

# Taught Of the Lord

*Book of Isaiah*

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**Bible Text:** Isaiah 54:13-14

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I would like to have you turn with me in your Bibles to Isaiah chapter 54 and my text is going to be in verses 13 and 14. When I first started the preparation I thought perhaps being able to get to the end of the chapter, but it was not to be. And so our focus will be here in verses 13 and 14. And I want to speak with you about what it is to be taught of the Lord.

Here in Isaiah 54:13 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.<sup>1</sup>

Now when we read all thy children shall be taught of the Lord we know that this is not being addressed to all of natural Israel. We know in reading particularly in the New Testament Paul in writing about this in Romans nine declared that not all they that are of Israel are of Israel, but there is a seed according to the promise and that is really who is addressed here when it says all thy children shall be taught of the Lord.

There is a system of theology that believes that if the parents are the Lord's, then the Lord has automatically made a covenant with those children and what needs to be done then is for the parents by faith to look to the Lord for the children. And that system of theology teaches that the way to do that is to get the children sprinkled, get them sprinkled and into the covenant and therefore the promises of the parents will be to the children.

There couldn't be a greater lie than that, especially when you consider in the Scriptures it says not by flesh nor by blood, but by the will of God. That is how any are made to be the children of God. It is according to his grace and purpose. And we know that you could have two children coming from the same womb—as did Rebecca—and yet it says:

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<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 54:13-14.

“Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.”<sup>2</sup>

Both were twins. Both born of the same woman, but that the election of grace according to God’s purpose should stand, it was said to the one that the elder would serve the younger. We cannot question God’s way. We cannot question his purpose. We dare not. It is what it is. He has determined those that should be his children.

And let’s even go a step further and be careful in thinking that just because someone attends a congregation and has, perhaps, been a member there for years where the gospel is faithfully preaching that all who attend then are God’s children. That is also a lie. Just as there was natural Israel, so there is a natural congregation that meets. It could be Shreveport Grace Church. It could be any number of churches that meet across the United States where the gospel of God’s grace, free grace is preached and where Christ is truly set forth as the Savior and as the representative of that people that God has chosen. It could be a place where every Sunday the Is are dotted and the Ts crossed as far as doctrine is concerned. And yet a person be lost. They hear with physical ears. They give assent with their mind and I fear that many times that is what people consider to be a Christian, someone that gives assent to the truth and yet lost. They are not taught of the Lord. Their heart has never been opened to see their desperate need of Christ and to cry unto him.

I run into many that like to say and that even this week in one of these blogs there were a few saying that they were saved under false preaching, but came into the doctrines of grace. And when I responded to that and said that that is not how the Lord teaches, it is not just going from one doctrine to another. There is a true converting of the soul, an acknowledging that all of this was false, that I was lost and the turning of that heart to Christ. Otherwise one has not been taught of the Lord. I know that by my own experience. The Lord had to teach me. You cannot take new wine and put it into old wine skins. There is not a patching together. When you do, you come up with a philosophy of truth or maybe a system of truth, but there is no life in philosophy. There is no life in a system. Life is in Christ. It has to do with Christ himself revealing himself in the heart of one of his own and causing them just like blind Bartimaeus who was caused to see and cry out for mercy. Such is the work of the Lord.

So that being stated, when it says here:

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD.”<sup>3</sup>

Such is the Lord’s work for his own, those that he has redeemed and those are all that the Father gave him. The Father has accepted on their behalf the full payment that Christ has rendered and now it is the Spirit’s work to bring all those that the Father gave him and all those for whom he died.

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<sup>2</sup> Romans 9:13.

<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 54:13.

That is why I appreciate so much the reading brother Bob read in John six. We are going to come back to that here in a little bit, but that is what it is about. There were many that were following Christ physically. But why did they follow him? Well, seeing the miracles that he did. They were impressed, even amazed and yet that is not salvation.

Do you realize that you could believe that Jesus is God and that he came as a man to this earth and that he lived a perfect life and he died a sacrificial death and that he rose again and ascended on high and still not believe any more than the devil believes? James said that. You say you believe in God? Even the devils believe and tremble.

