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

1 Timothy 1:10,11 – Sound ___________ is that which is according to the ___________
2 Timothy 4:2 – 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
document. 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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