

0711-0712 Bible Doctrines



What we believe is called “doctrine.” Doctrine can be true, and derived from Scripture... or it can be false, twisting the Scriptures to accommodate a person or group’s theories and desires.

Strong’s Dictionary tells us that the Greek biblical word for doctrine is “*didache*” (*die-dak-ee*). The Hebrew biblical word for doctrine is “*leqach*” (*le-kah or le-kach*). Strong’s tells us these words mean “*instruction, or what has been taught as part of a learning process.*”

Random House Webster’s College Dictionary - WordGenius tells us they can also mean the following.

- *a particular principle, position, or policy taught or advocated, as of a religion*
- *a body or system of teachings relating to a particular subject, as in the doctrine of a Church*

You can see that it is very important to know what you believe as a Christian. Listen to what the Apostle Paul had to say about people who dishonor the inerrancy and divine inspiration of the Scriptures.

(2 Corinthians 11:12-15 NIV) “And I will keep on doing what I am doing in order to cut the ground from under those who want an opportunity to be considered equal with us in the things they boast about. {13} For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. {14} And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. {15} It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”

The Word tells us that Satan comes as **an angel of light**. It says that many will be deceived. We are warned in the Word **not** to be deceived. We are told that deceivers will come and **even some of the “elect” will be deceived**. That refers to the possibility that we could be among them. Paul wrote (under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) that the end of all such people is deserved, and filled with sorrow, pain and damnation for eternity.

Theological Terms

1. **Theology**
The study of God
2. **Bibliology**
The study of the Bible
3. **Hamartiology**
The study of sin
4. **Soteriology**
The study of salvation
5. **Anthropology**
The study of humankind
6. **Ecclesiology**
The study of the church
7. **Eschatology**
The study of last things (end times)
8. **Angelology**
The study of angels
9. **Satanology**
The study of Satan
10. **Demonology**
The study of demons
11. **Christology**
The study of Christ

Doctrines are determined by what a person or group accepts as correct theology.

(2 Timothy 3:1 NKJV) "perilous (stressful) times are coming, men will resist the truth, and their thinking will be confused and they will fall away from the faith."

(2 Timothy 3:13-17 NKJV) "But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. {14} But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, {15} and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. {16} All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, {17} that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

↑ Pay special attention to Verses 16-17 ↑.

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-4. - 2 TIMOTHY 2:15.

MATTHEW 24. Read Jesus' entire narrative and focus on the following verses.

MATTHEW 24:4 *"Take heed that no one deceives you."*

MATTHEW 24:11-13, 23-24

"...many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. {12} "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. {13} "But he who endures to the end shall be saved... {23} "... if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. {24} "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." (God's chosen)

So what are we instructed to do? Where is our safety net? How do we process through life without being snared by such people? In his Epistle to Titus, Paul gives these specific instructions.

TITUS 1:10-11.

Paul warns Titus (and us) about watching for those in ministry who would try to influence us because of the following.

- Dishonest gain
- Pride and arrogance before God
- Desire to control
- Pride and arrogance before God
- Stupidity (no fear of the Lord)
- Pride and arrogance before God



To Titus, a true son in our common faith:

- Unbelief
- Pride and arrogance before God
Such people do not believe Who the Scriptures declare and describe as God. They want to influence you to accept their teaching. Do you see a pattern here? (Pride and arrogance are the chief characteristics of Satan.)

EPHESIANS 4:11-16.

Take special notice of Verse 14, which says, *“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine...”*

- You must know what you believe.
- You must know who taught it to you and judge whether their integrity is solid and trustworthy.
- You must commit to stand firmly upon what you believe.

Do you know that United States Treasury workers learn to recognize counterfeit money by studying the real thing so well that they cannot be deceived. **They learn all they can about the real thing.**

The following narrative came off the internet from Fox News.com. I will be paraphrasing much of the article.

The pastor of a rural church in North Carolina wrote a note on his Facebook page supporting a new book. (I will not give its title or author because I do not wish to advertise it.) “The book was critical of the traditional view of hell as a place of torment for billions of damned souls.” Two days later, this pastor was fired. Here is what he said.

“I think justice comes and judgment will happen, but I do not think it means an eternity of torment... But I can understand why people in my church are not ready to leave that (thought) behind.”

***Instructor’s comment:* Let me remind you that what he said is not traditional Christian doctrine and is not taught in right thinking, Bible believing churches.**

Back to the story: The book this pastor (now an ex-pastor) was sharing his thoughts about on Facebook was written by

a pastor of a church of thousands of people. Listen to part of what this pastor of thousands wrote.

He went to a Christian art show where one of the paintings featured a quote by Mahandas Gandhi. Someone attached a note saying, ***“Reality check: He’s in hell.”***

This pastor of thousands then wrote, ***“Gandhi’s in hell? He is? And someone knows this for sure?”***

He goes on to write very critically about Christians who believe that they will go to heaven and everyone else who denies the saving work of Christ will go to hell. He says, “This is misguided. (It is) toxic and ultimately subverts the contagious spread of Jesus’ message of love, peace, forgiveness and joy that our world desperately needs to hear.” He is trying to argue that because God is love, He would not allow anyone to go to hell. That, my friends, is heresy. It is a false doctrine that is dangerous and deadly. It will take many people right into the place the false teacher says they will not go! It denies the atoning work of Christ and is not an expression of God’s kind of love.

I do not know for sure, but it seems likely that he would preach this false doctrine from his sacred pulpit. He would pollute or defile his pulpit by doing so. This man was writing from a false theological position we call universalism.

- Universalism is a doctrine that states everyone, regardless of his or her religious beliefs, will ultimately be saved.
This is false. It is dangerous. It is deadly. It is wrong!
- This false doctrine comes from a man who, as a minister, has a voice into thousands of lives. He, and others like him, will stand before God for what they have said, taught, written and led others to believe.

There is a fundamental, primary clear doctrine of Christianity that says, God is a God of love. This is true.

- We know that love is an eternal characteristic of God.
- **What so many want to ignore is that holiness and justice are also fundamental characteristics of God.**
- Hell was designed for rebellious angels and the devil himself. Never think God wants you there. However, always know there is plenty of room for those who fail to understand the need to personally accept the saving work of Christ on the cross.

- As we have seen earlier, from the way the denomination I spoke of voted, some people are easily persuaded to ignore God's holiness and change His Word. **This is a sure ticket to hell because they deny the cross.** Such people form doctrines that are nothing more than what Paul described as **"doctrines of demons."**

(1 Timothy 4:1 NKJV) "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,"

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4

Finally, let these words find a home in your heart and help you to make proper judgments about doctrine.

(John 3:36 NKJV) "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

