

Doctrine
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by C. Benjamin Dill

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

What is it about the term “doctrine” that is so intimidating?

We can talk about the love of the Lord, we can talk about duty and commitment; we can even preach against sin and folks seem to be willing enough to listen; but this term “doctrine” is thought by many to be just for those in Bible College or Seminary.

It is like “that’s just too complicated” or only theology scholars should dare venture into this territory.

Do you even understand what is doctrine?

- A. Is it our statement of faith?
- B. Is it instruction?
- C. Is it medical advice?

How many said A?

How many said B?

How many said C...you might be a redneck if you thought doctrine was medical treatment!

Doctrine is B; instruction:

didaskalia

did-as-kal-ee'-ah

From [G1320](#); *instruction* (the function or the information): - doctrine, learning, teaching.

Bible Doctrine is that body of truth that makes up God’s instruction to mankind and especially to His people.

Without this teaching, these truths, being understood and then applied, great loss and destruction will result in your life.

God said in

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...

Understanding doctrine is not just knowing your Bible, it is knowing how to live your life.

It is obvious that many of us here in some, if not many, areas of life, simply do not know how to live.

Our second text verse for today is

Ephesians 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;

All of God's Word is important but there are some areas of doctrine, that without them, your life will be as described in our text verse; like a ship with no rudder your life and direction will be determined by whatever wind happens to blow. You will be bounced from circumstance to circumstance and ultimately wind up somewhere broken on the rocks.

Understanding doctrine is so much more than knowing; that Jesus is God or that you cannot lose your salvation or what the Church is or what the Holy Spirit does or does not do.

Soteriology is the Bible doctrine of Salvation. This doctrine is of extreme importance because understanding this will determine whether you spend eternity in heaven or in hell...and you will forever exist in one or the other.

You say you are a Christian, you say you are saved; that is wonderful...but there is sooo much more!

Success in your roles as husbands and wives, your vocational success, parenting, integrity, handling money, keeping a job, running a business, prioritizing your time, overcoming addictions, and every other critical area of life depends on understanding Bible doctrine!

Failure in any critical area of Bible instruction can and will destroy the quality of your life and lead to consequences that can go on for generations.

Our text in **Ephesians chapter 4** is actually 32 verses long. We are to come to God's House ready to worship and ready to serve; it is about Jesus, not just about us.

However, there is much of what we do in Church that is designed to prepare for true success in life.

Back in Chapter 2, God's Word tells us what it was is like before we were saved from our sins.

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the

prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Before you came to know Jesus, the only guide you had for how to live was the world around you; and you followed that guide!

You “walked according to the course of this world”.

You walked “according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” That verse is talking about the Devil, in case you don’t know.

Your goal then was to get what you wanted and give your flesh what your flesh wanted; that was it.

“Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”

I’m not picking on you, we all, every one of us, did the same thing. When we were lost, we followed the only guide we had, the world. I might add, as presented mostly on television.

Since I see several older folks here today, let me ask you, “How did living like that work out for you”?

My next question is kind of obvious. “Then why are you still living like the world tells you to live?”

All the right answers to living a great and happy life are right there in your Bible.

We who belong to Jesus have a responsibility to the truth.

First, we will look at:

I. My pastoral responsibility to you.

A. God tells us plainly why He gave you a pastor.

1. Ephesians 4:11-13

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

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

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 fullness of Christ:

2. My job is in a primary sense to teach you doctrine.

B. I have selected a few verses to read lined up together so we might see the level of emphasis that God places on our understanding doctrine.

1. Since doctrine IS Biblical instruction, let us keep that in mind as we read them:

a. **Luke 4:32** And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.

b. **John 7:16** Jesus answered them, and said, **My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.**

c. **Romans 6:17** But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

d. **1 Timothy 4:6** 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.

e. **1 Timothy 4:13** Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

f. **1 Timothy 4:16** 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.

g. **1 Timothy 5:17** Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.

h. **2 Timothy 4:3** 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;

i. **Titus 2:1** But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

j. **2 John 1:9** Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

k. **2 John 1:10** If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him Godspeed:

2. **Matthew 4:4** But he [Jesus] answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

3. My job is to bring you sound Biblical instruction, but as the old saying goes, "You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink".

II. Next take a look at your own personal responsibility.

A. *The second section of our text outlines your responsibility in this:*

1. **Ephesians 4:14-15**

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;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

2. It is a fact that in every family there are those who want to stay babies and be babied as long as they can.

3. I suppose it should not surprise us that in God's family of believers it is the same.

4. Some of the Corinthians were this way:

1 Corinthians 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

B. *You have a personal responsibility to grow up:*

1. **2 Peter 3:18** But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

2. **Hebrews 5:12-14**

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For every one that useth milk *is* unskillfull in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

3. **1 Peter 2:2** As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

C. *Some of you got saved and now you are hungry!*

1. You come to Bible class, you come to Home Team; I get calls on a regular basis asking to clarify some Biblical teaching.

2. Some of you never come to Bible class, you never come to a Home Team and I have never gotten a single call asking about a single verse!

3. You don't want to know what God says about how you should live; you are perfectly happy to get all your instruction from the world just like always.

4. There is something seriously wrong with a newborn or a toddler or an adolescent or a teenager or any other stage of growth you want to name when they just don't want to eat!

5. You had better figure out why you have no appetite for God's Word before you go to sleep some night and your spirit wakes up somewhere you really don't want to be!

III. Next we see that we each have a corporate responsibility.

A. Lighthouse, our corporate responsibility is to grow the Church.

1. "But Pastor, isn't that what we pay you for?"

2. Actually, this is your job too.

3. **Ephesians 4:16** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

4. The "whole body" is our Church: Paul said to the Colossians:

Colossians 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

5. We members are the parts that are "fitly joined together".

6. Our closeness or "compacted-ness" is supplied by "every joint". We are a fit and healthy body because of the connections or relationships between the individual members.

7. This is interesting in how it works; no member is or can be close to all the other members, but all the members are to be close to some of the other members; thus creating a body that is close knit, loyal and whose members are committed one to the other.

8. The increase of this body does not depend on the pastor or the staff but on the measure of the effective working of every individual part!

9. Wow, how's that for a new concept in Church growth!

B. Let's measure the effectual working of you in your place as a part of the body:

1. Are you full grown and mature or are you more like a partially grown arm hanging off of a full-grown shoulder?
2. Even more importantly, are you growing?
3. Who are the other members you are close to? Can you name them? Do you really know them? What do you add to the relationship?
4. Are you steadily in your place or are you missing a lot? You know what it's like when you are right in the middle of something and your mind just like "takes the day off". What if that was your hand or your foot that did that? Or maybe your heart or your brain?
5. Whether you know it or not, you are necessary and you need to be in your place when the body comes together!
6. Who has been added as a result of your relationships with the other members of the body?

In Conclusion:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 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.

God has the answers you need but they are not going to do you any good closed up in the pages of a Bible laid on a shelf somewhere!