So what is it to be taught of the Lord? Well, we have seen here, first of all, in verse 13, who are those who are taught of the Lord. It says:

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD.”<sup>4</sup>

No difference is made. And even though now one may be one that has been chosen of God and Christ has paid their sin debt, yet they still might be lost. And you look at them as a reprobate because they are hardened. They are in unbelief and they have no interest in Christ. And you look at them and say, “If there is ever a reprobate, that was one.”

Well, now wait a minute. How were you born in this world if you are the Lord’s? If you say now, “I have been taught of the Lord,” were you not also born in unbelief. Were you not also born in darkness and in rebellion against Christ?

You say, “Well, I don't believe I was that rebellious.”

Well, then you haven't seen your true estate, because all it takes is, like the Scriptures say:

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way.”<sup>5</sup>

Have you never turned to your own way? That is rebellion. And worse yet is to confide in your own goodness. There is no greater rebellion. When the Scriptures state that you are a depraved, rebellious sinner worthy of condemnation and you say, “No, I am not.” Therein you manifest your rebellion.

And so what it took was the Lord showing you that. It took the Lord by his Spirit to show you of what nature you are and bringing you to bow. And that is what the Scripture is saying.

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD.”<sup>6</sup>

There is not going to be one that the Lord is going to lose that the Father has given him

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<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 54:13.

<sup>5</sup> Isaiah 53:6.

<sup>6</sup> Isaiah 54:13.

and for whom he has paid the debt. He will bring every one of them. And yet when the Spirit brings him, you won't have to put the words in their mouth. This is one of the problems that I have with baptismal classes and catechisms. You know, someone shows a little bit of interest. Maybe they are... maybe it is the Spirit beginning to work. But what do you want to do? Well, let's get you into a class and let's see if we can't just teach you the right thing to say here. And when you have learned to say it right, we will go through maybe about six weeks of class here. Then we are going to let you get up in front of everybody and say what you have been taught and everybody will be smiling and then we will go and baptize you. That is the way religion does it, but that is not the way of the Spirit.

I truly believe that when the Spirit begins a work in the sinner's heart, the Spirit teaches that one of Christ and teaches that one of his desperate need of Christ and gives him that cry unto Christ. And when he does you are going to know it because it is going to be exactly as the Lord taught you in your need if you are the Lord's. I just... I know that to be so.

Notice. It is not being taught of men. It says here:

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD.”<sup>7</sup>

Don't you suppose the Lord can take care of his own where we don't have to get our fingers in the mix and be trying to put words in people's mouth to get them to agree? To me that is one of my greatest concerns about false profession even among those where the gospel is preached, that they have learned what to say and how to say it from maybe not just the preacher, but people around them, because as soon as they say something a little bit wrong someone is jumping all over them. I have been in congregations like that. No, no, no. You can't say it. Here is how you are supposed to say it. Oh, ok.

So they learn like Polly parrot to repeat salvation is of the Lord, to repeat, oh, yeah, we are depraved, to repeat, oh, yeah, Christ died a particular death for his people. And they can recite it, but they are like dead men walking. There has never been in their heart a work of grace. And what a blindness. But I know this, that if they are the Lord's, the Lord won't leave them there. That is the blessing. I know that from my own experience, because I learned to say the right things. In fact, I still have some notebooks from my preaching back in the days when I learned the doctrines of grace and you could go back possibly and look at those notes and say, well, what was wrong with that? It wasn't of Christ. That is what is wrong. You can shape it. You can whittle it. You can define it. you can organize it. You can outline it and stand up and preach it, but unless Christ has been revealed in you, then you are just as lost as that person out there that has never heard.

“And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD.”<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

That is the promise that we have here. But now let's look at this. What is it to be taught of the Lord? There is none that teaches like the Lord. And herein we need not to be in a hurry when we see some people that get a little bit excited about some truth. One of the best things you can tell them to do is just sit down and keep listening. You know, Ezekiel wrote of that, that there was a rallying of the bones. And yet no life in it. Let's don't just get all excited with somebody just because there is a few rattling of the bones. I have seen many that get excited over a little bit of a doctrine and then the next thing you know they are running over another doctrine, running out the door. If it is not one thing, it is another. You know, they are like a ship tossed to and fro. But what is it to be taught of the Lord?

