

EXPLORING APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE

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DOCTRINE MATTERS

Lesson Focus

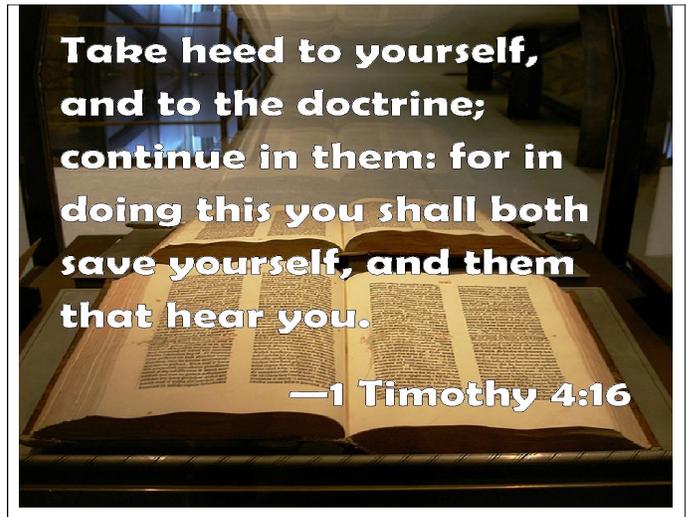
We are focusing on the Apostolic Doctrine as it is written in the Bible.

Its importance cannot be overstated as it is the foundation of the true Christian Faith.

Why Does Doctrine Matter?

It matters because it determines character.

- ◆ What a person believes affects what he is.
- ◆ Believing affects



Guiding Statement for this Apostolic Doctrine series

being, and being affects doing.

- ◆ If we follow Bible doctrine, it develops the Divine nature in us, dividing us from the world.
- ◆ Reference 1 Timothy 4: 16 (above) and Titus 2:10, "Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."

DOCTRINE IS LIKENED TO 3 THINGS IN SCRIPTURE*

Doctrine is like Leaven:

Yeast works silently and secretly, eventually influencing the whole lump of dough.
(Read Matt. 16:6).

Doctrine is like Wind:

False doctrines can uproot believers like strong winds can uproot trees (Ps. 1:4).
(Also read Eph. 4:14).

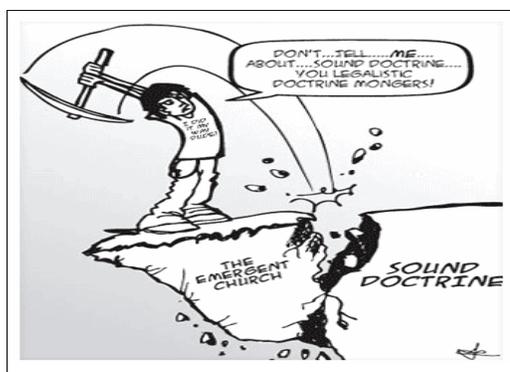
Doctrine is like Rain:

After a time of drought or famine, rain is symbolic of revival, refreshing and restoration.
(Read Deut. 32:2)

ADMONISHMENT AND CAUTION

Apostle Paul admonished Timothy to:

- ◆ Teach no other doctrine 1Timothy 1:3.
- ◆ Stick to sound doctrine 1Timothy 1:10.
- ◆ Teach good doctrine 1Timothy 4:6
- ◆ Give attendance to doctrine 1Timothy 4:13.



Rejection of sound doctrine results in spiritual suicide.

