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 _______________ 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 _______________ and preaching _______________. (Acts 20:20)
Acts 11:26 – Preachers _______________ with the church and _______________ many people.
Colossians 1:28 – Paul preached Christ, warning _______________ and _______________ 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.

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.

V. Examples of Doctrine

These teachings are called “doctrines.” 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 ________________

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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