

# PREACHING THE OLD PATHS PT 18 & 19

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*“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. 18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.” Jer. 6:16-19.*

I would like to continue on the subject of, “Preaching the Old Paths.” We have set forth before you 6 of the many truths found in the Bible.

- 1. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about God.**
- 2. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Man.**
- 3. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Salvation.**
- 4. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Christ.**
- 5. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Word of God.**
- 6. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Doctrine.**

These are precious truths that I have and will continue to preach by God’s grace without wavering and in holy conviction. We have come to our last subject on this series which I began December 29, 2013.

We have already preached the TRUTH about God, about man, about salvation and about the Lord Jesus Christ and last week the Word of God and this morning we shall consider our last point and that is: **To Preach the Old Paths is to Preach the TRUTH about Doctrine.** Again as with all the previous points this also is a broad nebulous subject that in no way can I in a short 30 – 45 minute sermon give you everything regarding the importance of this needful topic in our day and that is to Preach the TRUTH about DOCTRINE!

Now, I know that this is not a subject sad to say that most professing Christendom considers important or interesting, but we must understand that this is the backbone of the church and a very needful truth that should have preeminence in the preaching in the glorious kingdom of God. I’ll qualify this term preeminence as to the preaching in the kingdom of God in a moment.

This was the idea of Paul I believe when he said in Acts 20:27 & 28, *“For I have not shunned **to declare unto you all the counsel of God.** 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, **to feed the church of God,** which he*

*hath purchased with his own blood.*” Notice that Paul said two important things: first that he did not shunned, that is, he did not avoid or ignored to declare the whole counsel of God, which no doubt we shall proof that it included doctrine and secondly Paul said, TO FEED the CHURCH of God, that is, not to entertain, amuse have a circus at church or dancing or drama, nor to tickle their ears, but to FEED the CHURCH of God with no doubt again we shall proof that he fed the church with good solid wholesome DOCTRINE!

I want to look again at the verses we used last week to speak on the Word of God in 2 Tim.3:16 & 17, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*”

The first thing that the GOD BREATHED SCRIPTURE is PROFITABLE for is DOCTRINE! Even if this was the only time that the Bible used the word DOCTRINE, it would be sufficient as to its preeminence in the preaching in God’s Kingdom, but we shall see in a moment as to how often this word doctrine is used and sad that so many even professing Christians would like to remove it from the Bible because they say it divides the body of Christ. They’re wrong on two counts, doctrine does not divide, true Biblical doctrine unites and secondly their misappropriation of the phrase body of Christ to represent some mystical invisible universal Church.

Now the word profitable is the Greek word ‘*Ophelimos*’ which means to be useful, serviceable, helpful and profitable. It makes application in the sense that this word means to provide something that a person need to attain in the aspect of a specific goal which of course in our context means profitable so ... “*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*” In other words DOCTRINE found in the SCRIPTURES is profitable to be A MAN OF GOD!

The word of God is quite clear in the importance and application of doctrine in the church and in our own practical lives. As we have said on many occasions, I say again, doctrine without practice is useless.

Questions we would like to answer this morning are: Does the Bible really teach the importance of doctrine or it is a manmade tradition? Did the Old Testament saints have doctrine or is this something only in the New Testament? Did Christ preach on doctrine? Did Christ have doctrine or did He just walk around and loved on everyone? Did His disciples have doctrine? Did the Apostle Paul have doctrine? Do we really need doctrine or should we just love everyone, believe everything and hold hands with everyone under the umbrella of LOVE? Did the 1<sup>st</sup> century church have doctrine? Did subsequent churches after its beginning and throughout her history have doctrine? Does the church

need doctrine in this 21<sup>st</sup> century?