Well, I believe, first of all, what we have here is a promise of the means of instruction that the Lord uses. It is not in a vacuum. It is not in a vapor that the Lord teaches. When it says they shall be taught of the Lord, it means they will be taught of his Word. How important and vital is the Word of God that you hold in your hand right now? It is everything. In fact, it is more important than men's commentaries about the Word.

This week in one of these blogs someone was contending with me because he said that my view of justification and salvation was different than some of the commentators he has been reading. And I said, "Well, let's don't argue commentators. Let's take this Word and see what the Word has to say. It is the Word of the Lord that converts the soul." And I am as mindful of that even now standing here preaching, that these thoughts that the Lord is causing me to speak to you come from this Word. But if you are to hear the Lord and be taught of him, it must be his Word. It must be him that you hear.

Now does God use human means and instrument? Absolutely. If you look over in Romans chapter 10, you know, there are some that carry this so far as to say it doesn't matter whether the gospel is preached. Well, that contradicts the Scriptures. It does matter. This is the means that God has ordained to cause his people to be taught. In Romans chapter 10 beginning with verse 11 we will start there.

"For the scripture saith..."<sup>9</sup>

Look how even Paul whose word is inspired of the Lord still refers back to Scripture.

"For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."<sup>10</sup>

It is just like this matter of faith. Is faith necessary to one who has been taught of the Lord? Yes, faith is the evidence that one has been taught of the Lord. But faith is a fruit. It is not the root. There are some that get off track there. They will preach up man's faith as having something to do with either gaining or maintaining salvation. No. It is the evidence that one has been taught of the Lord. And it says here, verse 12:

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<sup>9</sup> Romans 10:11.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

“For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.”<sup>11</sup>

Now I will encourage you if you will take the time to study the word “call upon the Lord” through the Scriptures it is not a reference to this little simplistic sinner’s prayer that, again, so-called evangelists put in people’s mouths. If you will just call upon the Lord in this way and say this prayer, the sinner’s prayer, then you will be saved. That is not what it means. The word literally means to worship him.

“...the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him [in truth].”<sup>12</sup>

That worship him in truth, that come to him even as Abel came through the blood sacrifice alone. And it says there:

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord...”<sup>13</sup>

Whosoever that worships the Lord in the way that he has set forth, shall be saved. He will be saved because he has been saved. When the Lord does the saving there is no going back. He has been saved, he is being saved and he shall be saved.

But here in verse 14:

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?”<sup>14</sup>

If we know that there is only one way of worship then how is it that one will be brought to worship God in this way when they have not believed?

“...and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?”<sup>15</sup>

Now this is where some that I have run into even in this area say, “Well, it doesn't matter. Leave them alone. If they are the Lord’s they will wake up in heaven one day.”

Well, that is not how Paul is reasoning.

“...how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”<sup>16</sup>

And here when it is talking about hearing it is not merely with physical ears. There are many who hear one of God’s preachers and yet are still just as lost as one who has not

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<sup>11</sup> Romans 10:12.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Romans 10:13.

<sup>14</sup> Romans 10:14.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

heard. It is as if they had not heard. Their ears are stopped by their own depravity and sin until the Spirit of God is pleased to open the heart.

And verse 15.

“And how shall they preach, except they be sent?”<sup>17</sup>

And notice here again Paul is quoting Scripture, this taken from Isaiah 52:7.

“...as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”<sup>18</sup>

I am happy to stand here and tell you today that if there are any of God’s sheep, wherever they may be in this world, no matter how remote or how far away they are, if they are the Lord’s and the Lord has chosen them and Christ has paid their debt he will cause that Word to be sent to them or he will so ordain that they be moved to come to be able to hear this Word of salvation and thereby be taught of him. That is how he has purposed it. And if you are the Lord’s and been taught of him, you can testify to that right there. Had God left me where I was, I would have been lost forever. But he caused the Word to be brought not only to my ears, but brought home to my heart. And this is how he has purposed that this Word be transmitted from generation to generation. If I didn’t believe that, I wouldn’t even be standing here today. I would just have everybody go home. You know, God saves whom he wills. If he is going to save you, he is going to save you. That is how some reason in the hardness of their hearts, but that is not how God has purposed. He has always in every generation raised up a witness to testify to his Son and to his glory. All the way back to Noah. Noah was called a preacher of righteousness, not his own, but in building that ark he was laying down a clear demonstration of how it is that God saves sinners.

