

Lesson 6:

Point Number 3 (Continuation):

“And that is because the Sunnah and the *Jamaa`ah* have firmly established all of the Religion, and it has become clear to the people. So it is upon the people to comply and to follow.”

The Explanation:

He, may Allah have mercy upon him, said, **“That is because the Sunnah and the *Jamaa`ah* have firmly established all of the Religion.”** “That” indicating what has preceded with regard to the encouragement upon adhering to the way of the People of the Sunnah and the *Jamaa`ah*.

And it has preceded that what is meant by *Ahlus-Sunnah* (the People of the Sunnah), are those who adhere to the Sunnah of the Messenger *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam* and to his way. They are the people of the Sunnah. And the *Jamaa`ah*, they are those who come together upon the Truth and they do not split.

And the evidence for this:

﴿ وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۗ ﴾

(Explanation)

And cling all of you together to the Rope of Allaah and do not separate.

(Soorah Aal `Imraan (3), *aayah* 103)

So they gathered upon the Truth and they do not separate away from it. And they do not disagree and differ concerning it. They are the people of the Sunnah and the *Jamaa`ah*.

As for:

﴿الَّذِينَ فَرَّقُوا دِينَهُمْ وَكَانُوا شِيعًا﴾

(Explanation)

Those who split up their religion, and they are sects...

Then Allaah the Majestic and Most High says to His Prophet:

﴿لَسْتَ مِنْهُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُمْ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ يُنَبِّئُهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَفْعَلُونَ﴾

(Explanation)

...then you have nothing to do with them at all. Their affair is for Allaah; then He will inform them of what they used to do."

(Sooratul- An'aam (6), aayah 159)

"And that is because the Sunnah and the *Jamaa`ah* have firmly established (*ahkamaa*)," meaning they have precisely established; so *ihkaam* means precision; they have precisely established the whole of the affair of the Religion. All of it is contained within the Sunnah and the *Jamaa`ah*. Just as He *sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam* said:

“Whoever lives long from amongst you, then he will see very great differing so adhere to my Sunnah.”¹

Nothing will protect from the evil of **this** differing except adherence to/clinging onto the Sunnah of the Messenger *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*. And it is what the Messenger *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam* and his Companions were upon in `aqeedah (creed and belief) and in `ibaadah (worship) and in dealings and in behaviour and in manners. And they are the Saved Sect, from amongst the 73 sects; all of them will be in the Fire except for one. They said, “Which it is, O Messenger of Allaah?”

So this one which is exempted from amongst these sects, it is a distinctive group; who is it? He *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam* said in explanation of it,

“Whoever is upon the like of what I am upon and my Companions.”²

That which the Messenger *sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam* and his Companions were upon is the Sunnah. So whoever adheres to it will be saved; and therefore they are called ‘The Saved Sect’.

His saying, **“And it has become clear to the people. So therefore it is upon the people to do ittibaa` (to comply and follow).”** It has become clear to the people, that the affair of the Religion, all of it, lies in adherence to the Sunnah and the *Jamaa`ah*. So no one will oppose what the people of the Sunnah and the *Jamaa`ah* were upon except for the people of misguidance:

¹ This is a part of the ḥadeeth of al-`Irbaad ibn Saariyah, *radhiyAllaahu`anhu* and its checking has already preceded (page 46).

Translator’s side point: It is a ḥadeeth which is declared *saheeh* by Shaykh al-Albaanee *rahimahullaah*.

² Reported by at-Tirmithi in his Sunan and Ibn Naṣr al-Marwazee in as-Sunnah and al-Haakim in al-Mustadrak and al-Aajurree in ash-Sharee`ah and al-Laalikaa-ee in Sharḥ Uṣool I`tiqaad Ahlis-Sunnah... (and many others). At-Tirmithi said the ḥadeeth is *hasan ghareeb mufassar*, a ḥadeeth which is *hasan* with a singular chain which explains the other narrations.

Translator’s side point: Shaykh al-Albaanee discussed this ḥadeeth and declared (it) *hasan*. It has enough supporting witnesses to support the ḥadeeth, that it is declared *hasan*.

