

DOCTRINE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

- I. Preliminary considerations.
 - A. From the exegesis and study of Scripture we arrive at categories, or doctrines, that are documented throughout the Word of God.
 - B. The importance of Bible doctrine is clearly taught and emphasized throughout both the Old Testament and the New Testament. *Ps. 119 is largely devoted to the importance of doctrine.*
 - C. Since the completion of the canon, God has not chosen to provide further objective revelation to the human race at large.
 - D. God's attitude concerning the importance of His written Word is expressed in the factual case of the rich man and Lazarus. Lk. 16:29-31
 - 1. Abraham's response to the rich man suggests that God's word is sufficient revelation for those that seek Him.
 - 2. If they will not accept the Word of God, they will not be persuaded by some sign or wonder--not even someone rising from the dead.
 - E. Therefore, the Church age believer must be able to understand and acclimate to God starting from His written word.
 - F. An understanding of the Bible is imperative for the believer who hopes to understand the Plan of God and adjust to the directive will of God.
 - G. Just as Jesus Christ was the perfect revelation of the Father in bodily form, the canon of Scripture contains the progressive revelation that God has determined to reveal to the human race. Col. 1:15,19; IITim. 3:16
 - H. Failure to understand and acclimate to the importance of doctrine destines a believer for failure in the Christian way of life.
 - I. This doctrine is foundational to the Christian way of life; the believer that rejects this truth can readily be deluded into following ministries that appeal to the lust grid of his sin nature. IITim. 4:3-4
 - J. Absent Bible doctrine in the believer's soul, human spirit, and brain computer (and obedience to the teaching), he is far more susceptible to falling prey to the schemes and doctrines of Satan. Eph. 6:11-17; IICor. 2:11
 - K. The importance of Bible doctrine should be understood in light of the doctrine of verbal plenary inspiration. IITim. 3:16-17
 - 1. Verbal relates to the speaking of words.
 - 2. Plenary means that which is complete or absolute.
 - 3. Inspiration is literally God-breathed.
 - 4. More fully, verbal plenary inspiration means that God so moved the authors of Scripture that the resulting product was the Word of God written, totally without error in the autographs, in every area including theology, history, geography, and science.
 - L. It is God's sovereign and directive will that all men come to a full knowledge of the entire realm of Bible doctrine. ITim. 2:3-4

- II. Definition and description.
 - A. Bible doctrine is the content of the canon of scripture, contained in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments. IISam. 23:2-3; IITim. 3:16-17
 - B. Bible doctrine is God's viewpoint on any and all subjects, a viewpoint that has existed eternally with Him, and is not subject to change. Prov. 8:22-31
 - C. The Divine viewpoint will continue to exist eternally, even after the dissolution of the present heavens and earth. Isa. 40:8; Matt. 5:18; IPet. 1:24-25
 - D. Bible doctrine contains no error or distortion of any kind. Prov. 8:6-9
 - E. The supreme importance of Bible doctrine is seen in the fact that God has exalted His word at least to the level of His own reputation, both of which are interconnected. Ps. 138:2

- III. Complete understanding of Bible doctrine comes only to positive volition as the believer orients to the system that God has established.
 - A. Jesus taught that the truth of His word is understood only to those who are positive. Matt. 13:10-12
 - B. Individuals who are positive are called "seekers" since they are not satisfied until they find the truth for which they are looking. Acts 17:27; Ps. 119:2
 - C. However, even the most positive believer will not arrive at a full understanding of the truth apart from the system that God has established.
 - 1. This aspect of the truth is under attack on almost every front in our period of history. IITim. 4:3
 - 2. Many advocate the false doctrine that they do not need every aspect of God's system to arrive at a full understanding of the truth, omitting the necessity of the local church and pastor-teacher and substituting such things as tapes, TV programs, books, Bible programs, personal study, etc.
 - 3. While we do not argue that people can obtain information about God and His plan via other materials, we hold to the premise that the local church is the authorized environment for the teaching of Bible doctrine to adults. IITim. 3:15; Rev. 2,3
 - 4. Further, we believe that personal study by the most astute believer, using the most reliable methods available, being in fellowship, etc., will not do for that believer what a properly functioning local church and pastor-teacher can do: provide the environment and instruction necessary to achieve the maturity adjustment. Col. 1:28
 - a. Many reject communicators of doctrine, believing that they can achieve on their own what God has provided communicators to do. Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11ff,16; Heb. 13:17
 - b. Others reject the environment of the local church, believing that they can make the adjustments in their thinking apart from the environment God has established. Matt. 16:18; IITim. 3:14-15
 - D. We call the system God has instituted the GAP system, the grace apparatus for perception.
 - 1. Internally, this consists of:
 - a. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who is the ultimate teacher of Bible doctrine for the believer that is in fellowship. ICor. 2:12
 - 1) This fact does not alleviate the necessity of having a human teacher. ICor. 2:13; Eph. 4:11ff
 - 2) In fact, rejection of God's appointed teacher is a manifestation of arrogance and rebellion. IIIJn. 9