There are 3 things I would like to look at this morning regarding: To Preach the Old Paths is to PREACH the Truth about DOCTRINE:

- I. **The Nature of Doctrine.**
- II. **The Necessity of Doctrine.**
- III. **The Nourishment of Doctrine.**

First of all: I. The Nature of Doctrine. By nature we mean its description, that is; what doctrine is or what is meant by doctrine. The Greek word of doctrine is '**Didaskalia**' from '**Didasko**' from '**Dao**' which basically means to teach or to know, that is, it is either the act of teaching of the thing taught. Therefore the word simply means to TEACH and refers first and foremost to that which is taught and not so much the method of teaching. Consider the following quote by W. A. Elwell, doctrine "...is broader than a simple reference to information passed on from one person to another or from one generation to the next. Christianity is a religion founded on a message of good news rooted in the significance of the life of Jesus Christ. In Scripture, then, **doctrine** refers to the entire body of essential theological truths that define and describe that message (1Ti 1:10; 4:16; 6:3; Titus 1:9-note). The message includes historical facts, such as those regarding the events of the life of Jesus Christ (1Cor 11:23). But it is deeper than biographical facts alone. As J. Gresham Machen pointed out years ago, Jesus' death is an integral historical fact but it is not doctrine. Jesus' death for sins (1Co 15:3) is doctrine. (Sound) **Doctrine**, then, is scriptural teaching on theological truths." It does not take a degree to read in Scripture and find that doctrine has a primary application in Scripture and that it is clearly emphasized much in the Pastoral Epistles. Anyone reading or just perusing through the New Testament will see this and again especially in the Pastoral Epistles. The word doctrine is used 51 times in Scripture and 45 of those are used in the New Testament. 22 of those times are used by the Apostle Paul and of those 22, 16 of those are in the Pastoral Epistles. No doubt that Paul puts emphasis on doctrine as he wrote to the pastors.

One writer said this about doctrine, "**Doctrine** structures our thinking and so determines what and how we believe which in turn is reflected in how we behave. Too often new converts are thrown immediately into some "work" instead of placing them in the firm footing of vital Biblical doctrine. Sound doctrine is mandatory in order to structure sound thinking and wise living. If you are not thinking correctly, you cannot be living correctly. The Bible is our source for knowledge concerning God's revelation in Christ." I like what Warren Wiersbe said about doctrine, "Far too many songs not only teach no doctrine, but many even teach false doctrines. A singer has no more right to sing a lie than a teacher has to teach a lie."

Thus, doctrine simply means to teach a specific truth and emphasize the importance of that which is being taught to be applicable to our lives, in doctrine and in practice. We need to understand that everyone has doctrine, but only that which is Biblically based is sound doctrine, Even those that attack and decry doctrine, they have doctrine themselves, when they say, lay doctrine aside let us just love one another, their emphases is on love and yes LOVE is a doctrine.

Doctrine my dear ones is important to every aspect and teaching in our Christian lives. You see, whether we know or understand this or not, but without doctrine, then there is no standard of rule for truth and thus, truth can be whatever that person wants it to be, but clear and Biblical doctrine identifies that truth. How can you tell what is truth and what is error? Good solid Biblical DOCTRINE! How can you tell what is a lie and that you might be deceived? By good and solid Biblical DOCTRINE!

Thus, again doctrine is the teaching of God's Holy WORD! Don't underestimate good sound DOCTRINE it might be the means to get you to heaven, but false doctrine will always lead you to hell.

Secondly: **II. The Necessity of Doctrine.** The word of God is quite clear as to the importance and necessity of doctrine. It is vital and necessary for the purity and upholding of the true gospel! Without doctrine there is no standard for truth, truth resides in doctrine and doctrine resides in truth, you cannot have one without the other. Not only this, but without good solid sound doctrine the church would be like a jelly fish which has no bone and therefore without any strength. It's useless, can you imagine a body without bones and can you imagine a church without doctrine both would be useless.

