

DOCTRINE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

June 24, 1981

- I. Definition and description.
 - A. Bible Doctrine is the content of the canon of Scripture, contained in the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, extracted by the I.C.E. hermeneutic (isagogics, categories, exegesis) through the gift of Pastor-Teacher (PT), with emphasis on teaching, instruction, and exhortation (2Tim.3:16,17; 2:15; Heb.4:12).
 - B. This doctrine can only be appreciated in light of the doctrine of verbal plenary inspiration (2Tim.3:16,17; Mt.5:18).
 - C. It is God's sovereign and directive will that all men come to an *epignosis* of the entire realm of doctrine (1Tim.2:3-4).
 - D. Bible Doctrine is correctly perceived only under the GAP system by positive volition (1Cor.2:10-16; cp. Jam.1:5; Prov.8:17b "*those who diligently seek me will find me*").
 - E. Bible Doctrine existed eternally with God as His immutable and perfect will (Prov.8:1-36, especially vv.20-31).
 - F. Bible Doctrine will exist eternally after the dissolution of original creation (Mt.5:18).
 - G. Bible Doctrine contains no error or distortion whatsoever (Prov.8:6-9).
 - H. Knowledge of doctrine is the basis for discernment and separation from evil (Isa.8:20; Ps.1; 1Tim.6:3-6; Prov.2:1-22).
 - I. It must be recognized that there exist systems of doctrine which are in antagonism to the "*unity of the faith*" (Eph.4:3,13), or "*that form of teaching*" (Rom.6:17) existing in the canon, which systems are called darkness, evil, apostasy, doctrine of demons, etc. (doctrine of Satan's Counterfeits).
 - J. These systems are all STA (sinful trend of Adam) distortions of the truth (Jam.3:15, 17).
 - K. The best English translation is the New American Standard Version; from the standpoint of the original language, it is an excellent translation. Nevertheless, the PT must consult the original languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek).

- II. So important is doctrine that there is a statement to the effect that God has magnified His word above His name (reputation; Ps.138:2 "*I will bow down before Your holy temple, and give thanks to Your name for Your loyalty and Your veracity; For You have magnified* [גָּדַל, *gadal*, to make great] *Your word* [אִמְרָתְךָ, *'imerah*, spoken word] *above all* [עַל-כֹּל, *al-kol*] *Your name*").
 - A. God is bound by His word.
 - B. God's reputation is the carrying out of His word.

- III. Moses, in his parting address to Israel, made it clear that attitude toward doctrine (the Mosaic Law) determined national and personal blessing (Deut.28:1-14) or cursing (Deut.28:15-68).
 - A. Israel's difficulty as a race is a history of their attitude toward Bible Doctrine (Deut.32).
 - B. The issue simply stated (Deut.30:11-20).