We all deserve to perish with the world. But if we haven’t, it is because there is a Savior who has borne that punishment, that debt, just like the ark. Noah and all his family went through the same judgment as the world went through. You say, “Why were they saved?” Well, the ark bore it. The waters came upon the ark and they were safe.

You know, if we have not already been through the judgment, that is in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, there awaits an eternal condemnation for the world. So to be taught of the Lord is to see that our salvation is in him.

But, secondly, when it says here to be taught of the Lord, what is it to be taught of the Lord, it is a promise of the work of the Spirit. I know I got some people upset when I told them one time that this book, in the sense of ink and paper is nothing but a dead book. The proof is the Pharisees transcribed this Old Testament with great detail. They counted every letter, every jot and tittle to make sure that nothing was left out. And that is why the Lord said to them:

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<sup>17</sup> Romans 10:15.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life.”<sup>19</sup>

In other words, they were proud of what they knew of the Scriptures and yet one thing was missing.

“...they are they which testify of me.”<sup>20</sup>

You know, you can run into people that can quote the Scriptures right and left without even looking. They have been raised under that sort of teaching. And yet they are just as lost as a pagan idolatrous person that lives in another country where the gospel has never been heard. You know, it is not this Word and how we memorize it, but it is the Spirit of God taking this Word and bringing it home to our hearts.

Brother Bob read that in John chapter six. I would like to go back there and just underscore a few things as he read it that the Lord brought home, but in John six and verse 45 is a direct quote by John, the Spirit directing him of this portion that we are reading in Isaiah 54. Notice that he says:

“It is written in the prophets...”<sup>21</sup>

The thing that I love about the Scriptures is that they are their own best interpreter. We would do well to search the Scriptures. And he says:

“And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”<sup>22</sup>

So what is it to be taught of the Lord? Well, it says right here these three things. First, that has heard. Now, again, that hearing is not merely with the physical ear. But it is the ear of faith which the Spirit gives. I could stand up here all day and if you were all deaf physically and we have seen deaf people that the problem isn't with the physical faculties. They have got ears. It is just like a blind person has physical eyes and yet can't see, has physical ears, but can't hear. It takes the work of the Spirit to give that hearing. And notice that is what is put first here.

“Every man therefore that hath heard.”<sup>23</sup>

You will never learn of the Father until the Spirit gives you a hearing. That is the Spirit's work to do. But then the second thing, quality of being taught of the Lord here is that you will have learned of the Father. In other words, to know God in truth but when it says

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<sup>19</sup> John 5:39.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> John 6:45.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.



learned of the Father that is not just a generalization of, well, learning of him as the creator he is or as the sovereign he is, but notice the word.

“... of the Father.”<sup>24</sup>

Here is one of relationship that one who has heard as a sinner then begins to learn of how God can be a Father in the relationship of a child to a father to that one. That is not for everybody. I know it is preached. People like to talk about the fatherhood of God as if he is everybody’s father and in a saving way. No. When you talk about having learned of the Father it is in the Spirit showing you that as a sinner you in no way deserve to be called a child of God and yet if you are, it is because he purposed as a Father, he purposed that you be his child and he ordained by that by means of adoption that you be brought into his family.

Remember, that is what Paul wrote about that he gives his Spirit in Galatians chapter four.

“...whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”<sup>25</sup>

It is that Spirit that takes the sinner and draws that sinner to him as the Father. But notice. It is not detached from the third quality here. What does it say?

“...cometh unto me.”<sup>26</sup>

Christ said that.

“...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”<sup>27</sup>

And it doesn't mean just simply by his approval. It says:

“no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”<sup>28</sup>

In other words, the only way that we can have acceptance before the Father is for the Father to draw us to himself by his Son, in his Son. It is in him that we have all spiritual blessings in heavenly places by his Son, by his death, by that righteous obedience that he worked out for his own. And this is what the Spirit teaches.