Now we all know that the church needs a good solid foundation and this foundation is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, therefore the church should be the pillar and ground of truth. Thus, the church must build its teachings on this truth and this truth is founded in good solid Biblical doctrine. Great Baptist Theologian B.H. Carroll underscores the important of doctrine and creeds (1689 Confession of Faith), "*A church with a little creed is a church with a little life. The more divine doctrines a church can agree on, the greater its power, and the wider its usefulness. The fewer its articles of faith, the fewer its bonds of union and compactness. "The modern cry: 'Less doctrine and more liberty,' is a degeneration from the vertebrate to the jellyfish, and means less unity and less morality, and it means more heresy. Definitive truth does not create heresy—it only exposes and corrects. Shut off the doctrine and creed and the Christian world would fill up with heresy unsuspected and uncorrected, but nonetheless deadly. "Just so, it is not good discipline that created backsliding and other sins of Christians. But discipline is oftentimes the only means of saving a church. To hold to discipline for immoralities and relax it on doctrine puts the cart before the horse and attempts to heal a stream while leaving the fountain impure. To Christ and the apostles, false creeds were the most deadly things, and called most for the use of the knife..."Again, I solemnly warn the reader against all who depreciate creeds and doctrine, or who would reduce them to a minimum of entrance qualifications into the church."* He had an understanding on the importance of doctrine and creeds for the church.

I like the analogy he uses of the jelly-fish. I liked to add my two cents in the matter; you see a church without doctrine is like a jellyfish without backbone and without any structure and without any strength and just being carried about floating in the ocean, it is carried with the currents of the water without any strength or control, just a blob floating in the ocean. Next time you happen to be out at the beach and see a jellyfish be reminded how

many churches float around like jellyfish, because they are without any doctrine and be thankful that you are in a church that believes and takes a stand for good solid doctrine. Doctrine to the church is like the bones and skeleton to the body, again without the bones the body is just a blob of tissue, thus the church must have good solid sound doctrine for its survival.

Again we ask did the Old Testament saints have doctrine, I'll answer with 3 Scriptures. Turn first to Deut.32:1-4; "Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: 3 Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. 4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." Moses calls upon heaven and earth to be witness as to what he is about to say. Moses says, "My doctrine..." This is the first time the word doctrine is used in the Bible and Moses says "My doctrine..." He says that his doctrine will drop as the rain. What happens when it rains? The grass, plants, shrubs and trees are refreshed and are caused to grow. I guess we can say that doctrine likewise causes us to be refreshed and causes growth in our lives. Moses' doctrine cause him to have a high regard towards God, notice again verses 3 & 4.

Job had doctrine notice as one of his friends Zophar answers as to what Job had said in Job 11:4, "For thou hast said, My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in thine eyes." Job said that his doctrine was pure.

In Proverbs 4:1 & 2 Solomon says, "Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. 2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law." Solomon had good doctrine.

The first time the word doctrine is used in the New Testament it is used in reference to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, at the end of the Sermon of the Mount notice what is said in Matthew 7:28 & 29, "And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were **astonished at his doctrine**: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." He blew them away with His teachings and with His doctrine so much so that they were astonished because He taught as one with authority. Turn with me to Matthew 22:23-33, "And when the multitude heard this, they were **astonished at his doctrine**." What doctrine were they astonished at? At the DOCTRINE of the RESURRECTION! In Mark 1: 21 & 22, "And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day **he entered into the synagogue, and taught**. 22 And they **were astonished at his doctrine**: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes." Mark 4:1 & 2, "And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land. 2 And he taught them many things by parables, and **said unto them in his doctrine**." Mark 11:18, "And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because **all the people was astonished at his doctrine**." Mark 12:38, "And he said unto them in **his doctrine**, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing,

and love salutations in the marketplaces.” We see here one of the necessities of doctrine is to warn against false doctrine. As a matter of fact notice what Paul says in also warning against those who hold to false doctrine in Romans 16:17 & 18, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences **contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned**; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” If they had learned good sound doctrine apparently it must have been taught to them. Christ also warned against false doctrine in Matthew 16:11&12, “How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? 12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, **but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**” Christ was warning them about the false teachings of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

Notice again how the hearers of Christ understood that He taught sound doctrine, Luke 4:31 & 32, “And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and **taught them** on the sabbath days. 32 And **they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.**”

I want you to notice that all 4 writers of the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John that they made reference to Christ’s DOCTRINE! Notice in these verses in John where Christ makes reference that the doctrine that He had was not only His but also God the Father’s DOCTRINE! Turn to John 7:14 - 18, “Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. 15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? 16 Jesus answered them, and said, **My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.** 17 If any man will **do his will, he shall know of the doctrine**, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. 18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.”

