

# **Basic Doctrine 1**

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**Teacher's Manual**

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## Lesson 1- 2

### Why Study Doctrine

**Colossians 2:7** - *“Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”*

#### **I. What is doctrine?**

- A. The word “doctrine” simply means “teaching” or “instruction.”
- B. A Bible doctrine consists of all that the Bible has to say on a particular subject.

#### **II. What is the basic goal of doctrinal study?**

- A. To give us an orderly understanding of basic biblical truths (Luke 1:1-4).

*“Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.”*

- B. To ground us in our faith solidly upon the word of God (Col. 2:6-8).

*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.*

#### **III. Why is it important for us to study Bible doctrine?**

- A. First, because it was important to Jesus (John 17:8; Mt. 7:28-29; John 7:14-17).

*Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. <sup>15</sup>And the Jews marveled, saying, “How does this Man know letters, having never studied?”*

*<sup>16</sup>Jesus answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. <sup>17</sup>If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. John 7:14-17*

1. Jesus Himself focused on teaching in His ministry.
2. It was Jesus knowledge of true doctrine that gave Him a sharp sword against the devil (Luke 4:4).

3. Jesus instructed us to do the same (Mt. 28:20).

B. Second, because it was important to the disciples (Luke 1:1-4, Acts 6:4).

*...but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.*

Acts 6:4

C. Third, because it was important to Paul (I Tim. 6:3; 4:16).

*Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. I Timothy 4:16*

D. Fourth, because the Early Church saw it as one of the necessary essentials of body life (Acts 2:41-42).

*Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

1. They continued "steadfast" in the apostles' doctrine.

2. To continue steadfast is to persevere, to give constant attention to a thing, to be devoted to, to be in constant readiness for.

E. Fifth, because it is God's means of progressing the development of our Christian character (Is. 28:9-10; Jam. 1:22-25).

*"Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little." Isaiah 28:9-10*

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup>For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. <sup>25</sup>But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. James 1:22-25*

1. Right teaching leads to righteous living (Col. 1:9-10).

*For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...*

2. Right teaching leads to Christian freedom (John 8:31-32, 36).

*Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup>And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say ‘You will be made free’?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. <sup>35</sup>And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. <sup>36</sup>Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

3. Right teaching leads to sanctification (John 15:3; 17:17; II Tim. 3:14-17; Eph. 5:26).

*You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*  
John 15:13

*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.* John 17:17

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with **the washing of water by the word**, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*  
Ephesians 5:25-27

4. Right teaching leads to maturity (Col. 1:27-28; Eph. 4:11-16).

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; <sup>14</sup> **that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, <sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*  
Ephesians 4:11-16

5. Right teaching leads to life (Pro. 16:20-23).

*Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD. <sup>21</sup>The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction. <sup>22</sup>Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it, but folly brings punishment to fools. <sup>23</sup>A wise man’s heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.*

6. Right teaching is the rain that will cause our lives to bear fruit (Deut. 32:2).

*Let my teaching [lit. doctrine] drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.*

- F. Sixth, because the last days will be characterized by deception (I Tim. 4:1-2; II Tim. 4:1-5).

*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron... I Timothy 4:1-2*

*I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup>Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup> and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. II Timothy 4:1-4*

1. Right teaching will help us to be able to judge true doctrine (I Tim. 1:3-4).

*As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.*

Handling the real helps you to identify the counterfeit. Unless we have studied doctrine ourselves, we have not confidence to know “other doctrines.”

2. Right teaching will keep us from going astray (Pro. 5:23; 8:33).

*He shall die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray. Proverbs 5:23*

3. Right teaching will keep us from being blown about (Eph. 4:14).

*“Driven before the wind of each new doctrine” (Weymouth).*

4. Right teaching will help us to be firmly rooted in Christ (Col. 2:7).

5. Right teaching will give us confidence in spiritual warfare when the battle is raging (II Tim. 1:12-14).

*For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and **am persuaded** that He is able to keep what I have*

*committed to Him until that Day.* <sup>13</sup>**Hold fast the pattern of sound words** which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> *That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.*

G. Seventh, because we are commanded to “instruct” all nations (Mt. 28:20).

This command is not just given to the apostles and church leaders. It is for all of us to do.

