

Bible Doctrines I
Fundamental Bible Baptist Institute
Class One
“Introduction to Course”

Text Verses: Psalm 11:3 *“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”*

II Timothy 3:16-17 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

Introduction: The purpose of this course will be to give the student a working knowledge of the major doctrines of God’s Word. It is necessary to know the doctrines of God’s Word. We are instructed numerous times throughout the New Testament to know Bible doctrine. Ephesians 4:14 makes it clear the God does not want us to be *“tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine...”* Acts 2:42 tells us that the early church *“continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine...”* I Timothy 4:13 says *“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”* II Timothy 4:2 instructs the preacher to *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”* And Titus 2:1 says *“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.”*

Homework for course: 1. Read all class notes. 2. Write or type in your own words a Statement of Faith. The Statement of Faith must detail what you believe concerning the doctrine of the Bible (Bibliology) and the Doctrine of God (Theology).

“Bible doctrines are the teachings found in God’s Word that reveal God, the Creator of all things, and His relationship to His creation.” – Bible Doctrines for Today Book 1

The word, doctrine, means “to teach”. If you want to become a teacher of the Bible, you must learn the Bible.

As we begin our study of Bible Doctrines, it is important to understand that the unsaved man cannot understand Bible doctrine. I Corinthians 2:13-14 says *“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* The Bible is a spiritually alive Book. Its truths are taught to the heart of the spiritually alive man by the Spirit of God! The man who has never been saved is spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. He has not the Spirit of Christ. Therefore, he is incapable of receiving and understanding spiritual truth.

In this lesson we will focus on two objectives:

1. Why study Bible doctrine?
2. How to study Bible doctrine

I. WHY DO WE NEED TO STUDY BIBLE DOCTRINE?

A. **Because God wrote Bible doctrine.** II Timothy 3:16 says *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”* II Peter 1:21 declares *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* God inspired 40 men over a period of 1,500 years to write the complete Word of God. If God went through that process to give us His Word, then He felt that it was important that we have it. Therefore, we should read and study it.

B. **Because God’s Word instructs us to know Bible doctrine.**

1. II Timothy 3:14-15 *“But **continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known **the holy scriptures**, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”***
2. II Timothy 2:15 *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

3. I Timothy 4:13 *“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”*
 4. *“The importance of doctrinal study cannot be over-emphasized.”* – Lockyer
- C. **Because Bible doctrine teaches us what to believe and what NOT to believe.** I Peter 3:15 says *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”* We cannot be ready to give an answer if we do not know what we believe. I John 4:1 warns us *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”* We know what is right and what is wrong based upon our study of Bible doctrines. When we are finished this course, the student should be able to answer basic and fundamental Bible questions.
- D. **Because belief determines behavior.** Titus 2:1 says *“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.”* Then in verse 3, he says *“The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness...”* Sound doctrine determines how we behave.
1. If I believe that salvation is by grace through faith, that is what I will preach.
 2. If I believe that Hell is real and is a place of eternal condemnation, I will do my best to warn people to *“flee the wrath to come.”*
 3. If I believe in the free will of man, I will preach salvation *“unto all”*. I will also preach against all forms of Calvinism.
 4. If I believe that the sign gifts are finished and that the Word of God is complete, then I will always reject any form of Charismatic or Pentecostal Doctrine. We do NOT believe that there are any more apostles or prophets. We reject them! We do not believe that God gives sign gifts now that the Word of God is complete. We reject speaking in tongues, the gift of supernatural discernment, the gift of healing, the gift of supernatural knowledge.

II. **HOW DO WE PROPERLY STUDY BIBLE DOCTRINE?**

- A. **Gather all necessary Bible references** on the subject being studied. The Bible is a progressive revelation of truth. Therefore, we want to compile every reference that we can find that relates to the doctrine we are studying. Isaiah 28:9-10 says *“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.”* Every reference that the Lord gives us in His Word gives us a little more understanding on the subject that is being studied.
- B. **Understand there are divisions in God’s Word.** The clearest example of this is the division between the Old and New Testament. While *“all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and...profitable for doctrine”*, we must remember to *“rightly divide the word of truth”*. There are doctrines taught in the Old Testament that do not apply to the New Testament church. We must make sure to study according to the time period or the dispensation in which the passage was written.
- C. **Balance doctrine with doctrine.** Understand that God’s Word NEVER contradicts itself. Bible doctrines will NEVER contradict; rather, they complement one another. While the doctrine of holiness teaches us that God hates sin, the doctrine of mercy teaches us that God loves sinners. While we understand that God is a sovereign God, we also understand that He has given every man a free will. While we believe there is a real place called Heaven, the Bible also teaches us the awful reality of Hell. We must never become off balance with Bible doctrine. The New Testament teaches that a man is justified by faith alone. It also teaches that repentance is necessary for salvation. So we balance Bible doctrine with Bible doctrine and preach *“repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ”*. – Acts 20:21
- D. **Use Scriptural language to state Bible doctrine.** There is power in the Word of God and the wording that God uses in the Bible. We do not use *“words which man’s wisdom teacheth”*. – I Corinthians 2:13 Rather we use words which the Holy Ghost teacheth us in the Bible. Words like Hell, Grace, Blood, Sin, Repent, Justify, and Sanctify are not appreciated by the liberals of our day, but they are the words God chose to use. When we study and teach Bible doctrine, let’s use plain Bible speech so that our students understand what we are saying.

- E. **Combine doctrine with practice.** *“Right thinking should lead to right living...There is an inseparable connection between doctrine and duty; precept and practice. Discovered truths must be applied to life. It is only thus that a doctrine becomes a dynamic.”*