Even the lost knew Jesus had doctrine, notice what they ask Him after they arrest Him to be crucified in John 18:19, “The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of **his doctrine.**” They asked Him about His disciples and they asked Him about His DOCTRINE! Jesus Christ had doctrine because He knew the importance of sound doctrine, that is, that DOCTRINE is necessary for an individual Christian to function and also for the church to function correctly.

Doctrine then is necessary and also indispensable because 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost it is necessary for salvation, that is, can you be saved by any means or any way or only by means of Biblical TRUTH saturated in doctrine? This is why we whole heartily hold to the DOCTRINE of SOTERIOLOGY, that is the DOCTRINE of SALVATION. Think about this for a moment, there is the Doctrine of God, there is the Doctrine of Christ, the Doctrine of Pneumatology which is the doctrine of the Holy Spirit then there is the Doctrine of Bibliology, which is the Doctrine of the Scriptures, there is the Doctrine of Justification, Regeneration, Sanctification; there is the Doctrine of the Atonement of Christ, you also have the Doctrine of Anthropology which the doctrine of man which includes the doctrine

of Harmartiology which is the doctrine of sin. Then of course you have the Doctrine of Angelology the doctrine of the origin and nature of angels, then there is the Doctrine of Ecclesiology which is the doctrine of the Church, then you have Eschatology which is the doctrine of the last things or last days. These are some of the doctrines set forth in the Scriptures, by no means am I saying we need to know these doctrines before we are saved, no what I am saying is that we learn these doctrines as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, in other words DOCTRINE is very important, if it was important to Christ and important to the Apostles, then it must be important to the 21<sup>st</sup> century Church!

We say again, Doctrine then is necessary and also indispensable to the Church of the Living and True God, remember the church is the PILLAR and GROUND that is; the FOUNDATION of TRUTH which is DOCTRINE!

Even with all the clear teaching of the Bible in regards to DOCTRINE and its importance to the Church and the individual Christian, many still cry out against it and say, “we don’t need doctrine, we just need to love people.” Others say, “Let’s not discuss doctrine because doctrine divides, let us all just hold hands together and get on with evangelism and win San Antonio to Christ.” Sounds so noble and so sincere and or so spiritual, doesn’t it? I’ve also heard, “don’t preach doctrine just preach Jesus Christ.”

Let’s see if I can use this analogy regarding basketball, I coached basketball for about 10 years and I’ve been officiating basketball for about 10 years so I think I know a little something about basketball. Here, let me get my clip board out let me gather my team in the huddle and say unto them, now boys this is the basketball court, don’t worry about these lines and these baskets here don’t mind them and by the way don’t worry about the ball, just go out and play basketball and have fun, lets break, 1 2 3 break! Now, wouldn’t that be foolish. Well, guess what you can’t play basketball without considering the lines, the rules, the violations, the fouls, the baskets and so forth, in other words there is doctrine in basketball, that is teaching and in like manner it would be foolish to say you don’t need doctrine in a church and in reality you really cannot have a true church without having sound DOCTRINE!

We then see that doctrine is so important and so needful, it must be foundational because as Psalms 11:3 says, *“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”* As one commentator said, *“Doctrine is not a dirty word. When we talk about the doctrine of the Bible, we are simply talking about the “teaching” of the Bible. To say, “Doctrine is insignificant,” is to say that the teachings of the Bible are insignificant. Doctrine is not insignificant. It is vital.”*

The sad thing is that many put love before doctrine, but what is needful is doctrine before love, not saying that love is not important but that doctrine has preeminence over love. In 1

Cor.13 which is the love chapter of the Bible and speaks of the importance of love, which I will say that if you only have doctrine and no love then your doctrine is worthless, because without love we are nothing, thus; doctrine ought to cause you to love others in truth. Notice what Paul says in verse 6 of 1 Cor.13, love or charity, "*Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.*" I can assure you that if love rejoiceth in truth love will also rejoice in DOCTRINE! Notice the words of Paul also to the Ephesians in chapter 4 where he reminds us that God had given the church apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints and for the work of the ministry to edify the body of Christ and command us in verses 14 & 15 : "*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; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.*"