You notice just before verse 45 it says in verse 44:

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.”<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Romans 8:15.

<sup>26</sup> John 6:45.

<sup>27</sup> John 14:6.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> John 6:44.

Well, how is he drawn? Well, it is through the Spirit. It is the work of the Spirit.

“...and I will raise him up at the last day.”<sup>30</sup>

Over in 2 Timothy I believe this one portion summarizes what it is to be taught of the Lord in his Word, but also the Spirit being the one who brings that Word alive and brings it home to the heart of the sinner in 2 Timothy chapter three and verses 14 through 16. Look at it with me and then we will have to draw a line here for today. In 2 Timothy chapter three you can see how Paul encouraged Timothy. He said:

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.”<sup>31</sup>

If you just read that real quickly and move on, you are going to think, well, Paul is speaking of himself, that he is the one that taught Timothy and therefore he learned them. I don't believe that is the case. When Paul is saying here,

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them...”<sup>32</sup>

Who did he learn these things from? Was it not taught of the Spirit of God? That is the only way any sinner is going to learn of the things of Christ, having been taught by his Spirit. There are many portions of Scripture that we could look at. 1 Corinthians two is a classic Scripture that talks about:

“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.”<sup>33</sup>

But the Spirit has revealed them unto you is what it says there. I am not preaching to you today the things of Christ as I learned them of men. Had God left me to the teachings of men, I would not be preaching Christ today. I knew a lot. I when to school, studied many hours, studied the original languages, three years of Hebrew, five years of Greek. But in all of that didn't ever learn of Christ.

You know, the Pharisees, if you want linguists. The Pharisees were the master linguists of the day and yet void of Christ. They studied the Scriptures every day. But they learned from each other. They had their different schools. That is why when people write me now and say, “What school would you recommend for somebody that is looking to be a preacher?”

Well, number one, I don't know of anybody that the Lord raises up that is looking to be a

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<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> 2 Timothy 3:14.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> 1 Corinthians 2:9.

preacher. He is the one that raises up those that he will have to go forth and if you want a school, if you have not been taught in the school of Christ, there is no other school of men that is going to teach you these things of Christ.

So you can see. It takes the Spirit of God to teach you, but look here in verse 15. It is in conjunction with this Word.

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures.”<sup>34</sup>

Notice how they are described, holy Scriptures, because they declare a holy God. They set forth a holy righteousness that God requires and they show sinners how that righteousness would be established and imputed upon completion of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ and his death alone.

It said:

“...from a child...”<sup>35</sup>

Timothy was taught these Scriptures:

“...which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”<sup>36</sup>

That is where the wisdom comes, when the Spirit of God is pleased to take this Word and open your eyes and cause you to see Christ alone and to cry unto him.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof.”<sup>37</sup>

I contend that every time we open this Word that our spirits and minds ought to be reprov'd, knowing who we are by nature. We don't read these Scriptures just to feel good. I need to feel better today so I think I will sit and have my devotions. That is not the purpose. If you truly read these Scriptures the way that the Spirit has set them forth, you are going to go away feeling pretty ugly about yourself and you ought to. I ought to. Because that is all I am is a sinner in the face of a holy God.

But notice:

“...for correction and for instruction in righteousness.”<sup>38</sup>

I thank God every time I open this Word and it does nothing but drive a sword into this heart of mine and cause me to bring me low again at the feet of Christ and to

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<sup>34</sup> 2 Timothy 3:15.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

acknowledge no other righteousness than that of Christ which he has worked out on behalf of a sinner such as I am. And it says:

“That the man of God...”<sup>39</sup>

It is not just the preacher, but that is any that are taught of the Lord.

“...may be perfect.”<sup>40</sup>

That word means mature and right thinking.

“...thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”<sup>41</sup>

The only good work is that which Christ has done. And the sooner our minds and hearts can be drawn to him the better, to rest in him and rest in what he has accomplished.

Well, I am going to stop there for today. As we come back next time we will see what is the effect of being taught of the Lord. It speaks of great peace that shall be to thy children there in verse 13. But certainly do not want to rush through it.

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<sup>39</sup> 2 Timothy 3:17.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.