One must be saved and kept saved, healed, and kept healed without use of the slightest human help or remedy; also, to have learned that God is more than able to supply for their needs without any reliance on human remedy, plans, and policies of man (financially or otherwise. They must have learned that great lesson of believing and obeying God's Word and trusting Him alone for everything.

These would be the qualifications of a true minister of God (the same as those of Bible times). They are similar to the qualifications needed in human affairs. Would you take someone who has just begun to learn his trade and make him job foreman? Apostle Paul gave some insight, advice, and instruction to Timothy on this issue (2 Tim.2:15) "Earnestly seek to commend yourself to God as a servant who, because of his straightforward dealing (rightly dividing) with the 'word of truth', has no reason to feel any shame.

A workman in God's Vineyard is to be experienced in the Truth, one who knows what the Scriptures mean and where they belong in our daily life circumstances; that is, one who will not misplace the Scriptures, but will 'rightly divide' the Word of Truth; ..and one who will preach a whole Truth concerning righteousness, healing, prophecy, God's financial plan, and is trusting God alone for all their needs.

The average minister of this day will break every rule of interpretation of Scripture (and otherwise) concerning the 'doctrine of divine healing, in order to bolster a false doctrine that 'God does not heal today'. You cannot 'found a 'doctrine' on an inference'. If a passage of Scripture only infers something, you cannot find any doctrine on that inference. All doctrines must be founded on straight-forward positive statements of teaching from God's Word... so how much more should a teaching on divine healing be founded on positive statements, because it is a matter of life or death, as well as that blessing of 'spiritual power', or the loss of it.

We find many people of this day who take an isolated passage which is no more than an inference when it refers to healing, and they found a doctrine to oppose divine healing..

For instance, they try to tell us that Jesus said we should take medicine, because He told the unbelieving Pharisees, publicans, and sinners who had gathered to hear Him speak, (Matt.9:12-13) "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.³ But go and learn what *this* means: 'mercy' and not sacrifice. For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." [He was there because of His mercy for sinners, and to heal 'spiritually.]

That should clearly explain that Jesus (in His analogy) was speaking of the 'spiritual need' of those who would turn to man for healing, instead of turning to God's healing promises. He meant that, that is what those Pharisees were doing, and that is the reason why He went there to teach sinners, because they (sinners and publicans) needed Him (in 'His mercy') to teach all of them spiritually.

Jesus was not giving them any teaching on divine healing, rather, His analogy was simply in regard to the dire spiritual needs of those in His audience. The inference taken from the words of His analogy by many professed Christians (and many other people), is simply a wrong inference inspired by the devil to lead many astray from God's 'divine healing plan' for all who will believe and trust on Him Word and His plan for everyone to follow. The strict and pure teaching of Scripture on 'divine healing', is given for us (James 5:14-16) "Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 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."

[So, anyone who will take those Scripture verses to heart, and who will 'rightly divide' the 'Word of Truth' from God (as apostle Paul said), they will be enabled to realize that, that 'wrong

inference' of the passage given (Matt. 9:12), is directly opposite to true Bible teaching on "divine healing".]

Many denominational ministers preach for the sake of material gain and money, but Bible teaching is given (1 Peter 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' means to preach about the complete death of the '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 appear to us to be a little difficult to follow.

[The Gospel teaching of the First Century (given by Jesus and His apostles and His true followers), may seem to some to be a narrow teaching, but it is the only teaching that can lead us to Eternal Life. And if you were to follow some other denomination teaching 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, that we all must 'die to self'. That is the one and all-inclusive teaching of the 'whole counsel of God'.

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THE FIRST CENTURY GOSPEL CHURCH/PHILADELPHIA

#S329R / SOME MAIN POINTS:

1.. The dangers of denominational ministers giving wrong advice and false doctrine to people (due to their own unbelief), is emphasized. Also (Ezekiel chapter 34 both explains and warns), that they are responsible for giving wrong advice to lead professed Christians away from sincere faith and trust on God.

2.. God is the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the 'Holy Trinity', Who is always there for us to turn to for help,... so there is no reason nor excuse for us to turn our trust to any other person or thing.

3.. There is vast difference in ministries now, than of those in Bible times (as is written in Scriptures), most of whom do not teach anyone to trust only on God, instead, they trust on the 'arm of flesh' of man. The main subject of all of apostle Paul's ministry, is, he said, that he never preached about anything but the work of Jesus Christ, Who was crucified on a Cross for us.

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