﴿فَمَاذَا بَعْدَ الْحَقِّ إِلَّا الضَّلَالُ فَأَنَّى تُصْرَفُونَ﴾

(Explanation)

So what is there after the Truth, except for misguidance

(Soorah Yoonus (10), *aaayah* 32)

So whoever leaves off the Truth he will fall into misguidance; and the Truth is what the people of the Sunnah and the *Jamaa`ah* are upon to the exclusion of others besides them.³

³ Translator's side point: Shaykh Ahmad an-Najmee *rahimahullaah* said on this point (point 3), "He, may Allah have mercy upon him, said, **"And that is because the Sunnah and the *Jamaa`ah* have firmly established the whole affair of the Religion, and it has become clear to the people. So what is upon the people is to follow/comply"**. I say, the *`aqeedah* of *Ahlus-Sunnah wal-Jamaa`ah* is clear in its source references and it is tied to the Sunnah and its people. So whomever Allaah wishes good for, then he guides him to those source books. And he makes easy for him to be a companion of the carriers of this *`aqeedah*, **and I mean by it, carriers** upon the way of the *Ahlus-Sunnah wal Jamaa`ah*. And whoever Allaah wishes evil for then He makes easy for him whatever he was created for.

"So whoever grows up at the hands of the people of the *Soofees* and the people of *Soofism* then he will think that that is right guidance and he will go astray and lead others astray. And who ever grows up at the hands of the people of the *`aqeedah* of the *Jahmiyyah* and he lives upon it and accompanies its people, he will think that that is the Sunnah and he will go astray and lead others astray. And whoever grows up at the hands of the people of the ideas of the *Mu`tazilah*, he will think that that is the Sunnah and he will go astray and lead others astray. And whoever grows up at the hands of the people of the *`aqeedah* of the *Ash`arees* he will think that that is the Sunnah and he will go astray and lead others astray. And who ever grows up at the hands of the people of *rafid* (the *Raafidah*), and the *Shee`ah*, those who curse and abuse the Companions of the Prophet *sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam* and belittle them, he will think that that is the Truth he will go astray and lead others astray. And whoever grows up at the hands of the *Khawaarij* those who declare the Muslims to be *kaafirs* (disbelievers), he will think that that is the Truth he will go astray and lead others astray.

"However the people of these deviant sects they must necessarily find certain gaps/flaws/faults in their *`aqeedah*, which should make clear to them the deficiencies in the methodology which they are upon in belief.

Point 4:

“And likewise the people of *irjaa*· (the *Murji-ah*), and likewise the people who are upon the present day calls which give attention just to virtuous acts, and they treat (matters of) *`aqeedah* lightly, so that the people think that they are upon the Truth, because they see them outwardly adhering; whilst they actually stay away themselves from the very foundation of *`aqeedah* (creed and belief) and they incite others to avoid it, which is *towheed*, the *towheed* of worship, (*Towheed al-Uloohiyyah*). They have nothing to do with it, and they keep other people away from it as well; and they treat lightly whatever infringes it or diminishes it.

“So what is important is that whoever wishes salvation, should adhere to the Book of Allah, then to the books of the Sunnah; and they are well known such as the Saḥeeḥ of al-Bukhaaree, and the Saḥeeḥ of Muslim and the Sunan al-Arba' (The four Sunan), the Musnad of Imam Aḥmad. And what follow from that, from the books of ḥadeeth, and those books that gather the narrations of the *Salaf* such as: the Muṣannaf of Ibn Abee Shaybah, and the Muṣannaf of `Abdur-Razzaaq, and the Muṣannaf of Sa'eed ibn Mansoor.

“And the books of *`aqeedah* (creed and belief) such as: At-Towḥeed of Ibn Khuzaymah, and such as Ar-Radd `alal-Jahmiyyah, (The refutation of the Jahmiyyah) of Imaam Aḥmad, Kitaabus-Sunnah (the Book of the Sunnah) of `Abdullaah the son of (Imaam) Aḥmad, Radd `alal-Jahmiyyah (Refutation of the Jahmiyyah) by `Uthmaan ibn Sa'eed Ad-Daarimee, Sharḥ Uṣool I'tiqaad Ahlis-Sunnah of al-Laalikaa-ee, al-Ibaanatul-Kubraa of Ibn Battah, and the books of Shaykhul-Islam ibn Taymiyyah, and of Ibnul-Qayyim, and of Muḥammad ibn `Abdil-Wahhaab and other than that from the books. These are the books which make the Truth clear. And beware of slipping away with the *ḥizbiyyeen*, (the sectarians, the people of partisanship) of taking their books and then following their restricted path, and proceeding upon their crooked methodology.

