

# THE WORKMANSHIP AND TEACHING OF GOD

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God has taken it upon Himself to teach us the things we should know and to make our Christian character what it should be. In Isaiah 54:13-14, we read: *"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee."*

We have the same teaching in Matthew 11:28-30. *"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 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."*

Jesus also told the same in John 16:13-15. *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you."*

Concerning our being God's workmanship, we read in Ephesians 2:10: *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* We have the same teaching in 1st Corinthians 3:9. *"Ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."*

No one but God can do the great work of making the complete revolution in our lives that needs to be done. It is absolutely necessary for us to find out, believe, and obey the entire New Testament and the Old where it pertains to the New. God is the only One who could ever lead and guide us into all the Truths of His Word. He alone could give us the light to understand it and the strength to obey it. That is why there is such a great difference between Christians in the Bible and the so-called professing Christians of today.

God uses every circumstance of life to develop us and to perfect our Christian life and character. It is very encouraging to know that nothing can touch us without His permission. And when it does touch us, it is just the right thing and the right time to teach us the lesson we need to know. We are to see in every circumstance of life an opportunity of learning a most valuable lesson. And by meeting this circumstance as the Scriptures teach, we will get the full benefit of every circumstance of life however small or great.

The Scriptures clearly teach that we are to deal personally with God about every circumstance of life, Philippians 4:6,7, and to make our decisions final to lay aside every human effort and trust Him alone for our deliverance, to take Him at His Word that our prayer is heard and answered, and that we are delivered.

It is of the utmost importance that we get the full benefit of every circumstance of life. The coming of Jesus seems to be very near and whatever preparation for eternal life is made will have to be made quickly.

Bible Christians knew God, had real faith in Him, lived according to His will and Word, were able to pray and get answers for anything they needed and desired, and were always delivered from their sins, sorrows, diseases and troubles of every kind by going to God, dealing with Him personally, settling it to

depend upon Him alone, and accepting His Word as sufficient evidence that their prayers were heard and answered.

The great difference between true Bible Christians and the merely professing Christians of today is that false Christians are taught by man and, therefore, know nothing about God, have no real faith in Him, know nothing about His Word and do not obey even one of its vital Truths.

That is why they do not receive any of the benefits that Jesus died to give us for this present life; which consists of complete deliverance from sin and Satan's power, perfect healing, perfect health, by God's power alone without the slightest human help, perfect peace, perfect victory and everything we need and desire to be perfectly happy. The vast majority of professing Christians have been taught by carnally-minded man. This enables Satan to rob them of everything that Jesus died to give them for this life and also to rob them of every particle of hope for eternal life.

People who are taught by man have these great delusions of Satan: that God has changed and will not do today the things He did in Bible times This is directly opposite to the Bible teaching.

Those that are taught by God believe that He is exactly the same today and has never changed and is no respecter of persons. And anything He ever did for people in Bible times, He will do exactly the same for anyone today who will meet the same easy conditions. Those who are taught by God instead of man clearly see that our only hope of eternal life and the only real preparation for it is to receive under God's teaching and guidance, the things that Jesus died to give us in this present life. That is why Jesus prophesied in the 18th chapter of Luke that "*when the Son of man cometh, will he find faith on the earth.*" He also said conditions would be the same when He came back as in the days of Noah, where only eight persons were saved at the time of the Flood, also as in the days of Lot when only three escaped, when Sodom and Gomorrah were overthrown.

In Romans 8:28,29, we are told that God uses everything that touches us to teach us what we ought to know and make us what we ought to be. He tells us that "*all things work together for good to them that love God.*" This means those who have truly repented, confessed and forsaken their sins and have placed their lives in God's hands to be taught and developed by Him. God uses every circumstance in our life in His teaching and workmanship.

In becoming Scriptural we will have Romans 8:29 fulfilled in us--we will be conformed to the image of Christ Himself, we will love God with all our hearts. We are told this in the 1st epistle of John the 2nd chapter, verses 4,5. "*He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments (Word), is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*"

As a result of God's teaching and workmanship, we will come to the place where we would rather die than do anything but what His Word says and would rather die than trust in anything but Him alone.

Satan would like to make this life of real faith and obedience as a very hard, unattainable place, but this is opposite to the real facts. It is the easiest, most delightful and comfortable place this side of Heaven. It means that instead of trying to do the impossible things ourselves, by using our own efforts and always failing, we turn ourselves and all that we desire done into the hands of God to do for us.

In the Bible people were taught, developed and prepared by God for Christian work. Not one of them ever went to a college to be taught by man as they are today. The vast majority of so-called Christian workers and teachers today have been called by themselves and Satan.. These self-called teachers are the best instruments that Satan could find to hinder people from knowing God and His Word. They and their followers will go to the PIT to be tormented forever; but if there could be any difference in the torment, these self-appointed, demon-controlled teachers will receive the greater punishment. They will have a terrible account to render on that Great Day and will have to answer for every loss and all the damage that has come to those they have taught and deceived.

