

TAUGHT OF GOD

JOHN 6:44-45 • TV156B

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By
HENRY T. MAHAN

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John 6:44-45

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 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.”

Let’s turn in our Bible today to the **Book of John**. I’m going to read a passage of Scripture found in **John Chapter 6; the verses are 44 and 45**.

My subject this morning is: **“TAUGHT OF GOD.”**

Our Lord said in **John 6:44**; *“No man can come to me, (coming to Christ, believing on Christ, receiving Christ, trusting Christ, obeying Christ, are all the same thing): “No man can come to me (by faith in salvation) except the Father, (certainly not excluding the Holy Spirit nor the Son), except the Father which sent me draw him.”*

“And I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, (it is written in the Old Testament Scriptures): And they shall all be taught of God. Every man, therefore, that hath heard and learned of the Father cometh unto me.”

Do you see how important is my subject today? It is the very foundation of coming to Christ; it is the very cause of coming to Christ. *“They shall be all taught of God and every man that hath*

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learned of the Father, (that has been taught of God, that hath heard the voice of God), will come to me."

Now, my friends, religion is as much a part of man's nature as any other emotion. All men wherever you find men, all men are religious to some degree. Where you find men you will find religion. It doesn't matter where you go, some form of religion will be there.

Men by nature do not know God. They by nature do not love the true and living God. They do not by nature worship the true and living God, but they are religious.

Do you remember the woman at the well? When our Lord spoke to this woman she began to talk about her religion. She said, "*Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.*"

This woman was a very religious woman, but not saved, she didn't know God, and didn't have a living union with God at all. She didn't have a life or a testimony of any sort but she was very religious, as most people are today.

She began to talk to the Lord Jesus Christ about her religion and he said; "*you worship but you don't know what you worship.*"

It says in **2nd Timothy 3:5** "*that they have a form of godliness.*" That's the ceremony, the ritual, the tradition, and the customs of religion. We have that today on every hand. We have a form of religion.

It takes different forms and different traditions and different ceremonies all over this country and all over the world every Sunday morning or every Saturday or Sabbath Day. People go through the motions of religion, the form of religion, but "*they have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof.*"

The difference in this religion of which man has by nature, which is as common to him as any other emotion; it is as common as fear, hate, love, jealousy, hunger or thirst, or anything else. He has to have something to worship; he has to have some form of worship.

He has to have a God, a supreme being. He has to have some kind of refuge, some kind of hope when he dies, some kind of hope of living forever.

This natural religion is not based on the Word; it is not based on a revelation of God, it is based on human logic, human understanding, and human reason. It is not based on divine revelation at all. He doesn't go to the Scripture; he goes to his thoughts.

You hear them all the time; "well, this is the way I see it" or "I think this or I believe this or our church believes this." All the time, the Lord God is saying "*My thoughts are not your thoughts and my ways are not your ways: As the heavens are high above the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*"

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All the time God is saying; *“There is a way that seems right to men and the end is death, (destruction, and damnation). The preaching of the cross of substitution is “foolishness to them that perish.”* It is sheer nonsense.

God says, *“The natural man, receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God.”* He will receive the things of man. Christ said, *“Let another come in his own name, (with his own religion and his own theology, and his own custom and tradition); him you will receive.”*

“I come in my Father’s name and you receive me not.” That’s man’s natural religion; it is based on his logic. It is based on his own, natural, understanding.

They say, *“Well; I believe this or I think this, or I see it this way.”* All the time God is saying, *“Can you by searching find out God? Why, it is higher than the heavens; what can you know?”*

“It is deeper than hell; what can you know (imagine or find out)? It is broader than the sea; what can you know? His ways are past finding out.”

Our Lord charges that group of religionists in **John Chapter 5** with four things:

First of all: He said, *“You will not come to me that you might have life.”* You are busy searching the Scriptures *“for in them you think that you have life.”* You are twisting them; you are twisting the Scriptures to your own destruction. You have your thoughts and minds already made up and then you come to the Scriptures to prove it. *“You will not come to me that you may have life; the scriptures testify of me.”*

Then, the Lord charges them with this; *“I know you, that you have not the love of God in you.”* You don’t have a love for God or for His glory or for His honor: For you seek not the honor that comes from God; you seek the honor that comes from men. You love the uppermost seats in the synagogue.

You love to hear yourself called “Rabbi, Master, Doctor, Reverend, Teacher, Deacon, or some other name.” A title; you love titles; you love the praise of men; you love the recognition of men.

When you say your prayers you pray to be seen of men. When you give your gifts you give to be seen of men; when you fast you fast so everybody will know that you are holy, pious and religious.

You put on a long face and somebody says, “What is your problem?” You say, “I’m fasting this week.” *“You do it to be seen of men; you seek not the honor that comes from God but the honor that comes from men.”*

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He says, “You believe not my Word.” Now; that lays the foundation for this message. Expect religion; everybody is religious to some degree, some to a greater extent than others but everybody’s religious.

