

## **"DOCTRINAL FOUNDATIONS"**

**1 Tim 4:13-16**

*Diego was going to buy a house: Inspection showed the foundation was bad. Would have cost a lot to fix – maybe never be right. Our scrip speaks of a powerful foundation for a man of God: Doctrine.*

### **I. FOUNDATIONS OF DOCTRINE**

- A. We can have incorrect ideas of ministry
  - 1. External things: How we look/how we speak
  - 2. Actions: Outreach – Preaching; We can see ourselves delivering a message powerfully
- B. But there is a Bible principle of foundations
  - 1. That which is underneath the building – what supports the building
    - a. Weak foundations will either hinder growth or cause later damage
      - 1. *Matthew 7:27 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.*
    - b. Strong foundations enable growth and provide security in difficulties
- C. Paul writes to a young Pastor and emphasizes the foundation of doctrine: *Training/instruction*
  - 1. *An orderly framework of truth: A set of beliefs*
    - a. Large emphasis in Bible concerning Doctrine: *Word is listed 51x in the Bible*
  - 2. Forms spiritual reference points: *Surveyors/GPS – reference points of where things should be!*
  - 3. Doctrine is by necessity broad-ranging: Not just a narrow topic you enjoy/comfortable with
    - a. *Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.*

### **II. THE PURPOSE OF DOCTRINE**

- A. **Doctrine equips** *1 Timothy 4:15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.*
  - 1. You are enabled for whatever may come in ministry
  - 2. You enable growth: Building principle – you've got to go deep and strong if you want to go high
    - a. Doctrine equips our people in the same way: *Evident to all...*
- B. **Doctrine protects**
  - 1. When you deal repeatedly in what is true – you instinctively recognize what is false
    - a. *Treasury agents carefully examine real currency – can spot fake b. Jeweler: That's not jade!*
  - 2. If you build a strong foundation of truth/doctrine – sometimes you can instinctively detect error
    - a. *PM Brownsville: Not God b. People tell me of books/doctrines: Instinct – not true; Before all info!*
- C. Doctrine enables us to defend against error
  - 1. **Everything you believe will be challenged!**
    - a. Challenged by religious people: <sup>1.</sup> *Why do you do this* <sup>2.</sup> *You should not do that* <sup>3.</sup> *Should do this*
      - 1. *Praise/giving/evangelism/altar calls*
      - a. You need to work out why we do what we do: From the Bible! *B/C PM says so is not good enough!*
    - b. You will be challenged by results
      - 1. You will struggle: The thought will come – “maybe we're doing it wrong”
      - 2. You will see success in other churches: Maybe they are right – look at their numbers!
  - 2. The enemy assaults converts and churches through false doctrine
    - a. Religious target our people and actively recruit/try and twist their heads with scripture
      - 1. *Eternal security: 2. Predestination 3. Tongues 4. Altar calls 5. Evangelism 6. Jesus Only 7. Pre-Trib rapture 8. The Church*
    - b. You must be able to equip and defend – using scripture: *Most of epistles written to combat doctrinal error*

### **III. ATTENDANCE TO DOCTRINE**

- A. There must be attention and effort given to develop doctrinal foundations
  - 1. *V13 Give attendance: pay attention V15 Meditate: Think deeply Give yourself completely Continue*
    - a. Put all these words together: Deliberate effort over time (Can't be done quickly!)
  - 2. We need to do this systematically & comprehensively: *Not just pulling a few scriptures out*
    - a. *PM in Wickenburg: Studied through doctrines for himself b. Me as disciple: Studied doctrines*
  - 3. A good investment a book on Systematic theology
    - a. *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology b.*