

The Importance of Doctrine

1 Timothy 4:13 says “give attention ... to doctrine.” Yet some people belittle the value of doctrinal preaching. Consider Bible teaching about the importance of doctrine.

I. The Meaning of Doctrine

A. Definition and Related Forms of the Word

“Doctrine” simply means teaching or that which is taught. It comes from the root word for teaching. Note: Verb – teach (didasko); Adjective – taught (didaktos); Noun (person) – teacher (didaskolos); Noun (act of teaching or information taught) – teaching/doctrine (didache or didaskalia). Consider some examples.

Mark 1:21,22 – Jesus _____ and people were astonished at His _____

Mark 4:2 – Jesus _____ parables and said in His _____

B. Other Equivalent or Connected Terms

Acts 13:7,12 – When Sergius Paulus heard the _____ (verse 7), he was astonished at the _____ of the Lord (verse 12).

1 Timothy 1:10,11 – Sound _____ is that which is according to the _____

2 Timothy 4:2-4 – Some will not want sound _____ but will turn from the _____

So despite the mistaken claims of some people, doctrine is interchangeable in meaning with the word of God, the gospel, the truth. How important are these? (Titus 1:9)

II. The Source of True Doctrine

Another way to understand doctrine and see its importance is to understand its origin.

Acts 2:42 – Christians continued _____ in the apostles’ **doctrine**. Doctrine was revealed by inspired men, so God’s people should continue in it steadfastly.

2 Timothy 3:16,17 – Scriptures inspired by _____ are profitable for _____

2 John 9 – In order to have the Father and the Son, we must abide in the _____

The doctrine of Scripture is profitable, it is necessary to all good works, and continuing steadfastly in it is necessary to have fellowship with the Father and the Son.

(John 7:16,17; Titus 2:10)

III. The Importance of True Doctrine

General Passages Emphasizing the Need to Teach

These verses show the importance of teaching but use other forms of the word for teaching.

Matthew 28:18-20 – Converts should be **taught** to obey all Jesus’ _____

John 6:44-45 – No one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws him. They must be _____, hear, and learn. Teaching is the way God brings men to salvation.

Acts 5:42 – Having been beaten and warned to stop preaching Jesus’ message, the apostles did not cease **teaching** and preaching _____. (Acts 20:20)

Acts 11:26 – Preachers _____ with the church and **taught** many people.

Colossians 1:28 – Paul preached Christ, warning _____ and **teaching** every man

Hebrews 5:12-6:1 – Each disciple, as he/she matures, should become a _____

Passages Specifically Emphasizing the Importance of True Doctrine

These passages do use the specific word for “doctrine.”

Those who are unconverted need to be taught doctrine.

Acts 5:28 – The apostles had _____ Jerusalem with their **doctrine**.

Romans 6:16-18 – People who are slaves of sin must obey from the heart the form of _____ delivered to them. They are then set free from sin.

Disciples need to be taught doctrine.

Acts 2:42 – Those who were converted at Pentecost continued in the apostles' _____

1 Timothy 4:6,7 – Disciples should be nourished in good _____, which they should carefully follow. So both converted people and unconverted people need doctrine.

(2 Timothy 3:10)

Everyone needs to be taught doctrine.

1 Timothy 4:13,16 – Preachers should give attention to _____, take heed to themselves and to the _____. By continuing in these, they can save both themselves and those who hear them. Doctrine is necessary so we can be saved and so others can be saved.

Titus 1:9 – Elders must hold to the faithful word he has been **taught** (Greek: doctrine). Then he must be able, by using sound **doctrine**, to convince those who _____.

Titus 2:7 – Young men should show integrity, reverence, and _____ in **doctrine**. So older men should learn and teach doctrine, and young men should speak doctrine.

So everyone needs to be taught doctrine, and everyone needs to learn to teach doctrine.

(2 Timothy 4:2-4; Titus 2:1-6; 2 John 9-11)

IV. The Danger of False Doctrine

One reason we must emphasize true doctrine is to help people avoid false doctrines.

Matthew 15:9 – In vain they worship me, teaching as **doctrine** the commands of _____

Romans 16:17 – Mark and avoid those who cause divisions _____ to the **doctrine**

Ephesians 4:13-15 – Seek maturity, not tossed to and fro by every wind of _____

1 Timothy 1:3,4 – Charge people to teach no other _____, such as fables, etc.

1 Timothy 4:1-3,6 – Some will leave the faith and follow _____ of demons.

Those who are nourished in good _____ must teach the brethren about these things.

2 Timothy 4:2-4 – Some will not want _____ **doctrine**, but they turn from the truth to fables. So preach the word, rebuke and exhort with all longsuffering and _____

Titus 1:9 – Elders should use sound _____ to convict those who contradict.

2 John 9-11 – To have fellowship with God, we must abide in the _____ of Christ.

If someone comes who does not bring this _____, we must not support him.

One reason true doctrine is necessary is to help people avoid false doctrine.

(Matt. 16:12; Col. 2:20-22; 1 Tim. 6:3,4; Rev. 2:14,15,24; Heb. 13:9; Passages warning about false teachers: Matthew 7:15-23; 15:14; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; Acts 20:28-30; 1 John 4:1; Titus 1:9-14; 2 John 9-11; Romans 16:17,18; Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Peter chap. 2)

V. Examples of Doctrine

These teachings are called “doctrine.” Ask yourself: How important is this kind of teaching?

Matthew 7:28 – The _____ was Jesus’ teaching (**doctrine**).

Matthew 22:31-33 – _____ of the dead was Jesus’ teaching (**doctrine**).

Mark 4:2,3 – In His teaching (**doctrine**) Jesus taught many things in _____

Mark 12:38-40 – In His _____ Jesus **opposed the errors** of the scribes.

Acts 17:17-19 – When Paul taught _____ He spoke **doctrine**

Romans 6:16-18 – To be **freed from sin**, people must obey the _____ delivered

1 Timothy 1:9-11 – The many **moral errors** listed are contrary to sound _____

Titus 2:1-6 – Sound **doctrine** includes responsibilities of **older men and women, and younger women and men, including family responsibilities and moral issues**.

Hebrews 6:2 – Basic principles include the **doctrine** of _____

Are these doctrinal subjects important? Are they necessary to salvation or unnecessary?

Conclusion

1 Timothy 4:16 – Faithful teachers must take heed themselves and to the _____ and _____ in it, so they can save themselves and those who hear them.

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