1. Right teaching will help us to give an answer to those who ask (I Pet. 3:15).

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear...*

2. Right teaching will help us to convince those who contradict (Tit. 1:9).

*... holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.*

3. Right teaching will enable us to teach others (II Tim. 2:2; Heb. 8:11).

*You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. II Timothy 2:1-2*

H. Eighth, because right teaching will bring peace to God’s people (II Chr. 15:3-5).

Peace is the opposite of confusion.

*For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law; but when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them. And in those times there was **no peace** to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, **but great turmoil** was on all the inhabitants of the lands.*

I. Ninth, because doctrine affects our fellowship (II Th. 3:1, 14; II John 9-11). It is hard to have fellowship with those who do not hold these truths.

*Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds. II John 9-11*

J. Tenth, because doctrine determines destiny (John 14:6). There is only one way to life both now and in eternity.

K. Eleventh, because good doctrine makes one spiritually rich (Pro. 8:8-11).

*All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them.<sup>9</sup> They are all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.<sup>10</sup> Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold;<sup>11</sup> For wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.*

L. Twelfth, because good doctrine makes one wise (Pro. 9:9; 4:1-13; 19:20).

*Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. Proverbs 9:9*

*Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; keep her, for she is your life.*

Proverbs 4:13

*Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.*

Proverbs 19:20

1. Right teaching is hated by the wicked (Ps. 50:17).

2. Right teaching is despised by the fool (Pro. 1:7).

M. Finally, because God is restoring the teaching ministry to the Church that the Church might fully enter into the purposes of God (Is. 30:20; Eph. 4:8-13).

*For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.*

*<sup>20</sup> And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers.<sup>21</sup> Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.*

Isaiah 30:19-21

#### **IV. What are the requirements for doctrine?**

A. Doctrine must be sound (I Tim. 1:10; II Tim. 4:3-4; Tit. 2:1).

*For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. II Timothy 4:3-4*

B. Doctrine must be pure (Tit. 2:6-8). No mixture.

*Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing **integrity [lit. purity]**, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.*

C. Doctrine must be based on Scripture (II Tim. 3:14-17).

D. Doctrine must be practiced or obeyed (Rom. 6:17; Mt. 16:12; 23:1-3; Jam. 1:17-25).

*But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you **obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. Romans 6:17*

A lot of knowledge by itself can turn us into good Pharisees if we do not observe what we know.

*Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. <sup>3</sup>Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. Matthew 23:1-3*

We are self deceived if we think that knowing the truth is the same thing as practicing the truth.

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. <sup>25</sup> But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. James 1:22-25*

## **V. What should be our attitude toward doctrine and the Word of God?**

Nehemiah 8:1-6

*Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. <sup>2</sup> So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.*

*<sup>4</sup> So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam. <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all*

*the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.* <sup>6</sup> And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God.

*Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.*

<sup>7</sup> Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people stood in their place. <sup>8</sup> So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.

<sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.

<sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

<sup>11</sup> So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved." <sup>12</sup> And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

A. We should hunger for the Word (Mt. 5:6; Job 23:12).

*I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. Job 23:12*

B. We should desire spiritual understanding of the Word (Neh. 8:2).

C. We should be attentive to the Word (Neh. 8:3).

D. We should be respectful to the Word (Neh. 8:5).

E. We should be responsive to the Word (Neh.8:6).

***These also who erred in spirit will come to understanding, and those who complained will learn doctrine.***” Isaiah 29:24

**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;  
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;  
The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;  
The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;  
The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.  
More to be desired are they than gold,  
Yea, than much fine gold;  
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.  
Moreover by them Your servant is warned,  
And in keeping them there is great reward.  
Psalm 19:7-11**