

Learning from the Unlearned

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Introduction

Trinitarian scholars, theologians, and pastors hold a tight grip over mainstream Christianity by masquerading as the purveyors of the truth and denouncing true teachers gifted by Christ as unlearned and uneducated. They're full of tactics and schemes to magnify themselves and minimize others in the eyes of their followers. They persuade their followers against true teachers to keep them deceived and on the broad way that leads to destruction.

True teachers, on the other hand, are gifted by Jesus Christ to teach His message. They remain faithful to Him and His teaching regardless of being ridiculed, defamed, and silenced. While false teachers abound and can be easily heard, true teachers are few and censored from public hearing.

Unlearned and uneducated men

"Now when they saw the boldness of **Peter and John**, and perceived that they were **unlearned and ignorant men**, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus" (Act 4:13). Instead of "unlearned and ignorant men," other versions have "uneducated and ordinary men" (NET), "unschooled, ordinary men" (NIV). Two of the greatest disciples and apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ were belittled by the religious leaders as unlearned and uneducated.

It's true that Peter and John were uneducated when compared with the religious leaders of the day. They had both been fishermen before leaving behind the family business to follow Jesus. However, they became two of the three that were Christ's "inner circle" of the 12 that witnessed His transfiguration on the mountain. Peter was the apostle that preached on the Day of Pentecost and established the Jewish body of Christians through the first half of the book of Acts. John was entrusted with the care of Christ's mother and was the last living apostle to lead the Christians. Between them both, they wrote 7 of the 27 books in the New Testament.

Not only were two of His greatest disciples demeaned as unlearned but so was Christ Himself, "Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. And the Jews marvelled, saying, **How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?** Jesus answered them, and said, **My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.**" (Jhn 7:14-16). If Christ Himself had "never learned" according to the Jewish leaders, then it's no wonder Peter and John were esteemed unlearned as well—they learned from the unlearned! But Christ replied, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me." He learned from God Himself.

Christ and His apostles were scorned by the religious leaders as unlearned and the same is true today. Essentially, this same dynamic is at work today where the doctrines of men are disguised and hailed as teaching the truth while any nonconformists are discredited. Trinitarian scholars, theologians, and pastors with their systematic theology boast of being the experts in Christian doctrine while degrading any outside their circle that didn't graduate from seminary. They perpetuate their false doctrines to the simple under the façade of being the learned and educated.

Corrupt seminaries

As with the media feigning objectivity in order to push their liberal agenda, Trinitarian seminaries likewise are corrupt. When students go to these seminaries to get a theological degree, the doctrine of the Trinity is incessantly drilled into them. Anyone raising questions or objecting to this view of God is dealt with and eventually pressured to leave or even discharged if deemed nonconforming. The bottom line is that those finishing seminary and receiving a degree are pledged and devoted to Trinitarianism. It's not that they're necessarily smarter or know more than those that didn't finish but that they succumbed and bowed the knee: "bowed down to their gods" (Num 25:2); "they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them" (Jdg 2:17); "fall down and worship the golden image" (Dan 3:10); "bowed the knee to *the image of Baal*" (Rom 11:4).

This doesn't mean that every person graduating from seminary has passed the point of no return and can never repent and turn back to God. For many, this is the case but some might still have hope although it's extremely difficult for them to ever depart from Trinitarianism. Leaving means essentially losing everything into which they've invested their lives, then setting out like Abraham not knowing where they're going, "and he went out, not knowing whither he went" (Heb 11:8). But this is what it means to walk in Abraham's steps of faithfulness to God, "who also **walk in the steps of that faith [faithfulness]** of our father Abraham, which *he had* being yet uncircumcised" (Rom 4:12). Abraham was faithful to God in obeying Him and walking away from everything into what appeared to be nothing.

Moses forsook his name, position, and wealth in Egypt in exchange for a life of suffering with the people of God, "**By faith [faithfulness] Moses**, when he was come to years, **refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter**; Choosing rather to **suffer affliction with the people of God**, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than **the treasures in Egypt**: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward" (Heb 11:24-26).