- b. The human spirit, regenerated at the point of salvation, (Tit. 3:5) returning man to a trichotomous state; the inner man (Eph. 3:16) that provides the circuitry to override the old self (Col. 3:9-10), is built up through the intake of doctrine. Col. 2:7
- 2. Externally, the GAP system requires the following:
 - a. Operation gnosis.
 - 1) A local church, the authorized environment for teaching Bible doctrine, which assembly believers are commanded not to forsake. Heb. 10:25
 - 2) A properly trained pastor-teacher armed with the correct hermeneutic principles, extracting the content of the Bible through the literal, historical method of interpretation, with his emphasis on study, teaching, refutation of human/demonic viewpoint, rebuke and exhortation. II Tim. 2:2
 - a) The pastor-teacher is commanded to study. IITim. 2:15
 - b) His charge is found in IITim. 4:1ff
 - c) The proper teaching of Bible doctrine will reveal issues to the believer that may be hidden, due to ignorance or rejection of the truth. Heb. 4:12
 - d) Apart from this, believers simply distort the Word of God along the lines of their particular STA bent. IIPet. 3:16
 - 3) The pastor-teacher must be committed to the method of teaching verse by verse, from the original languages, interpreting isagogically. ICor. 9:9; ITim. 4:15
 - 4) He must establish an environment conducive to the intake of Bible doctrine, insisting on the appropriate public decorum--enforced humility.
 - 5) The pastor-teacher is responsible for the decorum of the assembly and is to see that good manners and poise are maintained.
 - 6) Each believer must give the information a fair and impartial hearing, in fellowship, which constitutes true humility. Jms 1:19-21
 - 7) This system requires consistent attendance, self-discipline, concentration, comprehension, repetition, and reflection.
 - b. Operation epignosis.
 - 1) This occurs when the believer applies faith toward the teaching of Bible doctrine. Acts 4:4; ICor. 15:11
 - 2) Faith in God's word is the basis for Ph₁ and Ph₂ righteousness. Rom. 3:22, 4:5; James 2:23
 - c. Operation application.
 - 1) James effectively dispels the myth that possession of Bible doctrine through faith, in and of itself, is sufficient to produce Ph₂ righteousness. James 2:14-26
 - 2) All doctrine that you inhale (believe) will be tested. IPet. 1:7
 - 3) Full blessing in God's plan comes only through faith that applies the doctrine to the daily issues of life. Lk. 11:27-28
 - d. Consistency under this system God established leads to the maturity adjustment and Ph₃ vindication. Mk. 4:26-29; Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28-29
- E. Bible doctrine is called the mind or thinking of Jesus Christ. ICor. 2:16
 - 1. The objective of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is to reprogram the brain computer with the thinking of Jesus Christ. Rom. 12:2; ICor. 2:12-13
 - 2. This is accomplished under the GAP system by the Holy Spirit, Who indwells us to teach us. ICor. 2:12
 - 3. Possession of the mind of Christ constitutes the indwelling of Christ. Jn. 15:7; Gal. 4:19; Eph. 3:14-19