This religion is not based upon divine revelation. It is not based on the Holy Spirit’s teaching. It’s not based on God Almighty’s teaching; it is based on “I think, I thought, I believe and this is the way I see it,” human reason, human logic and human understanding.

In the text right here before us, when our Lord said, *“No man can come to me except my Father which sent me draw him, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets; they shall be all taught of God: Every man that hath heard and learned of the Father cometh to me.”*

What brought this on? Well, I will tell you. In **John 6** our Lord presented Himself. He presented Himself as *“the bread of life.”*

In other words; life is in Christ; it is in a living union with Christ. It is in a vital union with the Son of God. It is by feeding on Christ by faith. *“It’s Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

Christ is our life. Our life is not in laws or doctrines or theology. Our life is not in church membership, morality, or good deeds. Our life is not in ceremonies, ritualism, or legalism. Our life is not in going through the motions of religion. Our life is Christ, a person.

He presented Himself as the *“bread of life”* to the souls of men. “Feed on me; trust in me; look to me; believe on me; build upon me; find in me your life, hope, and refuge in all things, strength, and everything.”

And against this truth, when He said; *“I am the bread of life. Moses gave you not that bread from heaven. You ate that bread in the wilderness and died: He that eateth of me, my flesh, and my blood, liveth forever.”*

To that they cried, *“How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”* Do you see this human reasoning? Do you see these human thoughts? Do you see, “I think, I believe, this is the way? I don’t understand that.”

“How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Why, is not this Jesus; is not this a man; is not this the carpenter? We know his mother and we know his father and we know his brothers and his sisters.”

Against His mysterious, spiritual teaching, of the life of God in the soul, of a living, vital, union, with the Son of God, by faith, against this message of substitution, of satisfaction, of regeneration, of the new birth, of the mysteries of the Gospel, they set their thoughts and their logic and they said, *“We don’t understand that. This is a hard saying; who can believe it?”*

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“We understand the ceremony. We understand the law. We understand the dos and don’ts. We understand the walking the aisle, shaking the hand, and turning over a new leaf. We understand the baptisms. We understand the sacraments.”

“We understand all of these things but we don’t understand what you are saying.” That’s when Christ strikes at the root of their whole problem, ignorance, spiritual ignorance, and spiritual blindness.

He said, *“You reject me and my words because you don’t know me. You don’t know me because you haven’t been taught of God. No man can come to me except my Father which sent me draw him and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

“It’s written in in your prophets (in your law); they shall all be taught of God and every man that hath heard and learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”

There are two things set forth in that text, two very positive truths, and two undeniable, unfailing truths:

First of all: No man will come to Christ in saving faith, in living faith, in vital union, unless he comes having been taught of God, having learned of God.

“The world by wisdom does not know God.” The world by natural wisdom knows their gods, their ideas of God, their thoughts of God. They bow down to their graven images, their idols, and conception of God Almighty, but they do not know God unless God reveals Himself.

The princes of this world knew not who Christ was or they wouldn’t have crucified Him. *“Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath it entered the heart of man, the things that God has prepared for them that love him.”*

But, *“He hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit. The natural man receiveth not the things of God.”* He will receive anything else. You can tell him to eat certain things on a certain day; go to certain places on a certain day. Bow, sit, stand, lie prostrate, burn candles, wear robes, confess his sin, count beads, and tell him to do anything and he will do it.

To receive Christ, to rest in Christ, believe on Christ and to come to Christ, a person has to be taught of God. But left to himself he doesn’t know who Christ is. Christ said, “You don’t believe me because you don’t know who I am. You don’t know who I am because you haven’t been taught of God.” That’s the first truth He sets forth; *“you must be taught of God.”*

Secondly: *“Everyone that hath heard and learned of the Father will come unto me.”*

God won’t fail; He can’t fail. Our Lord said, *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me,*

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that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.”

There are four questions that I want to ask today on this subject: **“Taught of God.”** I believe that I have established from the Scriptures clearly, that no man will come savingly and believingly to Jesus Christ unless God draws Him by His Spirit and teaches him.

First of all: How does God teach me?

Secondly: What truths does He teach?

Thirdly: How can I know if it is God who is teaching me and not some man? How do I know it is God’s voice that I am hearing and not the voice of some man?

Fourthly: Why is it impossible for men to come to Christ apart from divine teaching? Why must I be taught of God?

Let’s take these one at a time and see if by God’s spirit we can make good on all of them or at least some of them:

First of all: How does God teach men?

Our Lord said, *“You must be taught of God. No man will come to me except he is taught of God, hath learned of the father:”* If he is taught, if he is an object of God’s work of grace, he will come, he will come and *“I won’t cast him out.”*

How does God teach men? Threefold:

First of all: He teaches men by his Word! The Scripture says; *“These things are written that you may believe on the Son of God and believing you might have life through his name.”* That is why God wrote the Scriptures.