Paul relinquished everything he had built his life upon, "Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. **But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.**" (Phl 3:5-7). He not only gave up his life of wealth, power, and prestige but exchanged it for a life of tremendous persecution and suffering:

Are they Hebrews? so *am* I. Are they Israelites? so *am* I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so *am* I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by mine own countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. (2 Corinthians 11:22-27)

Tactics of Trinitarian theologians

Rather than sincerely seeking the truth and submitting to it, Trinitarian theologians fight to defend their system of theology. They're full of ploys to intimidate their followers and keep them dependent on themselves and their system. Their tactics alone should be enough to convince us that something is seriously wrong. They're threatened by anyone trying to understand the truth from the Scriptures for themselves and will employ an arsenal of tactics against them.

They make their followers dependent upon them. Their credentials and degrees are from Trinitarian seminaries and they're endorsed by a strong support system of highly esteemed Trinitarians. Anybody not endorsed by them is a "nobody" and we shouldn't listen to them. They use big words and theological jargon to make their doctrines sound official and authoritative. They're proficient in apologetics, not to defend the truth, but to defend their theological system.

They misuse the Scriptures. They start with their system of theology as their basis of "truth," then impose it upon the Scriptures. They mistranslate certain words like *pneuma* as "spirit" rather than "breath" and *pistis* as "faith" rather than "faithfulness" to conceal what's being said. They also find statements that sound like or can be made to sound like, support for their Trinitarian system such as "making himself equal with God" (Jhn 5:18), but ignore or explain away statements that disagree with their system such as the very next verse "the Son can do nothing of himself" (Jhn 5:19). And those sincerely trying to understand the truth from the Scriptures for themselves get scoffed that they're not using sound hermeneutics or that they're allegorizing the Scriptures.

They act as the arbiters of the truth. They appoint themselves to act as the "doctrine police" over everyone else to make it appear that they have the truth. They tell us which ministries and teachers to avoid. They tell us what beliefs are supposedly essential and non-essential for salvation. By fighting what's false, they appear to be crusading for truth.

They make false claims. They claim that their system of theology is "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jde 1:3) and that the Trinitarian view of God is the historical view established by the early church. They also claim that Trinitarianism is essential for salvation and that blasphemy against the Spirit is denying that the Spirit is a person. But these are simply false claims they've been largely successful at pawning as the truth.

They appeal to the majority. They point to large numbers and the majority as evidence of the truth. After all, they balk, 2 billion Trinitarians couldn't all be wrong, could they? But by the same argument, could 2 billion Muslims all be wrong? Of course! They'll also appeal to great Christian men and women in history as being Trinitarians and that libraries and bookshelves are full of published works by Trinitarians.

They make false comparisons. By pointing to Arius as obviously wrong (and he was!), therefore the doctrine of the Trinity must be right. Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons are obviously wrong (and they are!), therefore the doctrine of the Trinity must be right. It's simply a dishonest tactic posing as a champion for the truth.

They intimidate and instill fear. They make us fear falling into error by studying the Scriptures on our own when really they just don't want us falling into the truth. We supposedly need a group consensus which, of course, must be a group of Trinitarians! They warn us that if we deny the doctrine of the Trinity we'll be

categorized with Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and Unitarians. Also, we'll be branded a heretic and seen as leading our family into a cult.

They silence and censor. They proclaim that the doctrine of the Trinity is a closed case that's not open for discussion and even questioning this doctrine is the danger of blasphemy against the Spirit for which they will never be forgiven. They acclaim and praise those that agree with them but won't recommend, acknowledge, or support anyone that's not a Trinitarian.

They belittle and mock. They appeal to their credentials and discredit those without. They'll say, "Why should anyone listen to you? Did you graduate from seminary? Are you smarter than the scholars and theologians? Why would God allow you to understand the truth?" Their favorite saying is, "If it's new it's not true, and if it's true it's not new." However, when the truth is finally taught it only seems new because they haven't been teaching it!