- IV. Job, the most prosperous man of his day, paid tribute to the importance of BD (Job.28).
- A. He contrasts man's efforts to exploit earth's hidden resources and wealth with mankind's neglect of BD (vv.1-14).
 - B. Physical wealth cannot procure it, nor can travel discover it.
 - C. Positive volition is the beginning of wisdom (v.28).
- V. Various Biblical analogies to BD illustrate its supreme importance.
- A. Physical food (Lk.4:4 "man shall not live by bread alone").
 - B. Water (Eph.5:26).
 - C. Light (Ps.119:105,130).
 - D. Gold (Ps.19:10; cp. Prov.16:16 "*better to get wisdom than gold*"; 20:15).
 - E. Wine (Lk.5:32-39).
 - F. Pregnancy (Gal.4:19).
 - G. Christ (Gal. 4:19 "My children, with whom I labor until Christ is formed in you—"; Eph. 3:17 "so that Christ may dwell in you hearts through faith...").
- VI. Israel had a week-long feast once a year celebrating the doctrine of the importance of doctrine (Ex.12:15-20; Lev.23:4-8).
- A. It was called Unleavened Bread to show that doctrine is free from any admixture of evil.
 - B. All leaven (evil) had to be removed from the immediate premises.
 - C. Those in violation were to be "cut off" from Israel.
- VII. The gathering of manna by the Jews in the desert illustrates the daily function of GAP (Ex.16; cp. 1Cor.10:3).
- A. Initially, the Jews did not know what the white coriander-like substance was, although Moses had briefed them prior to their first encounter with it.
 - B. Their response to it was "what is it?", which in Hebrew is "manhu" (מַנְהוּ), which became its permanent name.
 - C. This humorously illustrates negative volition's response to a doctrinally-oriented ministry.
 - D. The Jews had to gather it before the sun melted it, showing that there is a prescribed time and place to take in doctrine.
 - E. The Jews were to gather only what they could eat per household or it would spoil.
 - F. On Friday, they were to gather a double portion.
 - G. The Exodus Generation complained about their diet for 40 years, illustrating negative volition.
- VIII. The Pastor-Teacher is repeatedly exhorted to communicate doctrine (1Tim.4:13-16).
- A. He is to teach the entire realm of doctrine (Acts.20:20, 26,27; cp. 2Tim.3:16,17; 2:15).
 - B. Paul's parting exhortation to Timothy (2Tim.4:1-9).
 - C. The communicator who does so evidences his love for Christ (Jn.21:15-17).
 - D. It is the basis for his SG3 (Acts.20:32; 2Tim.4:8; 1Pet.5:4).

- IX. A careful study of Acts demonstrates what the thrust of the local church should be (Acts.2:42; 6:1-7; 11:19-26; 14:21-23; 15:35; 18:11; 19:8-10; 20:17-35; cp. 1Cor.4:17).
- X. Paul's prayer for the Ephesians emphasizes the importance of doctrine (Eph.1:15-21; 3:14-19; cp. Phil.1:9-11; Col.1:3-8; 1Thess.2:13; 3:9, 10; 2Thess.1:11, 12; Rom.1:9-12).
- XI. The measure of a believer's love for Christ is keyed to his hearing and doing His words (Jn.14:15, 21-24).
- XII. Doctrine in the brain-soul produces:
- A. Isolation of, and victory over, the STA (Ps.51:5, 6; 119:11; Rom.6:12-18).
 - B. Divine viewpoint of life (2Cor.10:5).
 - C. Confidence (Heb.10:35; 2Tim.1:7; Prov.3:24-26).
 - D. Inner happiness (1Jn.1:4; 2Jn.12).
 - E. Inner peace (Phil.4:7; 2Pet.1:2).
 - F. Modus vivendi and operandi (Lk.7:33-35 "*wisdom is vindicated by her children*").
 - G. Divine guidance (Rom.12:2).
 - H. Phase 2 deliverance (1Tim.4:16; cp. Phil.2:2).
- XIII. Rejection of doctrine leads to STA deception (2Cor.11:3).
- XIV. Jesus taught this doctrine in the parable of the sower (Mk.4:1-12).
- A. The inculcation of this parable is the key to the understanding of all the parables (Mk.4:13).
 - 1. If you do not see the value in a consistent and intensive study of BD, how can you expect to know God's word?
 - 2. Also implicit in this parable, with its interpretation, is the correct approach to parabolic interpretation. (Each detail corresponds to a doctrinal observation. This refutes the "big idea" approach to parables.)
 - B. The sower is the communicator, and the seed is BD (Mk.4:14).
 - C. The four kinds of soil represent four classes of hearers (cp. Heb.6:7,8).
 - D. They include:
 - 1. The unbeliever (Mk.4:15).
 - 2. Those who are unwilling to deal with opposition from relatives, friends, and society (vv.16,17).
 - 3. Those who flunk the test of living grace or, who under STA lust, put the pursuit of the details above face-to-face teaching (vv.18,19).
 - 4. The few who produce a harvest of SG3 (v.20).
 - E. The parable in vv.21-25 concerning the lamp is dealing with the occupational hazards of the Pastor.
 - F. The one in vv.26-29 emphasizes the three stages of growth.
 - G. The parable of the mustard seed deals with the ultimate triumph of divine viewpoint in human history, culminating with the Millennium (vv.30-32).