The Bible is a book of redemption. It is not a book of etiquette. It’s not just a book of law; it is not a book of history; it is a book of redemption; it is about Christ.

Christ is the Bible from **Genesis 3:15 to Revelation 22:** *“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”* Isaiah wrote *“If they speak not according to the word it is because there is no light in them.”*

A man who does not preach the Word is a false preacher. He is a man in whom there is nothing but darkness. He does not have any spiritual light if he does not preach the Word.

That’s the advice that Paul gave young Timothy. He said, *“preach the word. Be instant in season and out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.”* *“For all Scripture is given by inspiration of God (it is God breathed) and it is profitable to all men for*

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doctrine, for reproof, for correction, instruction in righteousness.” James said, “Of his own will begat he us through the word of truth.”

If you hear from God it will be by His Word, not by a dream and not by a vision; it will be by God’s Word. God said, in **Isaiah 55**; *“my word will not return unto me void, it shall accomplish that which I please, it shall prosper in the thing where to I sent it.”* It won’t fail; God’s Word shall not fail. So, God teaches men by his Word.

Secondly: He teaches by His ministers! That’s right! He said; *“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, but how shall they call on him in whom they have not believed and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard and how shall they hear without a preacher?”*

Our Lord sent Phillip to the Eunuch. The Eunuch was reading the Scriptures in his chariot traveling from Jerusalem to Ethiopia and God sent him a minister.

God sent Peter to Cornelius. Cornelius was a devout man, a praying man, an anxious man. God sent Peter. Why did he send Peter down there? He sent him to preach the Gospel to them.

Even Saul of Tarsus who was ordained and anointed himself to be a prophet of God, a preacher of the Gospel, a minister of the Word of God; when God appeared to him on the Damascus road, he sent Ananias to Saul to preach to him the Gospel.

So, God will send you a preacher. God teaches men by His ministers. *“When our Lord ascended up on high he gave some prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.”*

Thirdly: He teaches His men by His Spirit! In **John 16:8** it says, *“And when he is come (our Lord is speaking of the Holy Spirit) and when he is come he will convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.”*

Our Lord said to his own disciples: *“I’ve got many things to say to you but you are not able to bear them just yet. But, when he the Spirit of truth is come, he shall glorify me. He will take the things of mine and show them to you. He shall not speak of himself. He is not going to glorify himself. He is going to glorify me and take the things of mine.”*

What are the things of Christ? They are His person, His incarnation, His life, His teachings, His death, His resurrection, His redemption, His ascension, and His return.

How does God teach men? He teaches them by His Word, His ministers, and by His Spirit.

Here’s the second question: “What does God teach those whom He calls?”

There is so much here. I could take the whole time today and talk about what God teaches us. Let me see if I can sum it up briefly in four or five things:

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First of all: God teaches us His glory, majesty, might, sovereignty, and power. But, God also teaches us the great evil of our natures and our conduct!

I know that most everybody has a general idea or notion of sin. Those who are taught of God have heart knowledge of the exceeding sinfulness of their own sins. That is what Isaiah said when he saw the Lord, he said; *“woe is me; for I am undone, I am a man of unclean lips.”*

That is what Job said when he saw the Lord. He said, *“Lord; I have heard of you, now mine eyes seeth thee, wherefore, I hate myself. I repent in sackcloth and ashes.”*

That is what Paul said, *“I had not known sin except the law said; thou shalt not covet.”* Then, sin became a reality. Whose sin, the world’s sin? No sir, my sin; *“O wretched man that I am.”*

God teaches us the sinfulness of our nature, the sinfulness of our attitude and spirit and imagination, the sinfulness of our deeds, the sins of omission and commission, revealed sin, secret sins, and all kind of sin.

We are flesh; that which is flesh cannot please God; *“in the flesh dwelleth no good thing. Man at his best state is altogether vanity.”* That is what God teaches us.

We mourn over our sin, which is our nature. We mourn over our sins, which is our conduct. We mourn over our righteousness, which is full of sin too.

Then, God teaches us His holiness. Watch this and listen to me and remember this and think about it: Men are convinced of sin in direct proportion to their understanding of the holiness of God.

Now, your idea of sin; I’m going to scare you a little bit here and upset you maybe. Do you know the reason you have a small idea of conception of sin and a small fear of sin and a small grief over sin? It’s because you have a small God. Your God is not very holy. Your God is not very righteous.

The more holy, righteous, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and almighty is your God, the more awesome is the glory of your God, the more wickedness you see in yourself, the brighter the light the clearer the vision. Now, that’s exactly right!

The brighter the holiness of God shines upon your heart and soul the more you tremble and mourn over your sins; the more sins you see.