“Beware, O my brother Muslim, of taking the books of those people, because their truth is mixed with falsehood and the Sunnah which they have is mixed with *bid'ah* (innovation). So if you want the pure fountain with no pollution in it, then adhere to the Book of Allaah, and to the books of the Sunnah and to the books of the narrations. And follow the way of the people of the narrations (*Ahlul-Athar*), those who take knowledge with its chain of narration going all the way back to the Companions of Allaah's Messenger *sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam* from their Prophet *salawaatullaahi wa salaamuhu `alayh*. Whatever they said does not contradict the Truth which they were upon. So here you will know the saying of the author, **“And that is because the Sunnah and the *Jamaa'ah* have clearly/precisely established the affair of the Religion, all of it, and the Truth has become clear to the people, so it is upon the people to follow and to leave off innovating.”** Therefore you will know that this is speech which is fully appropriate, and it is binding upon you also to abandon the books of the people of innovation if you want salvation for yourself. May Allaah guide and grant me and you that we take on board the Truth and that we abandon every falsehood; and Allaah grants success.” (Irshaadus-Saaree fee Sharḥis-Sunnati lil-Barbahaaree)

The author *rahimahullaah* said, “And know, may Allaah have mercy upon you, that the Religion is only what came from Allaah, the Exalted and Most High. It was not left to the intellects of men and to their opinions; and knowledge of it is what comes from Allaah and from His Messenger. So do not follow anything based upon your desires and therefore depart from the Religion and leave Islaam. There will be no excuse for you, since the Messenger *sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam* explained the Sunnah to his nation, and he made it clear to his Companions and they are the *Jamaa`ah*, and they are the Main Body. And the Main Body is the Truth and its people. So whoever contradicts the Companions of Allaah’s Messenger *sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam* in anything of the affairs of the Religion he has disbelieved.”

The Explanation:

The Religion came only from Allaah, so He is the One who legislated the Religion, He the Perfect. It is not for anyone to legislate religion, which Allaah has not permitted. He the Most High said:

﴿ أَمْ لَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ شَرَعُوا لَهُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا لَمْ يَأْذَنْ بِهِ اللَّهُ ﴾

(Explanation)

Do they have partners who legislate for them religion, not ordained by Allaah

(Sooratush-Shooraa (42), *aayah* 21)

This is a rebuke and a warning. So the Religion is that which Allaah has legislated, and which His Messenger *sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam* conveyed. This is the Religion about which Allaah the Majestic and Most High said:

﴿ شَرَعَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا وَصَّى بِهِ نُوحًا وَالَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ وَمَا وَصَّيْنَا

بِهِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَى وَعِيسَى أَنْ أَقِيمُوا الدِّينَ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُوا فِيهِ

(Explanation)

He (Allaah) legislated for you the Religion with which He enjoined Nooh, and which He revealed to you, and which He enjoined upon Ibraaheem, and Moosaa and `Eesaa; that you should establish the Religion, and not separate within it.

(Sooratush-Shooraa (42), aayah13)

This is the revealed way of the Prophets, specifically those five Prophets, who are those firmest in resolve. This is their Religion. So whoever deviates away from it or differs with it, then he is destroyed and he is astray. And it is built upon the *towheed* of Allaah the Mighty and Majestic (singling out Allaah the Mighty and Majestic with all worship) and abandonment of the worship of everything besides Him, and restricting oneself to that which Allaah the Mighty and Majestic legislated, and keeping away from whatever Allaah has forbidden - this is the Religion.