- F. The gathering of manna by the Jews in the desert illustrates the function of GAP. Exod. 16; ICor. 10:3
 - 1. Initially, the Jews did not know what the white substance was, even though Moses had briefed them prior to their first encounter with it. Ex. 16:6-8
 - 2. Their response to the manna is recorded as מַן הוּא (man hu, what is it?), which became the permanent name.
 - 3. This is designed to humorously illustrate the response of negative volition to a doctrinal ministry.
 - 4. They had to gather the manna at the prescribed time, suggesting that God has established a proper time and place for getting doctrine.
 - 5. They were to gather only what they could eat, or it would spoil, illustrating that you only need a certain amount of doctrinal teaching. You must have the time to digest the information, reflect on it, pray, and make the appropriate applications.
 - 6. On Friday they were to gather a double portion; we do so on Sunday.
 - 7. They complained about their diet and their leaders for forty years, demonstrating their lack of orientation to what God provided.

- IV. The great believers of the Old Testament paid tribute to the importance of Bible doctrine.
 - A. Job, the most prosperous man of his day, understood this issue. Job 28
 - 1. He contrasts man's efforts to exploit the hidden resources of of earth with their neglect of Bible doctrine. Vss. 1-13
 - 2. He details the lengths to which men go for something they perceive to be of value. Vss. 3-4,9-11
 - 3. He notes that earthly wealth cannot buy Bible doctrine. Vss. 15-19
 - 4. Extensive travel is not necessary to procure the truth. Vss. 14,20-22
 - 5. God alone is the source of it, and He demonstrated His possession of wisdom (Bible doctrine) by His acts. Vss. 23-27
 - 6. The fear of the Lord is the beginning point for those who seek it. Vs. 28
 - B. Moses made it clear, during his parting address to Israel, that attitude toward Bible doctrine determined both personal and national blessing. Deut. 28
 - 1. Positive volition brings blessing. Vss. 1-14
 - 2. Negative volition brings cursing. Vss. 15-68
 - 3. The ups and downs of national Israel are a reflection of their attitude toward Bible doctrine. Deut. 30:1-10
 - 4. The issue simply stated. Deut. 30:11-20
 - C. Joshua, one of the only two adults from the Exodus generation that made it to the promised land, was told of its importance. Josh. 1:7-9
 - D. He embraced this doctrine and it was the subject of his parting address to the nation. Josh. 23:6-16; 24:25-28
 - E. David paid tribute to the importance of Bible doctrine. Ps. 1:1-3; 19:7-11
 - F. The unknown author of Psalm 119 details the excellencies of Bible doctrine.
 - 1. It is the source of blessing. Vss. 1-2
 - 2. Bible doctrine brings victory over the STA. Vs. 11
 - 3. Rejection of doctrine typifies the arrogant. Vs. 21
 - 4. Doctrine encourages the fear of the Lord. Vs. 38

5. Produces true liberty. Vs. 45
6. It is the source of comfort. Vss. 49-52
7. Forms the basis for separation from the maladjusted. Vs. 53
8. Provides discernment. Vss. 65-66
9. More valuable than any precious metal. Vs. 72
10. Produces confidence. Vs. 80
11. Bible doctrine is immutable. Vs. 89
12. Gives guidance and direction in life. Vss. 98-100
13. It is the source of inner peace. Vs. 165
14. Leads to true worship. Vs. 170-172

G. Solomon deals with the importance of doctrine in the book of Proverbs.

1. The fear of the Lord (a manifestation of positive volition) is the beginning of wisdom. Prov. 1:7, 9:10, 15:33
2. The prologue emphasizes the part Bible doctrine plays in spiritual growth. Prov. 1:1-6
3. Orientation to doctrine brings all spiritual and physical blessing. Prov. 3:1-26, 24:3-4
4. Those that reject Bible doctrine will find that they will eventually pay a very steep price. Prov. 1:24-32
5. Parents are responsible to teach Bible doctrine to their children and enforce its precepts to protect them from:
 - a. Criminal types. Prov. 1:8-19
 - b. The immoral woman. Prov. 2:16-19, 5:1-23, 6:23-35, 7:1-27
6. His conclusion. Prov. 4:5-7; Eccles 12:13

H. Israel had a one week feast every year which typified the importance of Bible doctrine.

1. It was called the feast of unleavened bread, and followed the Passover. Ex. 12:15-20
2. The unleavened bread typifies sound doctrine. Vs. 15; Matt. 16:6,12
3. Leaven typifies evil or false doctrine. Vs. 15
4. Failure to comply typifies negative volition and its eventual results. vs. 19