The dimmer the light the happier you can be with your smirk, smut, dirt, and filth. You can live in it when you can’t see it. Men do not fear what they do not see.

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Boy, I will tell you; when we see the holiness and righteousness of the omnipotent God, the awesomeness of His holiness, the glory of His blessed name, we can say with David, *“when thou O Lord shouldst mark iniquity, O Lord, who shall stand?”*

Thirdly: He teaches us that forgiveness of sin and deliverance from the curse of the law is the most important business in the world.

That’s exactly right! When you begin to see your sinfulness, the certainty of death, the certainty of eternity, the certainty of God’s judgment and God’s holiness, then you begin to pant after God’s righteousness and a right relationship with Him.

Our Lord said, *“What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?”* Well, there are a lot of people who would like to have the whole world because they don’t know the value of the soul. They would gladly make that exchange.

But, our Lord said; *“You shall seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.”* When salvation becomes uppermost to you, when salvation and a right relationship with God becomes the one thing that you want above all things, that’s when you will find it and you will find it in Christ. *“The fashion of this world fadeth away.”* Lord, *“teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.”*

Fourthly: Then, he teaches us that the works of religion and the deeds of the flesh cannot save the soul. Our Lord condemned the most religious, moral, people of His day to which His disciples replied; *“who then, can be saved?”* He said, *“With men it is impossible.”*

So, forget it! If you are trying to work your way to heaven, forget it! If you are trying to establish a righteousness with which God will be pleased and one He will accept, forget it! If you are trying to be good enough to go to heaven when you die, forget it!

If you are trying to find your way into God’s presence by your own efforts, forget it; it is impossible. God said, *“With men it is impossible.”*

Who can be saved? *“With men it is impossible but with God all things are possible. If God can be for you, who can be against you?”* If God justifies you, who can bring anything to your charge; if Christ died for you, who can condemn you?

“By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified,” religious or otherwise. *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy he saves us.”*

God teaches us the sufficiency of Christ, the sufficiency of Christ to save. This is the message of the whole Bible; *“Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”*

He is able and He is sufficient. *“He is able to save to the uttermost them that come to God by him,”* and nobody else!

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Paul said, *“I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded he is able to keep that which I have committed to him.”* Jude said, *“Now, unto him, that is able to keep you from falling.”*

How is Christ so able to save so many of so much? It’s because of who He is; He is God, the God-man, perfect God and perfect man.

He is our eternal Surety and eternal Saviour because of what He did. He gave Himself and He bore our sins in His own body. *“He was wounded for our transgressions”* because of where He is now, at the right hand of God.

Because we have a such a great High Priest, we have, *“boldness to come into the very presence of God by a new and living way”* He is not a human down here on this earth with as much sin as we have or more; He is Christ the Lord *“who knew no sin.”*

Third; how do I know that it is God teaching me? How can I know that God speaks to me and not just some religious nut or fanatic or radical or preacher or covetous prophet?

First of all: It’s not easy to answer and I’m not saying it is; *“Try the spirits.”*

God teaches powerfully. God doesn’t just teach the ear and the mind and the intellect; God hits the heart. Paul said; *“I know your election of God because our gospel didn’t come to you in word only (to argue and debate), it came to you in power, in the Holy Ghost, and much assurance.”*

Do you see what I am saying? *“You became followers of the Lord; you turned to God from your idols.”* God teaches men powerfully. He touches the heart. He convinces the heart. God breaks the heart. He does what no man can do.

Secondly: God teaches sweetly and satisfies! *“His mouth (words) is sweet to my taste.”* That is what the **Song of Solomon** says.

His Word meets my need. His Word speaks peace to my heart. He said to His disciples; *“Will you go away?”* They said, *“To whom? You have the words of eternal life.”* That’s how you can tell if it is God who is teaching you; He has the words of life.

His words are not just empty, hollow, religious mumbo-jumbo and nonsense; His Word is the word of life and you will recognize it as being the word of life. You know the difference, you are not dumb.

God teaches men plainly, *“not with enticing words of man’s wisdom,”* not with vain tradition and philosophy, not with entertaining music, not with ceremonialism; God teaches men plainly in words that they can understand.

They may not believe them, they may not like them, and they may not receive them, but they know that is God that speaks.

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They came back after hearing Jesus Christ and they said, “*He doesn’t talk like you fellows, (you Scribes and Pharisees); he speaks with authority.*”

“He tells you who God is in no uncertain terms. He tells you what man is, low, depraved, wretched, in no uncertain terms. He tells you who Christ is, God Almighty in human flesh, the only Saviour. He tells you what salvation is.”

God’s teachings changes men. Men who are taught of God can never be the same; they will come to Christ. He 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.*”

Everybody that has heard and everybody that is taught of God will come to the Lord Jesus Christ for all salvation!