

Study 1 Articles of Faith = Doctrine

We will begin our study on our Articles of Faith we will first look at the word doctrine. It is important for us to understand what the Bible has to say about doctrine.

Solomon wrote:

Proverbs 4:1-2 (KJV) 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.

In the New Testament, we read where Paul wrote to a young preacher named Titus about setting things right in the church, and he mentioned three areas in which the church should function.

1. Be an orderly church;
2. Be doctrinally right;
3. Be a practical church (doing things) Then Paul wrote to Titus:

Titus 2:1 (KJV) But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

Titus 2:1 (NASB95) But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

J. Vernon McGee indicates that Paul is indicating:

¹ “if you’re going to be a minister and stand in the pulpit, then your authority ought to be the Word of God, the Bible.”

The Meaning of Doctrine

Doctrine comes from the Greek word *didaskalia* (διδασκαλία) which means:

¹ McGee, J. V. (2000, c1996). *Doctrine for difficult days* (electronic ed.) (1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

² Balz, H. R., & Schneider, G. (1990-c1993). *Exegetical dictionary of the New Testament*. Translation of: Exegetisches Worterbuch zum Neuen Testament. (1:317). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans.

² In the Pastoral Epistles διδασκαλία for *apostolic or Christian teaching as a whole* (1 Tim 1:10; 4:6, 16; 6:1, 3; 2 Tim 3:10; 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1, 10). Its characterization as “sound” (1 Tim 1:10; 2 Tim 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1), as “good” (1 Tim 4:6), and as “the *doctrine* which is in accordance with true religion” (1 Tim 6:3) demonstrates that it is regarded as the opposite of false teaching.

John 1:9 (NASB95) Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

³ J. Vernon McGee further states:

“John was about a hundred years old at this time, and he was very adamant here, very dogmatic that if you do not have the doctrine of Christ, you are not one of His; and if you have the doctrine of Christ, you have both the Father and the Son.”

After the Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:42 (KJV) And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Those were the four things that they continued in, so that one mark of the early church was the apostles' doctrine, their teaching. It was something that was very, very important.

The Importance of Doctrine

Doctrine will lead to action

Jesus said this:

John 7:16-17 (KJV) 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.

³ McGee, J. V. (2000, c1996). *Doctrine for difficult days* (electronic ed.) (1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Today is that it's so easy to:

1. deny
2. criticize
3. find fault with the Bible

God challenges you in this verse:

⁴ He says, "If you will make the Word of God the authority of your life, you will find out whether it is true or not."

Someone has put it like this:

- Doctrine without duty is a tree without fruit.
- Duty without doctrine is a tree without root.

Think about it like this:

- You must have right doctrine before you can have right actions.
- You have to think right before you can act right.
- Doctrine is very important. The teaching is very important.

Paul gave further instructions in Titus:

Titus 2:10 (KJV) Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

The Application of Doctrine

⁴ Definition of the word *doctrine*:

- It is *a systematic and scientific arrangement of biblical truth*.
- Webster's dictionary it means principles in any branch of knowledge.
- As far as the Word of God is concerned, it's the systematic and scientific arrangement of biblical truths under their different subjects.
- Its purpose is to see what the Word of God has to say in a systematic way on any subject.

⁴ McGee, J. V. (2000, c1996). *Doctrine for difficult days* (electronic ed.) (1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

⁵ **doc•trine**

- TEACHING, INSTRUCTION
- something that is taught
- a principle or position or the body of principles in a branch of knowledge or system of belief : DOGMA
- principle of law established through past decisions
- statement of fundamental government policy esp. in international relations
- a military principle or set of strategies

Paul writing to Timothy:

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

⁶ **2 Timothy 3:16 (THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE)** Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof *and* conviction of sin, for correction of error *and* discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action),

⁷ “Doctrine is the arrangement of biblical truths. That is where doctrine differs from theology. Theology can deal with philosophy, or deal with many other things, but doctrine must rest upon Bible truths. It must rest upon what the Word of God has to say.”

⁵Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). *Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*. Includes index. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.

⁶ *THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE*. Pradis CD-ROM:2Ti 3:16. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, © 1987.

⁷McGee, J. V. (2000, c1996). *Doctrine for difficult days* (electronic ed.) (1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.