



# The Good News

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## *Teaching and Learning*

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It's been said before (and I believe it to be true from my own experiences) that to truly learn something well, you must teach it. Trust me, mathematics of all forms are made more clear and understandable when one must explain to someone else why a thing happens and what causes the reasons for those happenings. It's amazing how quickly one can see with crystal clarity the intricacies of trigonometric integration methods when one must teach those same rules/causes/effects to another person who is devoid of understanding. I speak from experience; I became a much, much better and more avid student of calculus (among other mathematic disciplines) when I was asked to teach others on the subject. Why? The reason is as simple and as straightforward as it sounds: you have to **know what you're talking about**.

This dynamic isn't isolated to mathematics, because it is a reflection upon the individual who is doing the instructing: it doesn't matter what a person teaches, it matters how well they know what it is they are teaching. This is just as true of the Gospel and of the entire Word of God. This is not an accident or a coincidence: those who teach are (theoretically) those who are possessed of the knowledge and/or experience necessary to instruct those who are ignorant. What happens when one holds themselves to such standards is that they begin to see the Word of God in ways they haven't before; they begin to see connections with other passages that help higher and deeper concepts begin to slide into place. They begin to grow **wiser** in the Word of God and can learn the higher mysteries of God's will for us as Christians

as revealed in the Gospel. We are told several times in the Bible how important it is for us to know what we believe, to have an answer for each and every thing that we do—or don't do—to understand why we as Christians live the way Christ's disciples are told to live. Being wise in the ways of God is **invaluable** to a Christian.

From personal experience, teaching the Word of God is one of the most effective ways to teach ourselves. It forces us to understand the underlying reasons, the answers to the questions that will be asked, the consequences to the things that are set down by God's Word. If we choose not to make these things known to ourselves before we teach others, what good have we done? We've raised questions in others' minds and likely in our own minds as well and have given no direction as to the answers provided to those questions by God Himself. **Rom 2:21**: "*You who teach others, do you not teach yourselves also?*". Your first student will **always** be yourself, and you will be a better Christian for it. Teaching the Word of God requires commitment, sacrifice, discipline and knowledge of the Word of God. So too does living the life that God commands us to live. Practice may not make perfect, but it makes us much, much better at that which we practice. Aspire to be a better Christian; teach yourself by teaching others and see how one can truly learn the Word of God.