

It seems that so few understand that Christ has a doctrine. Jesus Christ has a teaching. He taught and teaches us all of the things that we need to know so that we might live a manner of life that is becoming of His people.

How to be a proper Christian, if we are a child, a brother or sister, a parent, a husband or wife, a citizen, a leader or follower, a freeman or a slave, a rich man or a poor man, young or old, a pastor or a deacon, and member of His church. Christ's doctrines guides us through every stage of life, from birth to the grave. He even teaches us of things that continue on into eternity. It gives us knowledge of the hope that is before us.

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

2Jo 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.

I have been praying for laborers to carry the church forward into the days ahead, beyond brother King and me. This church will need younger men and women that will apply themselves more to knowing the doctrine of Christ and becoming actively involved in the maintenance and preservation of it.

Did you know that there are doctrines of the providential preservation of the word of God, the preservation and perseverance of the saints, and the perpetuity of the churches? These teachings help to be more appreciative of the awesome power of God at work in the lives of His people.

Providential Preservation of the Word of God

'If the doctrine of the *Divine inspiration* of the Old and New Testament Scriptures is a true doctrine, the doctrine of the *providential preservation* of the Scriptures must also be a true doctrine. It must be that down through the centuries God has exercised a special, providential control over the copying of the Scriptures and the

preservation and use of the copies, so that trustworthy representative of the original text have been available to God's people in every age. God must have done this, for is He gave the Scriptures to His Church by inspiration as the perfect and final revelation of His will, then it is obvious that He would not allow this revelation to disappear or undergo any alteration of its fundamental character.' *The King James Version Defended*, Edward F. Hills, p2

The word of God and His truth is forever. First of all, it is settled in heaven.

Ps 119:89 LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Because God cannot lie His word is absolute, perfect, without imperfection, so it is certain. It cannot be broken. It shall all be fulfilled.

Joh 10:35 ... the scripture cannot be broken ...

Mt 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

This word, the revelation of the mind of God to men by Jesus Christ shall be preserved in the earth.

Ps.12.6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

Ps.100.5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Jn.17.17 ¶ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

20 ¶ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word ...

Preservation & Perseverance of the Saints

The people of God shall be saved and kept to eternity. They were chosen in eternity by the Heavenly Father, who then gave these same to His only begotten Son. None of these can be lost or fall being the redeemed of Christ.

Preservation

Mt 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Jn.17.11 ¶ And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Joh.10.27 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and my Father are one.

Ro.8.36 *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Perseverance

(Already read this above ...) *Joh.10.27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me ...*

2Ti.2.15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

19 ¶ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

(Mt.1.21; Jn.6.44; 11.52; Ro.8.28-30)

Perpetuity of the Churches

And finally, the churches of Christ shall continue in this world and into the next. While Israel is the apple of God's eye (Deu.32.10; Zec.2.8), the churches are the members of Christ's body. (Eph.5.30) Since the day that Christ originated his first church during His earthly ministry there has always been a church and churches in the earth. The churches cannot be eradicated from the earth, but they are kept by the power of God to witness of Jesus Christ and keep His word and doctrine.

Mt.16.18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Mt.28.18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Eph.3.20 Now unto him (God) that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Churches are not perfect. They might become cold in their love, neglectful of their duties, errant in the truth, and even die, but there will always be churches somewhere and at all times in the earth doing the will of God. God will see to it. There will always be properly baptized, repented believers identified with a church of the Lord Jesus Christ somewhere. They will continue.

Now it doesn't matter if we don't know these things, or, whether we can understand how these things are even possible. It doesn't matter if we cannot use history to prove them. These are true. God will do these things with His word, his people and His churches. But we ought to know these things because they

help our faith to see how God works so greatly in all of these things and in so many different ways. Above all, if it is in the Bible we should receive everything the Lord has revealed as truth. We should take God at His word. Of all people we should be convinced about what is and what is not His word, the Bible. We should be convinced that the salvation of the LORD is forever and ever. And we ought to be convinced about what is and what is not His church and churches. These things are important for us to know for ourselves. Don't be surprised to find that these things, and more, are doubted by so many. Rather, believe the truth. There is a Bible for the people of God. For the English-speaking people of the world it is the KJV translation. There is a people that God is saving and will keep saved by His grace. They are the elect which the Father gave to His Son before the foundation of the world without regard to what they will ever do, good or bad. And, there is a church and churches of Jesus Christ. In these last of the last days they were known in the main by the name Baptist. But earlier they were called Christians, Donatists, Montanists, Paulicians, Albigensis, Waldensis, Anabaptists, and Baptists, and there are others by different names then and today. Whatever their name, we should be able to identify them by the truths they teach and by the things that they do. But mind you, as there was a true church of Jesus Christ then so there still is today! Now you know. I pray God will convict us all even more about these things. Be convicted about what the Bible is. Be convicted about the Lord's church. We don't have to apologize to anyone for being a once-saved-always saved, KJV Bible-believing Baptist.

If you have never come to faith in Christ, these things don't matter to you. What you need to know is this: God sent His only begotten Son into this world and His name is Jesus. He suffered and died on the cross to bear the punishment for the sins of His people so that they might have everlasting life and believe through His name. He was taken down from that cross after He had died and then was laid in a tomb. Here he lay for three days and three nights. And on the third day He rose from the dead never to die again. And if you repent of your sins and believe that Jesus died for you you have everlasting life. I would command you by the authority of the word of God to be baptized, and in this way show everyone that you have died to the world and the world to you. Baptism is a symbol of the

grave: the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. You have been buried with Him and raised to walk in newness of life. Then follow Christ. Drink in all of the word of God, read your Bible and apply its teachings. And walk with the people in one of these churches we have been speaking of tonight. until the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you do that?

file:docs/biblestud/misc /KJV & Versions/200721-3 Providential Preservation, Preservation & Perseverance & Perpetuity-CThurman