

BIBLE DOCTRINE: WHY STUDY BIBLE DOCTRINE, WHAT IS BIBLE DOCTRINE, WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

DEFINITION OF BIBLE DOCTRINE:

DEFINITION: Bible doctrine is God’s plan revealed in writing. It is all scripture recorded in the Divinely accepted Canon. By vocabulary definition, doctrine is “[that which is taught](#)”, as well as “[the act of teaching](#)”.

In “R. B. Thieme, Jr.’s Bible Doctrine Dictionary”, page 24, under the heading “Bible Doctrine”:

“The entire realm of God’s truth presented in nomenclature, categories, concepts, and principles that define God, man, sin, salvation, the angelic conflict, the spiritual life, and eschatology. Doctrine is drawn from the content of the completed canon of Scripture, Old and New Testaments, and is the sum total of the divine viewpoint of life.”

Vocabulary support:

- a. “lekakh” (Hebrew) – Something mentally received; instruction; learning, teaching; something both taught and learned. Isaiah 29:24

Isaiah 29:24: “Those who err in mind will know the truth, And those who criticize will accept [instruction](#) (לָקַח: “leqah” – instruction).” (NASB)

“They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn [doctrine](#) (לָקַח: “leqah” – doctrine).” (KJV)

- b. “musar” (Hebrew) – Exhortation or instruction. Proverbs 1:2

Proverbs 1:2: “To know wisdom and [instruction](#) (מוֹסֵר: “musar”– instruction or exhortation), To discern the sayings of understanding,”

- c. “shemuwah” (Hebrew) – An announcement; something heard. Isaiah 28:9a

Isaiah 28:9a: “To whom would he teach knowledge? And to whom shall he make to understand [doctrine](#)? (שְׁמוּעָה: “sh‘mûw‘âh” – doctrine) ...”

- d. Also see testimony, law, commands in the Hebrew.

- e. “didaché” (Greek) – Act of teaching; what is taught. (Stresses the authority of the Word of God and the teacher.) Titus 1:9; Romans 16:17

Titus 1:9: “**Holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching** (διδασχῆ: “didaché” - (the act of teaching) (The Pastor/Teacher must be faithful to Bible Doctrine), **so that he will be able both to exhort** (παρακαλέω: “parakalēō” – to exhort or encourage) **in sound doctrine** (διδασκαλία: “didaskalía” - learning, teaching doctrine) **and to refute those who contradict.”**

- f. “didaskalía” (Greek) – The act of teaching; what is taught; stresses the act of teaching. (In Timothy and Titus, the instruction books for the Pastor “didaché” is used twice, while “didaskalia” is used 15 times.) Ephesians 4:14; Colossians 2:22

Colossians 2:22: “**Which all refer to things destined to perish with us, in accordance with the commandments and teachings** (διδασκαλία: “didaskalía” – teaching doctrine, that which is taught, instruction) **of men?”**

- g. “didasko” (Greek) – Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 4:17 – To give instruction; things taught. (Stresses the public teaching of doctrine.)

1 Corinthians 4:17: “**For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach** (διδάσκω: “didáskō” - to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them, to teach doctrine) **everywhere in every church.”**

So, Bible doctrine is the content of the Bible communicated by teaching and instruction. It is the communication of Biblical subjects based on the exegetical analysis from the original languages, including the context, analysis, classification of subjects, and teaching.

While grace is the genius plan of God to bless us, and integrity is the character of God, doctrine is the manifestation and explanation of that genius.

Bible doctrine is the written permanent expression of God’s integrity to the human race. It is the verbalization of divine justice and is the study of the attributes of God.

Psalm 33:4: “**For the Lord’s divine decree is based on His integrity, everything he does expresses His faithfulness.”** (Ext.)

Doctrine is the thinking of God in terms of relationship to the human race. Nothing is more important than knowing what God thinks, understanding how God operates, and understanding the basis for all of these things through His integrity.

The word of God contains all that we need to know about God, about life, about what He expects of us, about who we are, about the future, about the spiritual life; everything that we need to know as believers in Jesus Christ and then some.

Bible doctrine is the basis for all true worship.

Psalm 138:2: “I will worship (lie prostrate) toward Your holy temple. I am caused to give thanks from doctrine resident in my soul for Your reputation because of Your unfailing love and truth. You have magnified, promoted, and exalted Your Word above Your reputation. (EXT)”

“Worshiping the Lord” is not saying a hollow phrase but thinking Bible doctrine. The only way you can apply doctrine is to put doctrine first in your life.

