

The Christian's Response to False Doctrine

June 8, 2014

DOCTRINE:

1. **WHAT** we believe *(the Bible is the only and final authority which defines what we believe)*
2. **WHY** we believe it *(because it is God's inspired and inerrant Word to us)*

2 Peter 1:19–21

19 **And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed** *(firm, steadfast, enduring, unshakable, absolutely dependable, guaranteed), to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place,* until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

20 **knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation** *(explanation).*

21 **For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along** *(bear, bring, lead, move) by the Holy Spirit.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 **All Scripture is breathed out** *(divine inspiration, of sacred origin) by God* and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 3:15–16

15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, **which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures** *(used 51 times in the NT always of the inerrant holy scripture).*

ESTABLISHING SOUND DOCTRINE IS UNDERSTANDING:

1. what God said
2. why God said it

ESTABLISHING SOUND DOCTRINE HAS TWO CRITERIA:

1. **Proper Study** *(Illumination, Context, Comparison, History, Language, Meditation, Application)*
2. **Proper Motive** *(Without a surrendered heart, you will see Scripture through the filter of your personal desires and self-will and never arrive at the Truth.)*

THE CONTINUAL WAR ON THE TRUTH - *behind every false doctrine is a carnal motive*

Acts 20:28-32 *(Paul speaking to the elders in Ephesus)*

28 **Pay careful attention** *(to hold to, to attend to)* to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, **to care** *(poimaino - to act as a shepherd)* **for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.**

29 I know that after my departure **fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;**

30 and **from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted** *(distort, misinterpret, corrupt)* **things, to draw away the disciples after them.**

31 Therefore be alert, **remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.**

32 And now I commend you to God and **to the word of his grace, which is able to build** *(edify, strengthen)* **you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.**

Jude 3-4

3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, **I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith** that was once for all delivered to the saints.

4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 2:1-3

1 **But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies** *(choice, opinion)*, **even denying** *(to say no)* **the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.**

2 **And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.**

3 **And in their greed they will exploit you with false words.** Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

2 **preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.**

3 **For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,**

4 **and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.**

THE TARGET OF FALSE DOCTRINE IS ALWAYS GOD'S WORD *(to deny, discredit, twist, pervert and corrupt)*

● **DOUBT, DENIAL & ACCUSATION**

Genesis 3

1 Now **the serpent was more crafty than any other beast** of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, **“Did God actually say** *(DOUBT)*, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,
3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die** (*DENIAL*).

5 **For God knows** (*ACCUSATION*) **that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**"

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

- **TWISTING & DISTORTING THE MESSAGE, INTENT & METHODS** (*using God's Word in a way or for a reason God never intended*)

Matthew 4:5–6

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple

6 and said to him, "**If you are the Son of God** (*EVIL MOTIVE*), **throw yourself down** (*EVIL METHOD*), **for it is written** (*TWISTED MESSAGE*), " 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and " 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.' "

OUR RESPONSE TO FALSE DOCTRINE & HERESY

1. Know the Scriptures for Yourself

2 Timothy 2:15

"**Do your best** to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling** (*to cut straight, rightly-dividing*) **the word of truth.**"

Acts 17:10–11

10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 **These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

Philippians 1:9–10

9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, **with knowledge and all discernment,**

10 **so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,**

2. Rely on the Spirit of Truth

John 16:13

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and **he will declare to you the things that are to come.**"

1 Corinthians 2:12–14

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and **he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.**

1 John 2:24–27

24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

Hebrews 8:10–11

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

11 **And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.**

3. Exercise Zero Tolerance

Galatians 2:1–5

1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.

2 I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

4 **Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—**

5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

2 Timothy 2:14–18

14 **Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers.**

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

16 **But avoid (*shun, to turn oneself about*) irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,**

17 and **their talk will spread like gangrene.** Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

18 **who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.**

4. No Seek & Destroy Missions

Address error as needed when confronted, but don't seek error; keep your focus on Jesus and abiding in the Truth.

Whenever your attention and focus is distracted off Jesus, and Jesus alone, the experience of abiding in Christ is hindered, interrupted and diminished. So be very careful and guarded with the focus of your heart.

Titus 3:8-11

8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may **be careful to devote themselves to good works.** These things are excellent and profitable for people.

9 **But avoid (*shun, to turn oneself about*) foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable (*useless*) and worthless (*futile, vain*).**

10 **As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him,**

11 **knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.**

Mark 9:38-41

38 John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and **we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.**"

39 But Jesus said, "**Do not stop him,** for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

40 **For the one who is not against us is for us.**

41 For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

- *Don't assume others are in error just because they're not in your group or do things differently.*
- *Don't assume others are deliberately deceiving.*
- *Don't search for error.*