- ◆ Avoid doctrine of devils 1Timothy 4:16.
- ◆ Continue in the doctrine 1Timothy 4:16.
- ◆ Honor those who respect doctrine 1Timothy 5:17
- ◆ Do not blaspheme the doctrine of God. 1Timothy 6:1
- ◆ Avoid and reject all false doctrine 1Timothy 6:3
- ◆ Timothy, you know Paul's doctrine 2 Timothy 3:10
- ◆ The Scripture is the basis for doctrine 2 Timothy 3:16
- ◆ Preach doctrine 2 Timothy 4:2-3
- ◆ Some will not endure sound doctrine. 2 Timothy 4:3

The Apostle John's Warnings:

(Read 2 John 2:7-11)

- Many false teachers are perverting God's Word and attempting to persuade Christians to accept their views.
- Consistent with Eph 2:20 (read), we should reject any theology (and theologian, "Receive him not" vs. 10) that is not fully committed to the doctrine of Christ and the Apostles.
- Those who distort and oppose the "Faith Delivered To The Saints" must not be received into the fellowship of believers.
- Watch against accepting false teachings [Vs. 9]. Many deceivers are entered into the World [Vs.7].
- ◆ A true "Believer" must consider all supposed Christian teachers who do not have God [V.9] and who are accursed of God (Read Gal.1:9).
- ◆ God commands the believers not to give encouragement or financial support to, or to remain under the ministry of such teachers. To do so is to join them in opposing God and His Word and to come under the same condemnation as the compromising teachers [V.11] .

These instructions will only seem wrong to those who have little concern for the glory of Jesus Christ, the authority of God's Word, and the people whose eternal souls are destroyed by casting aside God's truth.

Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. (Hebrews 13:9)

INCLUSIVITY OF DOCTRINE

Doctrine impacts everyone. Paul urges Titus (Read Titus 2: 1-9) to teach conduct in accordance with sound doctrine to five different groups of people:

- ◆ Older men (v. 2),
- ◆ Older women (v. 3),
- ◆ Younger women (vv. 4-5),
- ◆ Young men (v. 6),
- ◆ With Titus as an example (vv. 7-8), and
- ◆ Slaves (vv. 9-10).

DOCTRINE'S VALUES*

A. DOCTRINE MUST BE SOUND

Sound doctrine alone preserves from error, bringing spiritual health and development. (Read 2 Timothy 4:2-4).

The converts at Pentecost continued first in doctrine and second in fellowship (Acts 2:42). Do not sacrifice doctrine for fellowship! (Read 1 Jn 1:7).

B. DOCTRINE MUST BE PURE

The only true test for the purity of teaching is the purity of life it produces. (Read Job 11:4).

E. DOCTRINE DETERMINES DESTINY

It is wrong to say that it doesn't matter what a person believes as long as he/she is sincere!

C. DOCTRINE MUST BE SCRIPTURAL

All things must be tested by the Word of God, which must be interpreted by proper principles. (Read 2 Tim 3:14-17).

Who and what you believe affects your eternal destiny. **It is possible to be sincerely wrong!**

D. DOCTRINE AFFECTS FELLOWSHIP

The Bible teaches that believers should not have fellowship with teachers of false doctrine.

Outside of obedience is darkness and death; inside is light and life!

F. DOCTRINE MUST BE HANDLED WITH LOVE

Though our doctrine is exactly right, if we do not have love we are nothing in God's sight. (Read 1 Cor. 13:2).

Main Scripture

8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Mat. 15:8-9

One way to ensure that we are believing and teaching true doctrine is to consider how what we are believing and teaching relates to the doctrine of Christ.

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Our Responsibility to Doctrine*

We must OBEY it!

- ◆ The highest degree of “love” will never negate the need for obedience to doctrine!
- ◆ Jesus warned us in Matthew 23:3 to beware of the doctrine of the Pharisees because “they say and do not.” Preaching without practicing becomes a lifeless form!
- ◆ Paul commended the believers at Rome who “obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered” to them. Christian doctrine must reflect Christian living. (Read Rom. 6:17).
- ◆ Paul could say in 2 Timothy 3:10, “But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life ...” because his lifestyle was consistent with the doctrine he preached.

CONCLUSION

- ◆ The greatest danger in handling doctrine is that it may become truth apart from experience.
- ◆ Truth that is not lived is powerless truth;
- ◆ Truth un-lived is the greatest waste in the world!



Show me your doctrine and I can tell you who you are. You are what you believe, practice and teach.

In the words of Mohatma Gandhi:

A Man is but the product of his thoughts what he thinks, he becomes.

*Raymond Woodward