So there is no fighting between love and doctrine they go hand and hand, it is man that created the issues and problems between love and doctrine and this is why Christ and Paul warn us against the false doctrines of men, because it false teachings and false doctrine that divides not true doctrine, notice the next 4 verse which I will read to you:

- Christ said in Mark 7:7, "*Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*"
- Paul said in Colossians 2:22, "*Which all are to perish with the using; after the commandments and doctrines of men?*"
- 1 Timothy 4:1, "*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*"
- **Hebrews 13:9**, "*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.*"

We see then that TRUE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE is very important and necessary because there are doctrines of men, doctrines of devils and strange doctrines which are all but FALSE DOCTRINES! Paul was very clear that Timothy as pastor in Ephesus would teach and preach no other doctrine but true doctrine, 1 Tim1:2 & 3, "*Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. 3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine.*" Notice what Paul continues to say to Timothy in the same chapter verses 9-11, "*Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; 11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.*"

From the beginning in the institution of Church Christ taught them doctrine so that they would also teach doctrine to those whom the Lord would save. We all know that the infant



church was blessed tremendously on the day of Pentecost with POWER from on high and over 3,000 souls were saved and added to the church and what are we told by Peter in his sermon in Acts as to what should be taught to these new believers. Turn to Acts 2:37-43, *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42 **And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.”* What was the FIRST thing that they continued STEDFASTLY in? IN DOCTRINE! If Doctrine was so important to the infant church, I can assure you that 21 centuries later it is STILL VERY IMPORTANT! I'll say boldly, a church without doctrine is not a New Testament church.

So we see so clearly the IMPORTANCE of DOCTRINE in a New Testament church! Since we are in Acts 2 and this historical event that happened on the day of Pentecost is still a controversial topic in our day, which should not be, but it is, because many still believe they can experience the same thing with the same effects in our day which we shall Lord willing in a couple of weeks shall speak on what is the real meaning and application of what happened on that Pentecost day and will deal with the subject of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but for now I just want to make a point since we are here.

Now isn't it interesting that those who hold the position that this experience here in Acts 2 is still very valid today that is, Pentecostals and Charismatics who have seem to have monopolized chapter 2 of Acts, but I do find it IRONIC from those in that camp who are basically the ones who are always putting down doctrine and exalting experience over the Word of God that they seek the experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with gifts following because they think and feel, that is; they assume that when you get BAPTIZED in the Spirit in some ecstatic experience you are exalted above measure with such spiritual maturity, that you just covet this Baptism of the Holy Spirit because you will arrived at a point that begins to promote to some spiritual perfection with such a deep knowledge that makes you so spiritually mature, some believe it also exalts you to some sinless perfection and so they covet this so much that that is all they talk about. As though they don't have to read study or grow anymore once they arrived at this experience and some believe that they don't even have to be taught because they always have a word of knowledge from God and it sounds do deep and profound and spiritually mature and you have to be a moron not to seek this out. I hope you're getting what I am saying; they think that they can reach some spiritual utopia and that they have arrived! Now, no doubt that the power of

God came down on the day of Pentecost and we do not deny the influence of Spiritual Power given them and while 3,000 converts at once I guess would be a pastor's dream, or it can also be a pastor's nightmare, but what we do see about those who were BAPTIZED in THE SPIRIT on the day of Pentecost from power on high was that they were still in very need of guess what? DOCTRINE, the first thing they were to continue in was what DOCTRINE yes this same group ENPOWERED by GOD, NEEDED DOCTRINE! Amazing they received the power of God spoke in tongues but in KNOWN languages, they had miracles going on, but they still had to be taught yes, you guessed it: DOCTRINE! Please to not be deceived by Charismatics and Pentecostal who decry DOCTRINE to seek only the gifts and the SPIRIT because no matter how spiritually sound or how spiritually strong we think we are, we still need DOCTRINE! Thus the NECESSITY of DOCTRINE! (Ended Sunday morning AM message)

Well did they continue in the Apostle's Doctrine? 4 chapters later it says in Acts 5:28 & 29, *"Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem **with your doctrine**, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."* I say the same thing WE ought to obey God rather than men! God says to have good sound doctrine and I shall obey Him over man!