V. Jesus Christ emphasized the importance of Bible doctrine during the incarnation.

A. In His responses to Satan. Matt. 4:4,7,10

B. In the parable of the soils. Mk. 4:1-20

1. Jesus indicated that this parable was going to occupy an important place in His parabolic teaching. Mk. 4:13
2. This parable and the interpretation of it provides the sound approach to the interpretation of parables.
3. Each detail in the parable corresponds to a particular doctrinal observation, demonstrating that the “big idea” approach is not always correct in every case.
4. The sower is the communicator and the seed is Bible doctrine.
5. The four kinds of soil represent four kinds of volitional responses to the Word of God.
 - a. The negative unbeliever that comprises the bulk of humanity.
 - b. The believer that will not deal with the pressure of opposition and rejection by friends, family or society.
 - c. The believer who flunks the living grace test or who, under the lust grid of the sin nature, places the pursuit of the details and pleasures of life over the pursuit of Bible doctrine.

- d. The believer that allows the pressures of life, his job, marriage, kids, bills, etc. keep him from doctrine.
 - e. The very few intellectually honest and positive believers that produce a harvest of SG₃.
 - C. The importance of the intake and application of doctrine is taught in the parable of the vine and the branches. Jn. 15:1-8
 - D. Jesus stressed the doctrine of the importance of orientation to His word in His discussion of what constitutes true love. Jn. 14:15,21-24
 - 1. The believer's love for Christ is not related to his emotions but to the intake and application of doctrine.
 - 2. The pastor-teacher's love for Christ, and for his congregation, is measured by his commitment to the teaching of Bible doctrine. Jn. 21:15-17
 - E. The intake and application of Bible doctrine is the link between the SAJG and the MAJG, it is the agent of Ph₂ sanctification. Jn. 8:31-32, 17:17; Acts 20:32
 - F. Jesus made it plain that He expected the pastor-teacher (the chief slave, whom the Master put in charge) to be engaged in the process of providing food (Bible doctrine) for the other slaves in the household when He returned. Matt. 24:45-51
- VI. The commands to the pastor-teacher, contained particularly in the pastoral epistles, make it quite clear what the thrust of the local church should be.
- A. The pastor-teacher is repeatedly exhorted to communicate doctrine. ITim. 4:13-16; IITim. 4:1-4; Tit. 1:9
 - B. He is to teach the entire realm of doctrine, omitting nothing because it is controversial, because it goes against him personally, because it reproves someone in the congregation, because some will not accept or apply it, or because it is not taught by someone else. Acts 20:20-27; IITim. 2:15
 - C. A careful study of Acts reveals the emphasis of the apostolic church. Acts 2:42, 6:1-7, 11:19-26, 14:21-23, 18:11; ICor. 4:17
 - D. The pastor-teacher should pray for the doctrinal excellence of his congregation. Acts 6:4; Eph. 3:14-19
 - E. The pastor-teacher must contend earnestly for the faith (the realm of Bible doctrine) that was once for all delivered to the saints. Jude 3
 - 1. While he must allow time and space for growth in doctrine, He is to deal with serious deviations from doctrine in a decisive manner. ITim. 1:3,20, 4:1-6, 6:20-21; Tit. 1:10-14, 3:9-11
 - 2. He is to instruct those under his authority to separate from those who do not hold to sound doctrine. Rom. 16:17-18; IIThess. 3:6-15
 - 3. Failure to deal with false doctrine and those that advocate unsound principles will have a bad effect on any ministry. ITim. 1:19-20
 - F. We live in the latter portion of the Church age, the Laodicean era. Rev. 3:14ff
 - 1. This period of history is characterized by rampant STA activity, attacks on the truth, and by defections from the faith. IITim. 3:1-9, 4:3-4
 - 2. The Lord informs us that the pure gold of Bible doctrine will be available, even during this apostate period of history. Rev. 3:18
 - 3. James teaches this under the concept of early and latter rains. James 5:7
 - 4. This time is similar to the apostolic era, since Bible doctrine is available in a very clear form for the few that desire it. ITim. 4:6