Doctrine existed before time. Psalm 138:2; Proverbs 8:22-29; Psalms 119:89; 1 Peter 1:24-25; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 68:11

Psalm 119:89: “Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.”

The Father is called “God of Doctrine” in Psalm 31:5. Jesus Christ is called “God of Doctrine” in Deuteronomy 32:4.

God values doctrine equal to His name. Psalm 138:2 (“above all thy name”) – (“together with thy name”).

Bible Doctrine is for all ages. Deuteronomy 6:7 (children); Titus 2:2-3 (older men and women); 1 John 2:12-14 (little children; fathers; young men)

Doctrine is a true miracle of history. Luke 11:27-28

Doctrine is the only source of spiritual information, since it is the “mind” of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16 cf. Colossians 2:2-3; Ephesians 4:21; Proverbs 19:20, 20:5, 21:11b; 1 Corinthians 13:10; Romans 16:26; Philippians 2:3; John 14:10

1 Corinthians 2:16: “For who has known (γινώσκω: “ginōskō” - (to learn or to know) the mind (νοῦς: “noûs” - the mind) of the Lord (Κύριος: “Kurios” (Jesus Christ) - the thinking of Jesus Christ is Bible Doctrine), that he (any given person) will instruct Him? But we (Paul and his traveling seminary) have (ἔχω: “échō” - to have and to hold) the mind of Christ (These Pastor/Teachers knew Bible doctrine and were ready to teach it).”

Bible doctrine must be more real than empirical knowledge. (2 Peter 1:12-21) If there is a conflict between what you see in life and Bible doctrine, Bible doctrine is always right. Bible doctrine is more real than anything else in life to the mature believer.

The Plan of God is advanced and vindicated through doctrine. Isaiah 53:10; Romans 3:4

Bible doctrine vs. Human doctrine is the challenge of the human race in the Angelic conflict (Psalm 119:99-100)

- a. **Bible doctrine** – 1 Corinthians 3:13, 15:1-11; Deuteronomy 32:46-47; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18

Isaiah 40:8: “The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”

- b. **Human doctrine** – Isaiah 40:6; Hebrews 6:1; Romans 8:8; 1 Corinthians 3:13-15; Ecclesiastes 5:3; Proverbs 14:12; 1 John 2:16; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Mark 7:1-13; Philippians 1:7

Jeremiah 9:23-24: “Thus says the Lord, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; Vs.24: If people want to boast, they should boast about this: They should boast that they understand and know me. They should boast that they know and understand that I, the Lord, act out of faithfulness, fairness, and justice in the earth and that I desire people to do these things,” says the Lord.”

Doctrine is the complete revelation of God’s Plan for believers. 2 Timothy 3:16; James 1:17; 1 Corinthians 13:10; Galatians 6:16; Philippians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Corinthians 14:40; Psalm 33:10-11; Acts 20:27; 1 Peter 5:12; Titus 2:11-12

- a. “**Canon**” (Greek - κανών: “kanōn”) – A reed in Egypt used as an **absolute standard of measurement**. Galatians 6:16; Philippians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 10:13
- b. “**taxis**” (Greek - τάξις: “taxis”) – **A norm/standard of a fixed order**. 1 Corinthians 14:40
- c. “**teleios**” (Greek - τέλειος: “téleios”) - **Complete** and **perfect**. James 1:17, 25; 1 Corinthians 13:10
- d. “**aletheia**” (Greek – “ἀλήθεια”: “alétheia”) – Bonafide, genuine, **factual, truth, valid, true to fact**. John 8:32
- e. “**boule**” (Greek - βουλή: “boulé”) – **Counsel, advice**. – Psalm 33:10-11; Acts 20:27
- f. “**emeth**” (Hebrew – עִמֶּת: “emeth”) - **Faithfulness, true, truth**. 1 Kings 17:24

Doctrine is perfect and absolute. Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 12:6; James 1:17, 25; 1 Corinthians 13:10

Psalm 12:6: “The words of the Lord are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.”

Doctrine is related to all three members of the trinity.

- a. God the Father – Hebrews 4:12

Hebrews 4:12: “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two edged sword and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

b. God the Son – 1 Corinthians 2:16

1 Corinthians 2:16: “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

c. God the Holy Spirit – 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16

2 Peter 1:21: “For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

Identification of doctrine under Biblical synonyms: (Proverbs 8:6-9)

1. Truth – Psalm 117:2; John 16:13

John 16:13: “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

2. Promises – 2 Peter 1:4

2 Peter 1:4: “For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

3. Canon – Galatians 6:16

Galatians 6:16: “And those who will walk by this rule (κανών – “kanōn”), peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.”

