

The first time the word 'doctrine' is used in the Bible (*Deuteronomy 32:2*), it is likened to both the rain and the dew that waters the earth, causing the tender herb to grow. Here we find that the purpose for all true doctrine is to promote growth in the believer's life.

"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." Isaiah 28:9

According to Isaiah, once a believer begins to enter into a serious study of the scriptures this marks a definite transition within their spiritual diet, going from milk to meat. (**1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:13; 1 John 2:12-14**)

1. WHAT DOES THE WORD, 'DOCTRINE' MEAN?

The word, "doctrine" simply means TEACHING or INSTRUCTION. A "biblical doctrine" is a teaching where all that the Bible teaches or says about a particular subject has been considered.

*"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: **For he taught them** as one having authority, and not as the scribes." Matthew 7:28-29*

(a) *"Holding fast the faithful word _____, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." Titus 1:9*

2. WHAT IS THE BASIC PURPOSE OF ALL DOCTRINAL STUDY?

According to the New Testament, the basic purpose of all doctrinal study is **five-fold**:

(a) **That we may become fully _____ believers and abounding in _____.**

"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." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

(b) **That we may become deeply _____ and _____ in the faith.**

"Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Colossians 2:7

(c) **That we may learn how to walk in the _____ that the truth provides.**

"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." Romans 6:17

*“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
John 8:31-32*

(d) That we may be able to _____ and to help _____ those who live and believe contrary to what the Bible teaches.

“Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.” Titus 1:9

(e) That we may become the living epistles of Jesus Christ.

“...that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.” Titus 2:10

To “adorn” means to wear as a garment and covering. Ultimately, we are called to demonstrate and to show the good teaching of our Savior by how we live in every area..

3. WHAT ELEMENTS SHOULD ALL PROPER DOCTRINE CONTAIN?

The following represents essential elements that all doctrine must contain:

(a) Doctrine must be based upon the _____.

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

(b) Doctrine must be _____.

*“But speak thou the things which become **sound** doctrine:” Titus 2:1*

The word, “**Sound**” actually means *health, wholeness, healing and safety*. Sound doctrines teaching that will promote a healthy understanding of truth and when obeyed t will promote healthy living in every area.

(c) Doctrine must be _____.

*“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine **showing uncorruptness**, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.” Titus 2:7-8*

The word, “**uncorruptness**” actually means **PURE**. All biblically based doctrine is pure in two regards. First it is purely and thoroughly scriptural, not mingled with worldly philosophies. Second it promotes a purity of heart, worship and lifestyle by all those who embrace the teaching.

(d) Doctrine must promote _____.

*“If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to **godliness**;” 1 Timothy 6:3*

4. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR THE BELIEVER TO BE ESTABLISHED IN PROPER BIBLICAL DOCTRINE?

The Bible places a very high premium upon the importance of being established in good doctrine. The following are a few important reasons why it's so important:

(a) Because the first century Church continued in the apostle's _____.

*“And they continued stedfastly in **the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2:42*

(b) Because the last days will be characterized by _____.

*“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, **that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;**” 1 Timothy 4:1*

*“**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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” 2 Timothy 3-4*

*“**For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.**” 2 John 1:7*

*“**Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy** and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” Colossians 2:8*

*“**For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets,** and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24:24*

*“But there were false prophets also among the people, **even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies,** even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.” 2 Peter 2:1*

*“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because **many false prophets are gone out into the world.** Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:” 1 John 4:1-2*

This is very apparent by the rise of false teachings concerning who Jesus Christ is and the infiltration of humanistic and cultic philosophies that are impacting the thinking of our society and even those within The Church.

(c) Because every believer should eventually be able to help _____ and to _____ others to observe the Word of God.

*“Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **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.”
Matthew 28:19-20*

*“**But speaking the truth in love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:” Ephesians 4:15*

*“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.” Hebrews 5:12*

(d) Because every believer should be able to provide a _____ for the hope that is within them.

*“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:” 1 Peter 3:15*

5. DOES BIBLE DOCTRINE HELP TO ESTABLISH A GOOD FOUNDATION IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER?

Yes. This is exactly what Jesus taught.

*“Therefore whosoever **heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them**, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:” Matthew 7:24-28*

Notice, how doctrine is meant to be believed and obeyed. When it is, Jesus likened the man to a wise man that built his house upon a rock solid foundation. His house endured the tests. Whereas, the foolish man (the one who heard but did not obey) built his house upon the sand (particles of rock). His house did not endure the tests.

6. WHAT CAN HINDER A BELIEVER FROM BEING ESTABLISHED UPON BIBLICAL DOCTRINE?

There are three main obstacles that will hinder a believer from understanding and becoming properly established upon biblical doctrine:

(a) THE TRADITIONS OF MEN

*“Howbeit in vain do they worship me, **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men**. For laying aside the commandment of God, **ye hold the tradition of men**,...**Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition**, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.” Mark 7:7-9,13*

(b) AN UNBELIEVING HEART

*“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, **not being mixed with faith** in them that heard it.” Hebrews 4:2*

(c) AN UNTEACHABLE SPIRIT

*“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and **established in the faith, as ye have been taught**, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6-7*

*“Holding fast the faithful word **as he hath been taught**, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.” Titus 1:9*

TRUTH IN REVIEW

**TRADITIONS
DOCTRINE
PURE
INSTRUCTION
HOPE
SCRIPTURES
GODLY**

**WISE
TEACH
UNTEACHABLE
UNBELIEF
SAND
PHARISEES
DECEPTION**

**PHILOSOPHY
ENDURE
APOSTLES'
PROFITABLE
NATIONS**

1. Jesus likened the man who only hears The Word and doesn't obey to a fool who builds his house upon _____ .
2. Jesus rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees for holding to their _____ over The Word of God.
3. The _____ are profitable for doctrine.
4. The Church continued in the _____ doctrine.
5. One of the reasons that Biblical doctrine is so important is because it keeps us from _____ .
6. Having an _____ spirit will hinder you from becoming established in The Word.
7. The house of the foolish man did not _____ .
8. In [Matthew 28:19](#), Jesus said that we were to _____ all nations .
9. Good doctrine is never mingled with worldly _____ .
10. Biblical doctrine is meant to promote a _____ life.
11. The Bible commands every believer to be able to provide a reason for the _____ that is in them.
12. This is a great hinderance to becoming established in The Word: _____ .
13. When you obey The Word of God you are likened to a _____ man.
14. The scriptures are _____ for doctrine.
15. The word "doctrine" means teaching or _____ .
16. Biblical doctrine is not corrupt, it is _____ .

Memorize: [Acts 2:42](#); [Ephesians 4:14](#)