5. Those who hold fast to doctrine exist alongside those that are involved in this time of great apostasy; this group is given the promise of a pre-wrath deliverance. Rev. 3:8-11
 6. Failure to hold fast to sound doctrine can cause one to lose his crown. Rev. 3:11
- G. Faithful communication of Bible doctrine is the basis for the pastor-teacher's reward. IITim. 4:7-8; IPet. 5:1-4
- H. The rapture generation is commanded to intensify in regard to the intake and application of Bible doctrine. Heb. 10:25
- VII. Various analogies used in the Bible illustrate the supreme importance of doctrine.
- A. Physical food. Lk. 4:4
 - B. Water. Eph. 5:26
 - C. Light. Ps. 119:105,130
 - D. Precious metals and gem stones. Prov. 3:14-15, 8:10-11; 16:16; ICor. 3:12
 - E. Wine. Lk. 5:37-39
- VIII. It must be recognized that there are systems of false doctrine, which are antagonistic to the unity of the faith.
- A. There is one correct form of doctrine; obviously, there are many incorrect forms. Rom. 6:17; Rev. 2:14,15,24
 - B. These distortions contains various degrees of rejection of the truth, darkness, evil, apostasy, and doctrines of demons. ITim. 4:1
 - C. These are distortions of the truth, which are promoted by men following the sin nature. Eph. 4:14; Jms. 3:14-16
 - D. Often, false doctrine is propagated by men that have once embraced sound doctrine and then repudiated the truth. Acts 20:30; ITim. 4:1
 - E. The end result of these false winds of doctrine is that believers are blown off course and suffer spiritual shipwreck. Eph. 4:14-15; ITim. 1:18-20
 - F. We live in the last days, a time when most believers will not attach themselves to, or continue with, sound doctrine. IITim. 4:3-4
 1. The straight and narrow of doctrine begins to bore certain believers, so they seek that which entertains them, stirs their emotions, is in line with the lusts of their sin natures, or is pleasing to their ears.
 2. They repudiate their right pastor-teacher and local church and opt for a plurality of teachers via travel, books, tapes, television, videos, the internet, etc.
 3. The teachers they choose are not sound in the faith but are chosen based on the STA trends that appeal to the maladjusted believer.
 4. The inevitable result is that these believers are adversely influenced by "operation Q-tip" and no longer desire to remain with a sound ministry.
 5. They come to believe the stories and myths that these unsound teachers propagate, things that have no value in the Christian way of life or in making the maturity adjustment.
 6. One reason people desire to be entertained is the fact that they lack sufficient self-discipline to concentrate on sound teaching after becoming used to the stimulating cosmic entertainment found in current magazines, books, television shows, movies, etc.

- IX. The pursuit of Bible doctrine by the positive believer results in great blessings.
- A. The divine viewpoint of life, which identifies external false systems and philosophies, as well as identifying internal deviations for the believer. IICor. 10:4-5
 - B. Proper identification of STA activity. Rom. 7:7
 - C. Victory over the indwelling STA. Rom. 6:17-18
 - D. Discernment. Prov. 2:5,9
 - E. Divine guidance. Prov. 3:1-6, 6:22
 - F. Physical health. Ps. 107:17-20; Prov. 3:8
 - G. Legitimate prosperity. Prov. 3:16-18
 - H. Inner happiness. Prov. 3:13,18; IJn. 1:4
 - I. Deliverance from undesirable types. Prov. 2:12-22
 - J. Confidence. Prov. 3:23-26; IITim. 1:7
 - K. Logistical grace. Matt. 6:25-34
 - L. Inner peace. Ps. 119:165; Prov. 3:2,17
 - M. Modus operandi and modus vivendi. Lk. 7:31-35
 - N. Fellowship with the Father and the Son. Jn. 14:21,23
 - O. Personal and national security. Ps. 16:7-9; Deut. 28:1,7
 - P. True capacity for life. Job. 1:22, 2:9-10
 - Q. Eternal reward, deliverance from loss at the Bema seat. ICor. 3:12-14; Col. 1:3-5; ITim. 4:16

“...For you have magnified your word over all your name.”

Ps. 138:2