4. Perfect gift – James 1:17

5. Law of liberty – James 2:12

6. Treasure – Colossians 2:3

7. Hidden treasure – Proverbs 2:4

8. Law of the Lord – Psalm 19:7

9. Stimulant – Philippians 2:1

10. **Things superior** – Philippians 1:10
11. **Word; Word of life** – Philippians 2:16
12. **That which is complete** – 1 Corinthians 13:10
13. **Good of intrinsic value** – Romans 12:21
14. **Riches** – Colossians 1:27
15. **Law (instructions)** – Psalm 119:85
16. **Statues** – Psalm 119:80 (categories of doctrine)
17. **Judgments** – Psalm 119:7 (collective categories)
18. **Commandments** – Psalm 119:10; 1 Peter 2:21; 2 Peter 3:2 – (orders, commands, instructions)
19. **Testimony** – Psalm 119:24 (declared purpose)
20. **Ordinances** – Ezekiel 11:20 (a category of doctrine)
21. **Precepts** – Psalm 119:15 (a mandate, established law)
22. **Ruling power** – Colossians 1:4; Ephesians 6:10
23. **Knowledge** – 2 Peter (16 times)
24. **Wisdom** – Colossians 2:3; Ephesians 3:10
25. **Pure** – Psalm 119:140
26. **Foundation** – Hebrews 3:14
27. **The appearance of the Grace of God** – Titus 2:11
28. **Valuable and magnificent promises** – 2 Peter 1:4
29. **Valuable and beneficial Word** – Hebrews 6:5
30. **Quality word of righteousness** – Hebrews 5:13
31. **A standard of accuracy** – 2 Timothy 1:13

Doctrine will exist forever, and its power reveals the only path to salvation. Luke 21:33; 1 Chronicles 16:15; Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 100:5; Psalm 119:89; 1 Peter 1:24-25; Psalm 138:2; Psalm 33:10-11

Matthew 24:35: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words (“logos” – the sayings of God – Bible Doctrine) will not pass away.”

1 Peter 1:23-25: “For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word (“logos”) of God. Vs.24: For, “All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off, Vs. 25: But the word (“logos”) of the Lord (“Kurios” – Jesus Christ) endures forever.” And this is the word which was preached to you.”

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Doctrine is always available to anyone who wants it. Isaiah 30:19-21; Matthew 24:35; Psalm 119:90; John 7:17; 1 Peter 1:23-25; John 1:5; Ephesians 1:17; Ezekiel 2:5-3 (rejection of doctrine, doctrine removed – Isaiah 29:9-14)

Matthew 24:35: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

Doctrine was designed as the basis of life for every member of the human race. Psalm 119:33-56 (50); John 6:63; Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 32:46-47; Deuteronomy 30:20a; Proverbs 6:23, 4:13; Psalm 90:12; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 1:1-3; John 14:10 cf. John 14:12

John 6:63: “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”

Doctrine is the only food the believer’s soul needs for spiritual production. Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 4:4; Proverbs 13:25; Psalm 90:12; Jude 20-21; Psalm 119:171-172

Jeremiah 15:16: “Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.”

The believer has no legitimate excuse for not learning doctrine. 1 Peter 1:14; Romans 11:25; 1 Corinthians 10:1, 12:1; Matthew 17:5; Matthew 24:35; Psalm 138:2; John 7:16-17; Daniel 2:20;

John 7:16-17: “So Jesus answered them and said, “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. Vs.17: If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.”

It is a sin not to know doctrine. Romans 14:23

Romans 14:23: “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.”

We are commanded to learn Bible doctrine. Proverbs 8:33; Proverbs 23:12; 2 Timothy 2:15; Colossians 1:10-11; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Matthew 4:4; Philippians 2:5; John 8:31-32

John 8:31-32: “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed (πιστεύω: “pisteúō” – Believed on the Lord Jesus Christ) Him, “If (εάν: “eán” – “if” (3rd class condition; maybe you will and maybe you won’t) you continue in My word (A believer who has positive volition to learn Bible doctrine), then you are truly disciples of Mine; Vs. 32: and you will know the truth (ἀλήθεια: “alétheia” – truth; what is true in any matter under consideration), and the truth (ἀλήθεια: “alétheia” – truth) will make you free (from the thinking of the cosmic system).”