Thus Doctrine is NECESSARY:

- To keep the purity of the Gospel.
- To keep the purity of the Church.
- To keep the purity of the Christian.
- For the purity of the Truth.
- For the spiritual vitality of the Church.
- For Devotion and faithfulness to God.
- To grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.
- To keep us from False Doctrine in Refuting Error.
- So that the Church will continue to be the Pillar and Ground of Truth.
- To have sound Theology.
- To keep us from compromising.
- To be a HEALTHY child of God.
- For Proper Evangelism.
- To Worship God properly in Spirit and in Truth.
- To have a right view of God.
- To have a right view of Man.

- To have a right view of Sin.
- To have a right view of Salvation.
- To have Spiritual Discipline.

The Necessity of Doctrine is vital and very important to our everyday live, our walk, our worship and our faithfulness to God. J.C. Ryle, “*You can talk about Christian experience all you wish, but without doctrinal roots it is like cut flowers stuck in the ground—it will wither and die.*” My dear ones it is impossible to over emphasize or stress the importance of Doctrine in our Christian walk. Ernest Reisinger says, “*Right thinking about all spiritual matters is imperative if we are to have right living. As men do not gather grapes of thorns, nor figs of thistles, so sound Christian character does not grow out of unsound doctrine...Biblical doctrine is more important than most church members realize. Doctrine not only expresses our experiences and beliefs, it also determines our direction. Doctrine shapes our lives and church programs. Doctrine to the Christian and the church is what the bones are to the body. It gives unity and stability. The church that neglects to teach sound Biblical doctrine weakens the church membership. It works against true unity. It invites instability in its fellowship, lessens conviction, and stalemates true progress in the church.*”

Therefore another reason for the necessity of doctrine is because much of present-day Christianity is spiritually and morally sick because it lacks true sound doctrine. We may perhaps be living in those days that the Apostle Paul warned us of in 2 Timothy 3:1-17.

I hope you see the importance and or the NECESSITY of DOCTRINE which leads to our last point.

Lastly and quickly: **III. The Nourishment of Doctrine.** Turn to 1 Timothy 4:6, 13 – 16 and notice the words of Paul to Timothy, “*If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. 14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. 15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. 16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.” The necessity of Doctrine will have a blessed effect not only on you but also on those who will hear you. Notice what Paul tells Titus regarding doctrine in Titus 1:9 & 2:1, “*Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.”**

Thus, the Nourishment of Doctrine or if you wish GOOD SOUND HEALTHY DOCTRINE that will NOURISH not only your soul but will also NOURISH the Church of the Living GOD!

The word sound in these last two verses in Titus is the Greek word, ‘**Hugiaino**’ from ‘**Hugies**’ which means to be healthy, that is; to have good sound health. We get our English word hygiene from this Greek word. This word means that which is wholesome in

order to give good health. Therefore, sound doctrine refers to that teaching which gives great spiritual health to our souls, that is that which gives good nourishment to our souls and of course the opposite of sound doctrine is false doctrine which produces unhealthy spiritual disease which will spiritually incapacitate and bring forth eternal death. The opposite of sound doctrine is unhealthy doctrine that is deadly to the soul. The word sound is also in the present tense which means that we are to continually be sound and healthy in our doctrine. Paul uses this word a lot in his pastoral epistles, he begins in 1 Tim.1:10, Sound Doctrine also in 2 Tim 4:3, Titus 1:9, 2:1 2 Tim 1:7, Sound Mind; 2 Tim 1:13 Sound Words; Titus 1:13 Sound in the Faith and in Titus 2:8 Sound Speech. Paul uses this word sound in the Pastoral Epistles in relation to personal sanctification, spiritual growth and spiritual health where he repeatedly emphasizes SOUND DOCTRINE! The importance and necessity of doctrine yea sound doctrine which promotes spiritual healthy living, that is; nourishment to the soul. We need to be abiding in sound doctrine so that we will not be affected by unhealthy doctrine. We are reminded that the local church is likened to a body and as a physical body needs good sound health to fight off viruses and sicknesses that can have devastating results on our physical bodies which in like manner sickly doctrine which is false doctrine can work havoc on the spiritual health of a body of Christ, both individually and corporate.

