

“Doctrine is Vitrally Important” (Titus 2:1)

We need to pay attention to conjunctions. The “but” in Titus 2:1 connects and joins the previous thought (Titus 1:10-16) as a contrast.

Notice the emphatic “you.” Regardless of the false teachers and their doctrine, Titus must have sound doctrine. Why? It is of temporal and eternal significance.

Doctrine Defined: The Biblical teaching that promotes spiritual health while also requiring conduct which is consistent with that teaching. Doctrine is not just a body of information that is passed from one person to another or from one generation to another. It refers to the entire body of essential theological truths.

Healthy doctrine demands a body of knowledge that is consistent with Scripture and living a life that verifies that body of knowledge.

1. Mode of Doctrine

- How do we get doctrine and where is it found?
 - God’s first mode of doctrine to his creation was when he spoke into existence the universe (Genesis 1; Psalm 33:6, 9; Hebrews 11:3).
 - God’s second mode of doctrine is the byproduct of being made in his image through general revelation (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 1).
 - God’s third mode of doctrine was as he spoke to the prophets, who then recorded it in Scripture.
 - God’s fourth and final mode of doctrine is the recording of Scripture as men were carried along by the Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21).

Speaking is how God brought the universe into existence, and the primary mode through which the Word of God is advanced (Romans 10:14).

As Christians, we must be intentional about speaking the truths of God. The timing of speaking must be suitable, weighed and “fitting.” Are you intentional where God has you in speaking His truth?

2. The Object of Doctrine

Doctrine exists for the glory of God. Each person of the Trinity has been revealed in Scripture.

Secondarily, it exists for all things in relation to God.

3. Practical Matters Concerning Doctrine

- Healthy doctrine has its foundation in the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16).
- There will be many who will not want to hear sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:1-4).
- There will be some who will even depart from the faith when sound doctrine is taught and lived out (1 Timothy 4:1).

Paul always married sound doctrine with practical Christian living. Doctrine without practice is dead orthodoxy. To have practice without the foundation of sound doctrine is human moralism.

Healthy doctrine will:

- give you confidence when you witness and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).
- bring the greatest comfort in the midst of suffering (Psalm 119:50).
- give you an honest and faithful understanding of the world around you (Psalm 73).
- save and sanctify (1 Timothy 4:16).

Warning against unhealthy doctrine:

- unhealthy doctrine will lead people astray (Jeremiah 23:16; Matthew 24:11, 24).
- unhealthy doctrine may be evidence of an unregenerate heart (Titus 1:13-16; James 2:19).

How do I know if someone has poor doctrine?

- There is no Scriptural warrant for that position.
- Opinions take precedence over the Word of God.
- There is a no discernment of truth from error.
- Their life does not match what they claim to believe.

There is much emphasis on the faithfulness of the preacher/teacher regarding doctrine, but what about the hearer? Worship requires participation and worship is never passive.

Do you have a hunger for sound and healthy doctrine?

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