

«purifying you» that is, he teaches you good manners and purifies your souls, teaching you how to achieve good characteristics and keep away from bad characteristics, such as purifying you by leading you from polytheism to monotheism, from showing off to sincerity, from lying to honesty, from treachery to trustworthiness, from arrogance to humility, from bad attitudes to good attitudes, from mutual hatred and shunning to mutual love and strong ties, and other kinds of purification.

«teaching you the Book» that is, the Qur'an and wisdom. It was suggested that this refers to the Sunnah or to deep knowledge and understanding of Sharia and *fiqh*, and the ability to evaluate things properly. On that basis, we may understand that teaching of the Sunnah is included in teaching of the Book, because the Sunnah explains the Qur'an and offers commentary and interpretation of it.

«and teaching you that which you did not know». Before the Prophet (ﷺ) was sent to them, they were in a state of obvious misguidance, with no knowledge or achievements. All the knowledge and achievements attained by this Ummah came at the hands of the Prophet (ﷺ) and because of him. This blessing is the foundation of all other blessings, and it is the greatest blessing that Allah bestowed upon His slaves. What is required of them is to give thanks to Allah for it and to adhere to the Prophet's teachings.

Hence Allah says: «Therefore remember Me; I will remember you». Here Allah commands us to remember Him, and He promises the best of rewards for that, which is that He remembers those who remember Him. The Messenger (ﷺ) has told us in a *hadith qudsi* that Allah (ﷻ) says:

«Whoever remembers Me to himself, I will remember him to Myself; whoever remembers Me in a gathering, I will remember him in a gathering better than it.» (A sound hadith recorded by at-Tirmidhi)