- XV. Pursuit of BD and temporal physical blessing.
- A. God has promised living grace to those who remain positive (Mt.6:25-34, especially v.33 “*But seek first [in priority] His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you*”).
 - B. Beyond living grace are the “above and beyond” blessings of Phase 2 there is (Prov.3:13-17; Mk.10:28-31).
 - C. Principle: God is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Heb.11:6).
- XVI. The book of Proverbs and the doctrine of the importance of doctrine.
- A. The proverb that “the fear of the LORD” is the beginning of wisdom teaches the priority of BD (Prov.1:7; 9:10; 15:33).
 - B. The prologue emphasizes spiritual advance (Prov.1:1-6).
 - C. Parental teaching of BD protects the child from a life of crime (Prov.1:8-19), the evil woman (Prov.2:16-19; 5:1-23; 6:23-35; 7:11-27), and evil associates (Prov.2:1-15; 4:10-19).
 - D. It is the source of all physical and spiritual blessings (Prov.3:1-26; 24:3, 4).
 - E. It is the source of the sin unto death to those who reject her (Prov.1:20-32), but deliverance to those who embrace her (Prov.1:33; 3:24-26; 4:1-9).
 - F. Conclusion: Prov.4:7 “*The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; and with all your acquiring, get understanding*”.
- XVII. Observations on the importance of BD to the Rapture Generation.
- A. An intensification of GAP is commanded as you see the day approaching (Heb.10:25).
 - B. A thorough and accurate understanding of “the prophetic word” is indispensable to adjustment to your time in history and glorification of Christ (2Pet.1:15-21; 1Thess.5:1-11; Rev.1:3; 22:18,19).
 - C. We live in the Laodicean Era; a period similar to the first generation of the Church Age, in which doctrine is available in its purest and most complete form.
 - 1. Jesus promised pure gold to the final era (Rev.3:18).
 - 2. James called the last era “*the late (latter) rains*” (Jam.5:7).
 - 3. An attack upon the truth and defection from the faith characterize this era (1Tim.4:1-5; 2Tim.3:1-9).
 - 4. Doctrine in the soul is the basis for the invalidation and abolition of all evil human viewpoint systems which challenge God’s wisdom (1Cor.1:19,27-29; 2Cor.10:4,5).
 - 5. So, do not, no matter the cost, “throw in the towel” at this juncture (cp. Heb.10:32-38).
- XVIII. BD is called the mind of Christ in 1Cor.2:16.
- A. The objective of the indwelling Holy Spirit is to reprogram the brain computer with the mind of Christ (BD; 1Cor.2:12, 13).
 - B. The mind of Christ in the inner man constitutes the Indwelling of Christ (Gal.4:19 “*Christ formed in you*”; Jn.15:4 “*Abide in Me* [command to be filled with the Holy Spirit], *and I in you [IC]*”; cp. Jn.15:7 “*If you abide in Me (FHS), and my words abide*

in you (IC), ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you”; cp. Jn.15:11 *“My joy may be in you”*; Col.1:27b *“which [mystery doctrine] is Christ in you, the hope of glory”*; Col.1:28 *“And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ”*; Eph.3:17 *“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith”*).

C. In Christ dwells all wisdom and divine viewpoint (1Cor.1:24 *“to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God”*); cp. 1Cor.1:30 *“But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God”*; Col.2:3 *“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”*).

D. In fact, BD is personified with respect to the Son of God (Prov.8:22ff; Eph.4:20 *“But you did not learn Christ in this way”*).

XIX. The idea that you can merely listen to BD and not apply, and thereby grow spiritually is a fiction (Jam.1:23-25).

Reviewed: May 15, 1983
September 24, 1989
November 2, 1993
October 13, 1994
November 19, 1995
December 14, 1999
October, 2000
March, 2001
October 2021