They sway the people

Corrupt religious leaders don't fear God, they fear the people: "And when he would have put him to death, **he feared the multitude**, because they counted him as a prophet" (Mat 14:5); "But if we shall say, Of men; **we fear the people**; for all hold John as a prophet" (Mat 21:26); "But if we shall say, Of men; **they feared the people**: for all *men* counted John, that he was a prophet indeed" (Mar 11:32); "And they sought to lay hold on him, but **feared the people**: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way" (Mar 12:12); "And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to lay hands on him; and **they feared the people**: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them" (Luk 20:19); "And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for **they feared the people**" (Luk 22:2); "Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for **they feared the people**, lest they should have been stoned" (Act 5:26).

Because of their power and influence over the people, religious leaders persuade and move them to accomplish their agenda: "But the chief priests and elders **persuaded the multitude** that they should **ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus**" (Mat 27:20); "But the chief priests **moved the people**, that he should rather **release Barabbas unto them**" (Mar 15:11); "But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and **stirred up the people**" (Act 17:13).

The same is happening in churches today—leaders are swaying people to keep them loyal to their system. The name Barabbas means "son of a father" while, of course, Jesus Christ *is* the Son of the Father. People today are being moved and stirred to "ask Barabbas" but "destroy Jesus." This is what the writer of Hebrews was warning his readers about, "they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame" (Heb 6:6). It's tantamount to rejecting Christ when rejecting His gifted teachers that are delivering His message. But simple and trusting people in churches today are being told a narrative about the true teachers so that they'll refuse them but keep Barabbas.

Christian bookstores are full of glossy paged books and commentaries that seem very appealing and helpful but ultimately communicate a different God and different message than the Lord Jesus Christ preached. It takes much time and effort to find the truth. This is why we love shortcuts consisting of study guides, outlines, modern translations, footnotes, devotionals, reading plans, and 30 days to this or that. But it's just another

tactic of the devil and his ministers—to make his doctrine as easy, convenient, and appealing as possible. When speaking of false teachers Peter said “they allure through the lusts of the flesh” (2Pe 2:18). They appeal to our laziness by making things easy and comfortable. We work hard at our jobs to feed our stomachs yet don’t want to exert much effort for our souls. Our enemy is all too eager to make everything smooth and effortless so that we’ll stay blinded and belonging to him. If we’re not willing to work hard at finding the truth by studying for ourselves and asking God to help us, we’ll stay deceived and perish.

Letters of recommendation

We’ve been hoodwinked into believing that credentials issued by men is the main qualifier for teaching the Scriptures. But this is nothing new. The same trickery was peddled in the early church.

Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some *others*, **epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?** Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: ***Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us***, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. (2 Corinthians 3:1-3)

The Corinthians had begun looking to “credentialed” men to teach them. But Paul’s qualifications as a true minister of God didn’t come from any man’s writing on a piece of paper whether it be a signed letter of recommendation from an upper-echelon or a graduate diploma from a theological school. The Corinthians themselves were his “writing” of qualification so to speak. The fact that they even existed as a church is on account of the Lord calling Paul to them, “And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to **go into Macedonia**, assuredly gathering that **the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them**” (Act 16:10). This made them “the epistle of Christ” or Paul’s letter of recommendation from Jesus Christ Himself!

The persecution and resistance Paul experienced on his way through Macedonia to reach the Corinthians also qualified him as a true minister of God: “And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast *them* into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely” (Act 16:23); “And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea” (Act 17:10); “But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people” (Act 17:13). Delivering the truth requires suffering and sacrifice.

“Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: **for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**” (Mat 5:11-12). At the beginning of His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus was saying that the same pattern of persecution experienced by the true prophets in the Scriptures is what would also be endured by men of God in the church age. He carried forward this same idea toward the end of His Sermon when He said, “Beware of **false prophets**, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Mat 7:15). These “false prophets” aren’t men professing to be prophets necessarily, but false teachers that don’t fit the pattern of the true prophets in the Scriptures, “for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.” And this is how Peter understood Christ’s words, “But there were **false prophets** also among the people, even as there shall be **false teachers** among you” (2Pe 2:1). True teachers fit the mold of the prophets—they’re persecuted in the same way.

