

1. Last week I taught in part The Importance of Doctrine. After a brief review of our last session, we will resume new material on page 3.

2. Before we do, however, you may want to use the provisions of 1Jo 1:9 by silently naming your sins to God as the Holy Spirit may or may not show.

Now that the decks have been cleared for action, let's complete our categorical study of the importance of Bible doctrine.

The Importance of Doctrine

1. Definition: As used in this categorical study, doctrine is the content of Scripture exegeted and taught categorically by a pastor-teacher in a local church.

1.1 Col. R. B. Thieme developed an acrostic to communicate the way doctrine should be taught in the local church: ICE, for Isagogics, Categories and Exegesis. I have amplified it somewhat.

ICED

I The I stands for Introduction, meaning those facts which introduce historical nuances and background information about the book, the author and the historical setting.

C The C stands for Categories, meaning that study of a subject found throughout the Bible as opposed to an eclectic approach.

E The E stands for Exegesis, meaning a critical analysis of the Bible performed from a study of the original language using the best manuscripts available.

D The D stands for Dispensation, meaning that analysis of the Biblical passage or passages given the epoch to which the Scripture relates.

2. In 2Ti 3:16-17 we find that doctrine is stressed as the means for performing the Christian life.

2.1 Scripture, however, must be interpreted based on a complete and thorough exegesis.

3. 2Pe 1:2-8 summarizes the process for acquiring doctrine.

4. The plight of the negative believer is set forth in 2Pe 1:9.

4.1 In verse nine, we find a description of the poor Christian who has not added to his faith the cast of characters demanded in the first eight verses of 2nd Peter chapter two.

2Pe 1:9 but he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

4.1.1 Because many believers have not followed the protocol plan of God, they wake up in a new world each morning, unaware of their very own spiritual life and oblivious to the fact they have a spiritual sense of destiny. These negative believers are everywhere today. Our churches are full of them, and, perhaps worse, there are many born-again people who have rejected the church altogether.

4.2 Continued refusal to take in the Word may result in a believer forgetting he was ever saved.

5. Now let's leave Second Peter and develop further our subject, The Importance of Doctrine.

6. It is impossible to please God if you do not believe that He is your Savior and that He blesses the believer who uses the two power options. Heb 11:6

7. Without doctrine you will find your prayers to be an abomination to God.
Pro 28:9

8. Pro 12:1 tells us the man who loves spiritual growth will love knowledge and that the man who rebels against God's discipline is brutish--animal-like.

8.1 Compare this Proverb to Heb 4:12. The anonymous writer of Hebrews declares the power of Scripture, how it cuts to the essence of our soul and human spirit discerning our true thoughts and intents.

9. Doctrine was always with God, even from eternity past; before anything was, there was doctrine. Pro 8:22 and 23 also declare the importance God places on doctrine.

10. God has magnified His Word, even above His name and reputation. A clear demonstration of the importance of His Word is found in Psa 138:2.

11. The attitude of a believer toward Bible doctrine determines whether he or she receives blessing or discipline in time. Pro 8:33-36

12. Jos 1:8 says daily study of the Word of God will make the believer a unique success.

13. Doctrine is the basis for blessing in time. Psa 23:6

14. Doctrine must become more real than reality in the life of a believer.

KJV

2Pe 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day

star arise in your heart:

15. In order to function properly in time every believer is urged to get under the authority of his or her right pastor-teacher. Heb 10:25, 13:7 and 17

16. A nation without a pivot of positive believers will fall under the fifth cycle of discipline. As go the believers in a nation, so goes that nation.

Hos 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land ...

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

17. The pastor-teacher in the local church has the responsibility for communicating doctrine.

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, *pastors-teachers*;

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Eph 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

18. Doctrine is only found in the written Canon.

1Pe 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; in whom, though now you see him not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Gal 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

19. Doctrine produces several attributes.

Confidence

2Co 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

2Co 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

2Co 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Divine viewpoint

2Co 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalt itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Orientation to the plan of God

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

A stable mind

Isa 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

A basis for divine guidance

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may know what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

All things that pertain to life and godliness

2Pe 1:2-3 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things which pertain unto life and godliness through the knowledge of him who has called us to glory and virtue.

Works acceptable to God--Metabolized doctrine is the source of Christian production.

2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Jam 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Jam 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Jam 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

Jam 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Jam 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

20. To avail ourselves of doctrine and thus avoid the catastrophe of being blinded by the lights of the world, we must consistently use our two power options; i.e. the intake of the Word and the filling of the Spirit.

21. This is the only way we can assemble the cast of characters listed by Peter.

22. For many Christians, their spiritual life is simply a one-act play. The first act for them is faith in Christ, but God desires that the show continue and the story line develop.

22.1 To avoid being a one-act play there must be a disciplined approach to rebound and study, rebound and study--the consistent use of the two power options.

22.2 Without the assembled characters the curtain will never rise on act two; a vast audience of unseen witnesses is waiting in the theater. The question perpetually remains, are we willing to claim the promises which lead us to fulfill our very own sense of spiritual destiny?

23. Now we are ready to resume our study of 1Ti 1:4, but first an expanded translation of 1Ti 1:1-3.

1Ti 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, by the command of God the Father, our Savior and Christ Jesus our hope and guarantor of all that awaits us both in time and eternity,

1Ti 1:2 to Timothy, my reliable student and legitimate son in the Christian faith. I want God's plan in action and the peace and stability that comes from that plan for your life; the plan, the plan in action and the peace resulting from that plan must come from God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

1Ti 1:3 Just before I left Ephesus to go into Macedonia, I urged you to stay at Ephesus in order that you might serve as my vicar, charging those who are teaching false doctrine to cease and desist,

24. The motive of this letter is to provide a written memorandum of previous verbal instructions. Paul is exhorting Timothy to stay at Ephesus, where he is to lead, and rebuke those who are teaching false doctrine.

25. Wycliffe writes in his commentary as follows: "It may be that Timothy was planning to go somewhere else and Paul after learning of his plans orders him to stay."

26. The idea is not merely that those exhorted are not to teach any other doctrine, but they are not to teach a different doctrine; i.e., a doctrine contrary to that which Paul had taught.

27. Paul is urging Timothy not to tolerate the syncretism of Gnosticism and Jewish myths with Christianity. Doctrine must never be compromised.

28. After Paul's death, Ephesus became "the headquarters" of the Christian Church and the apostle John became the leader of the Ephesian church.

29. So far we have exegeted that portion of 1Ti 1:4 which in the KJV has been translated "Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying ..." noting it might better be translated "**nor do I want you to give assent to Gnostic myths and endless Jewish fables about genealogy which stimulate vacuous questions rather than the teaching of God's protocol which glorifies God ...**"

30. The entire verse four has been translated in the KJV.

KJV-Sentence continues

1Ti 1:4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

31. And now for the phrase "which is in faith."

WHICH IS IN FAITH: Ο ΕΝ ΠΙΣΤΙΣ

1. **Ho En Pistis** is better translated "which only comes by means of faith ..."

2. The article **Ho** is declined as an accusative singular and used as a relative pronoun; it is followed by the preposition **En** and the noun **Pistis**, both declined as instrumental singulars.

SO DO - these words are not found in the better manuscripts.

3. Let me give you several points about faith.

3.1 Faith is a non-meritorious system of perception given to us by God.

3.2 God gives the ability to believe to all "normal human beings."

Joh 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

Joh 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

Joh 1:8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

Joh 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

3.3 In a spiritual sense the result of faith is given to all others who never reach the age of accountability. 2Sa 12:23

End Lesson Taught 11-8-09