Notice the words of Paul to Timothy in 1 Tim.6:1-3, *“Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, **that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.** 2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort. 3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome (or sound/hugiano same Greek word) words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and **to the doctrine which is according to godliness.**”*

Look at also the admonishment of Paul in 2 Timothy 4:1-4, *“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, **exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.** (WHY?) 3 For the time will come when they **will not endure sound doctrine;** but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”* No doubt we are living in these days where many will not endure sound doctrine.

May God be pleased to grace us to be a people that LOVE and ADORN the DOCTRINE of God as we are told in Titus 2:10, I'm going to also read verses 1 and 7 – 10, *“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: 7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, 8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. 9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; 10 Not purloining (That is, to set apart, separate, divide) but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.”*

Therefore we see how that doctrine is seen in the Old Testament and in The New

Testament and the vital part it has in every child of God that names the name of Christ, we must give ourselves over to doctrine in order to be a strong and mature Christian.

Let me share these words as I conclude our studies on preaching the Old Paths. It takes the space of only one generation for a people to forget and drift from their doctrinal heritage and spiritual harbor in which they should be anchored. As we read and peruse the Scriptures we see this. One of the most obvious examples is in Judges 2:1-13. One generation after Joshua's death, plunged Israel into one of her most darkest moments in which people did that which was right in their own eyes, Judges 21:25, *"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."* When people seek to walk in the ways of their hearts and do that which is right in their own eyes, wickedness quickly prevails and sadder still is that we not only see this in the world, but also in some churches.

No question we see this in our day and time in this nation of ours, hence the vital importance of reiterating, establishing and confirming the truth and doctrines of our own faith in our generation and hopefully in subsequent generations by our children. God help us not to fall in the category which Isaiah describes in Isaiah 59:14, *"And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter."* In Jeremiah 7:28, it says, *"But thou shalt say unto them, This [is] a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth."* Though we seek to warn some, sad to say most of Christendom could care less about truth and are like those in Jer.9:3, *"And they bend their tongues [like] their bow [for] lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD"*. Most professing Christians I speak to are not valiant for truth nor do they care for doctrine. May God strengthen us to always be valiant for the truth and to adorn the doctrine of God!

Let us not be as those that stand idly by and do nothing, nay my dear brethren, but let us faithfully and boldly proclaim truth saturated in doctrine with godly conviction. This is a mandate that we do not question or second guess, but act upon as called to by God. *"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and **doctrine**. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."* 2 Tim.4:2-4. C.D. Cole says, *"Truth crushed to earth will rise again, but only as it is known and believed by men who have the conviction and courage to proclaim it."*

We live in a time and day when most professing Christendom has no interest in truth or time for Bible Doctrine. Many have been lulled to sleep by the passivity and compromise in most churches. No longer do people have a hunger or thirst for the things of God, but for drama, entertainment, games and are under the umbrella of easy believism. No question

that pragmatism and in some cases secular humanism like a virus and infection has influenced many churches. Ps.106:35, 36 and 39 says, *“But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them..Thus were they defiled with own works.”*

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ has been replaced in many pulpits by psychology and philosophy. Regardless of the compromise of religiosity round about us let us boldly proclaim and sound the trumpet of Zion and stand firm, unmovable in truth and doctrine, let us subject ourselves to the wisdom, admonition and mandate of Jude in verse 3, *“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*

Therefore to preach the Old Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH ABOUT DOTRINE!

Again the importance of being salt and light to this dark and dying world; Phil 2:15 & 16, *“That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”*

Let's Pray.