The measure of faithfulness

For I say, through **the grace [favor] given unto me**, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith [faithfulness]**. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. **Having then gifts differing according to the grace [favor] that is given to us**, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith [faithfulness]*; Or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering: or **he that teacheth, on teaching**; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:3-8)

In the statement, “God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith [faithfulness],” the Greek *pistis* is mistranslated, as in almost 250 other places throughout the New Testament, as “faith” instead of “faithfulness.” It makes no sense to have been given a measure of belief. What has been given, however, are different measures or portions of the Lord’s “goods” over which each of His servants have the responsibility of faithfulness, “For *the kingdom of heaven is* as a man travelling into a far country, *who* called his own servants, and **delivered unto them his goods**. And unto one he gave **five talents**, to another **two**, and to another **one**; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.” (Mat 25:14-15), “His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and **faithful servant**: thou hast been **faithful over a few things**, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (Mat 25:21).

God’s people are shown special favor through His Son Jesus Christ over all other people on the earth—He forgives their sins and counts them right with Him. But within the collective body of His favored people, God also bestows varying measures of favored gifts to each individual member, “But unto every one of us is **given grace [favor] according to the measure of the gift of Christ**” (Eph 4:7), “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and **teachers**” (Eph 4:11). Obviously, the apostles and prophets were highly favored and uniquely gifted with more “talents” than the rest of us. Consequently, Christ required more from them, “For unto whomsoever **much is given, of him shall be much required**: and to whom men have **committed much, of him they will ask the more**” (Luk 12:48).

Those that teach the Scriptures will be held to a higher standard of judgment than other Christians, “My brethren, be not many **masters [didaskalos 1320]**, knowing that we shall receive **the greater condemnation**” (Jas 3:1). The Greek *didaskalos* means “teachers.” Personally speaking, teaching isn’t something that I chose to do or particularly care to do but it’s what I’ve come to recognize that I’ve been gifted with. I don’t relish the responsibility but approach it very seriously and soberly. I enjoy studying the Scriptures and teaching either in writing or speaking more than anything else in life. And I’ve learned that Christ has gifted me with being able to understand the truth communicated through the Scriptures beyond what others are capable of. It’s not a matter of intelligence or credentials but of gifting. I’m simply trying to follow the example of other unlearned men of God.

True teachers are silenced

True teachers gifted by Christ are hard to find because there aren't very many relative to the plethora of false teachers lurking everywhere. And they're censored from public hearing by the false teachers. They don't want true servants of Christ to find each other and join together. Therefore, there are many of us struggling to serve Christ without an assembly for fellowship and support.

Those that bow the knee to the Trinitarian theological system get endorsed, supported, funded, and praised while the true teachers get derided, suppressed, and silenced. I'm not a fan of the internet at all. I would love to go back to the days during the first 25 years of my life when it didn't exist. However, these are the times in which we now live and we don't have much choice but to use the internet as our main means for communication.

Conclusion

Peter and John, two of the greatest disciples and apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, were belittled as unlearned and uneducated men by the religious leaders of their day. And the same pattern is at work today—Trinitarian theologians, scholars, and pastors tout their credentials while undermining teachers truly gifted by Christ. Trinitarian leaders are full of tactics and ploys to exalt themselves and debase those esteemed as threat to their message and agenda.

We should be listening to the teachers Christ has gifted. These are men that have refused to bow their knee to the false view of God and false doctrines coerced by the Trinitarian leaders of mainstream Christianity. They fit the mold set by the prophets in the Scriptures, "for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Mat 5:12). They've walked away from everything into nothing, "and he went out, not knowing whither he went" (Heb 11:8). They don't need to commend themselves or be recommended by others, "Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some *others*, epistles of commendation to you, or *letters* of commendation from you?" (2Co 3:1). Their credentials aren't in writing on paper—a diploma hanging on the wall or affirmation by other ministers. Their credentials are the gifts from Christ Himself.