His saying, “**It was not left up to the intellects of men and their opinions.**” - the Religion is not what men deem to be good or what they hold as their opinion, because this is not the Religion of Allaah. This is the Religion of the people, which they have newly invented. As for the Religion of Allaah the Mighty and Majestic, then it is what He legislated. As for that which the men hold as their opinion, based upon their own opinions, this is not the Religion of Allaah the Perfect and Most High. Rather it is just a religion of whoever holds that opinion. So nothing can be ascribed to Allaah from the Religion except that which He legislated upon the tongue of His Messenger *sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam*. And as for what others besides Him legislated, then it cannot be ascribed to Allaah, rather it can only be ascribed to whoever legislated it, and Allaah is free of it. He the Most High said:

أَمْ لَهُمْ شُرَكَاءُ شَرَعُوا لَهُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا لَمْ يَأْذَنْ بِهِ اللَّهُ

(Explanation)

Do they have partners who legislate for them religion which Allaah has not permitted

(Sooratush-Shooraa (42), aayah 21)

His saying, **“And its knowledge is with Allaah and His Messenger sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam.”** - the affairs of the Religion are *towqeefiyyah* (depend upon text); there must be proofs from Allaah and His Messenger with regard to the affairs of the Religion. The matter is restricted to what occurs in the Book and the Sunnah from the affairs of the Religion. And newly introduced matters and innovations are abandoned, that which Allaah has not sent down any proof for - even if their people hold them to be religion, and they draw closer to Allaah through them, then we turn no attention to these things and we do not believe in them, because the Religion of Allaah is what He legislated and His Messenger.

Because the Religion is based upon knowledge which came from Allaah and His Messenger. And do not follow the desires of the people and the opinions of the people and what they declare to be good and what they follow each other upon, and it has no basis in the Book of Allaah or the Sunnah of His Messenger sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam. Just as he *`alayhis-salaatu was-salaam* said:

“Whoever introduces into this affair of ours that which is not from it, it is rejected.”

And in one narration:

“Whoever does an action which our affair is not in accordance with, it is rejected”⁴

So the person who wishes that his action be righteous and be beneficial, then he should adhere to two matters:

The first matter: is that he makes his Religion pure for Allaah and free from shirk.

⁴ The checking of this has preceded on page 66.

Translator’s side point: Hadeeth of Aa`ishah *radhiyAllaahu`anhaa* reported by Muslim and in the Saḥeeḥ of al-Bukhaaree.

And the second matter: *ittibaa`*, following the Sunnah of Allaah's Messenger *sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam*, free of innovations and newly introduced affairs.

A person will indeed find many things which contradict what is correct in the *`aqeedah*, matters which contradict what is correct in matters of worship, many of them; (because) the people have desires, and have their own aspirations, and they have their own opinions and they have their own ways (which they follow). So we do not follow the people, rather we present whatever the people are upon to the Book and the Sunnah. So whatever conforms with the Book and the Sunnah then it is the Truth, and whatever contradicts these two then it is false and futile.

Ithaaful-Qaaree bit-Ta`leeqaat `alaa Sharḥis-Sunnah

by Shaykh Saalih ibn Fowzaan al-Fowzaan *hafizahullaah*

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Translated by Aboo Talḥah Daawood Burbank, *rahimahullaah*, on 5th October 2009

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Points discussed by Shaykh Saalih al-Fowzaan *hafizahullaah* in this excerpt include:

- the meanings of '*Ahlu-Sunnah wal Jamaa`ah*', the Sunnah and the 'Saved Sect'
- all of the Religion is contained within the Sunnah and the *Jamaa`ah*
- the Religion is that which Allaah has legislated, and which His Messenger *sallAllaahu `alayhi wa sallam* conveyed; whoever deviates from it is destroyed
- what the Religion is built upon
- the Religion is not what men deem to be good or what they hold as their opinion
- there must be proofs from Allaah and His Messenger with regard to the affairs of the Religion

Explanation of Sharḥus-Sunnah of Imaam al-Barbahaaree by Shaykh Saalih al-Fowzaan

- a person who wishes his action to be righteous should make his Religion pure for Allaah and follow the Sunnah

A side point from Shaykh Aḥmad an-Najmee *rahimahullaah* mentions the books of the Sunnah and of `aqeedah.