Jesus faithfully warned us to beware of such people, which means that no true child of God is permitted to listen to anything they say or have any fellowship with them. A true Christian would not want to fellowship with them because there could not be anything in common between a real Christian and these worldly, Satan-controlled and man-taught you-tube teachers, denominations and churches. Paul said he was free from the blood of all men for only one reason, that he had not shunned to declare unto them the whole counsel of God.

The Bible gives us some very valuable and important examples that reveal to us God's workmanship and teaching. One of the valuable things brought out is that the object of God's teaching and training is to bring us to the place where nothing or nobody will ever induce us to trust in anybody but God alone. We are to do this even if it means the risk of our lives. Then His full power can work in making us victorious and happy in everything and best of all, we will, for the first time, be really prepared for eternal life.

Another very valuable thing we will notice in God's workmanship is the way He uses human beings to teach and perfect us. The hard and mean things, the unjust and unfair things, and all the wrong treatment of human beings was one of the greatest factors in the teaching and development of God's people in the Bible and, of course, it is the same today.

The experiences of these Old Testament characters are right up-to-date and the principals involved are in full force today. David must have surrendered his life fully to God in his youth, for he testified that when a lion and bear came to destroy the sheep he was tending, he trusted in God and was able to conquer both of them. When he visited his brothers in the army and found Goliath of Gath defying the entire army of Israel, he was able to depend on God to meet this giant in battle and as a result he conquered him and delivered the army of Israel. God then told Samuel to anoint him as king of Israel in the place of Saul who had repeatedly disobeyed God's Word and gotten under the power and control of Satan.

This caused Saul to use every human and fleshly effort to keep the throne of Israel for himself and his descendants. He began to persecute David and tried in every way possible to capture and kill him. David could not understand why anyone should try to destroy him. But this brings out the point that the more unreasonable and unjust the things are that people do to us, the more valuable they are in perfecting our characters, when met right.

David did not know that it was a spiritual lack in himself, a hidden rebellion, hidden self-help, or a waver, that caused all his trouble, as it causes all of our trouble. While David and his men were hiding in the wilderness from Saul and his army, they came across some shepherds tending a large flock of sheep. David and his men helped the shepherds, protected the sheep without taking any. This would be considered very good from a human standpoint. When the season was over and the shepherds had gone home and sheep-shearing time had come, David sent some of his men to the farmer who owned the sheep, named Nabal, asking him in a very kind and friendly way for some fruits and fresh meats. He reminded Nabal of how they had helped the shepherds in tending and protecting the sheep. Nabal, who had been drinking freely, refused to give anything and sent a very insulting answer to David's request. When David received this reply, he ordered every one of his men to gird on their swords and vowed that he would not leave a live person on that farm.

Nabal's wife having been informed by the servants of what had occurred, warned her that trouble was sure to follow. She immediately started out to meet David and also took a present with her. She explained to David that her husband's name meant "folly" and that folly is with him. She meant that David ought not to pay any attention to the insults of such a fool. Then she added that God was the One to fight David's battles, to right his wrongs and to turn such insults into a real blessing.

God used this woman and what she said to enable David to perfect his surrender. He thanked her heartily and also God for this advice. He said, "Blessed be God that sent you to me this day. If you had

not come, I would have avenged myself by my own hand and shed much innocent blood." David not only met this exposure right but it is very evident that he settled it finally and forever never to use a human effort again however easy it might be and however hard the place was he might be in. He had a chance to prove this surrender.

Shortly after this, Saul with three thousand chosen men came where David was hiding in the wilderness and David with one of his strong men, Abishai, went down by night and found Saul and his army fast asleep. They came to the place where Saul lay with his spear in the ground at his head. Then Abishai said to David, "*God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.*"

This must have been a severe temptation to David. All he would have to do was to say the word and all that stood between him and the things he desired would be out of the way. This would have been a most easy, human way of deliverance and yet it would have been depending on himself, would have been avenging himself, and doing opposite to what he had settled to do when Abigail met him. However, his surrender must have been final, for God's grace was fully sufficient. He utterly refused to permit Abishai to touch him. This, of course, made his surrender to depend on God alone for all his help, final and complete.

The results were perfect as they always are. The very moment our decision is final to go according to God's will and Word, His full power can work in delivering us out of any trouble we are in, grant our every desire and give us the grace to receive it.

Saul was never able to raise a finger to harm or hinder David after this. The result of Saul's fleshly efforts were serious. He committed suicide on Mount Gilboa and went to the Lake of Fire forever.

It was just opposite with David who had settled it to trust in the living God alone. God soon placed him on the throne of Israel and made him prosperous and victorious. The things that happened to him and were used of God to perfect him are the same as God has always used to perfect His true people.



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