Factors necessary for learning Bible Doctrine:

1. The believer must have positive volition toward the Word of God and realization of the importance of Bible Doctrine resident in his soul. This comes through some exposure to teaching, through adversity in experience, divine discipline, it comes in many ways.
2. The expression of positive volition in regular and consistent attendance at the local church where doctrine is taught. This involves positive identification of your own right pastor.
3. The filling of the Spirit which is provided in grace through the rebound technique.
4. Objectivity with regard to personality, grooming, public speaking, and the character of the pastor.
5. Objectivity with regard to the content of the pastor’s message. The content may seem irrelevant for the moment. The content may be critical of you personally and even intrude upon your present lifestyle. The content may not be euphemistic enough for you; therefore you don’t think it is spiritual. You associate spirituality with euphemisms and therefore you are personally offended. Or the content may have no personal interest for you at the moment. All of these must be approached with objectivity, and you must concentrate in spite of these. This requires some measure of growth and humility.
6. The believer must have patience in hearing doctrine he does not understand.
7. The believer must have privacy in public assembly of the local church, and he must give privacy to other members of the royal family of God. This is application of the principle, live and let live. Therefore the believer must avoid gossip, maligning, critical attitude toward other believers.

8. The believer must have good manners which, in effect, is thoughtfulness toward others in the congregation. The believer must not create a disturbance through body movement, must not talk and discuss while the pastor is teaching.
9. Believers must exercise maximum self-discipline by concentration on the message.

Doctrine is to be the believer's life. John 6:63; Colossians 3:1-4 cf. 1 Corinthians 2:16; Deuteronomy 32:46-47; Deuteronomy 30:20a; Proverbs 6:23; Proverbs 4:13; Psalm 119:13-17; Psalm 19:7; Proverbs 1:4

Proverbs 4:13: "Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life."

Doctrine must be taught consistently over a period of time by a qualified Pastor/Teacher so that the positive volition believer can grow to spiritual maturity. Acts 8:30; 1 Timothy 4:10, 16; Hebrews 5:11-6:5; Psalm 119:33; Philippians 1:30; 1 John 1:1; Acts 5:42 (daily); Ephesians 6:17; Romans 10:8, 17; John 14:22 & ff (progressively taught)

1 Timothy 4:16: "Pay close attention to yourself (Timothy's personal spiritual growth (Pastor/Teacher)) and to your teaching ("διδασκαλία" – "didaskalia": That which is taught – Bible Doctrine); persevere ("ἐπιμένω" – "epiménō": to stay at or with) in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation ("σῶζω" – "sōzō": to deliver – deliver the baby believer to spiritual maturity) both for yourself and for those who hear you (Timothy will also grow)."

Ecclesiastes 12:9: "In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher (Solomon - חֵלְהֵלֶּת – "qôheleth") also taught the people knowledge (Bible Doctrine); and he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs."

- a. Quote from the Gnomon of the New Testament, published in 1742 by Johann Albrecht Bengel, the father of the science of textual criticism; a theologian and linguist:

"Scripture is the life of the church. The church is the guardian of scripture. When the church is strong, scripture shines abroad. When the church is sick, scripture is imprisoned. Thus scripture and the church exhibit together the appearance of health or else of sickness, so that the treatment of scripture corresponds with the state of the church."

- b. Quote from Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., Toward an Exegetical Theology:

"Scripture is the foundation of the church. The church is the guardian of scripture. When the church is in strong health, the light of scripture shines bright. When the church is sick, scripture is corroded by neglect. Thus it happens that the outward form of scripture and that of the church usually seems to exhibit simultaneously either health or sickness. And as a rule, the

way scripture is being treated is in direct relationship to the condition of the church.”

Doctrine is to be inhaled daily. Acts 5:42; Jeremiah 7:25; Philippians 3:16; Hebrews 3:7, 15; Hebrews 4:7; Luke 2:40, 52; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Hebrews 5:14 (the divine “exercise program”)

2 Corinthians 4:16: “Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.”

Consistency in the inhale of doctrine becomes of utmost importance in this dispensation. Hebrews 10:25, 35-36; Colossians 2:6-7; Philippians 3:12-16; Hebrews 4:7; Ephesians 6:13; Ephesians 5:15-17; 1 John 2:3

Philippians 3:12-14: “Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Vs. 13: Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, Vs. 14: I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 10:25: “Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

Doctrine is life’s “director”. Hebrew 10:20; Psalm 119:105; Psalm 37:23 (Proverbs 8:30 – the “foreman” at creation of the universe); (Psalm 119:105 – provides divine guidance)

Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”

God always provides doctrine to match up with the believer’s divine assignment in life. Romans 12:1-3; 2 Peter 1:1-8

Romans 12:1-2: “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. Vs. 2: And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

The communication of doctrine in the Church Age is the exclusive domain of the local church pastor. Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Colossians 1:25-29; Ephesians 4:11-15; Philippians 4:9-10; Acts 20:28; Colossians 2:19

Acts 20:28: “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”