

Old Union Ministers School
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The Doctrines of Christ
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The doctrines of Christ have been so misrepresented that it becomes nearly impossible for most people who aren't bible students to understand the difference between the doctrine of the world or false religious doctrines and the doctrine of Christ. My hope is that some of these people will read this lesson will begin to search for the truth.

I am like these **others**, I feel very inadequate myself to attempt the teaching of this subject, and as far as that goes, I feel the same way about any subject. Regardless of my inadequacy, this school has made this teaching provision and it pays us to use this time to teach the necessity of the doctrines of Christ to our young and older preachers. I fear we have made too many excuses already which has led to most of the perversions of the true bible teachings.

I suppose here would be a good place to ask the question. What are doctrines and especially the doctrines of Christ? I was listing to Bro. Henry Smith a few days ago when he was asking the same question, what is doctrine? His answer was and there is none better, He said the doctrines of Christ were teachings, the teachings of the Holy Scriptures concerning Gods Son, Jesus Christ.

Lesson text= John 7:14-19. Joh 7:14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.

Joh 7:15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?

Joh 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

Joh 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. (I wat to leave this here for a few minutes, I will get back to it)

When I thought of using this subject, I was fearful because the doctrines of Christ must be scripturally right. I didn't want any of mans' thoughts or opinions to

interfere with the truth. But I read in Bro. Moran's Handbook for Missionary Baptist Churches on the subject of contending for the faith. Bro. Moran mentioned that the doctrines of Christ are fixed; they are unchangeable and eternal. Pastors by virtue of their position, have the oversight of the church and are charged as watchmen to sound the alarm and give warning concerning false doctrine, both by word and example.

Concerning the perils of the last days, Paul also warned that men will follow "a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof" and that Christians should "turn away" from such people. He also cautions that "evil men and seducers, shall wax worse and worse, seducing, and being deceived."

He mentioned because of these circumstances, Paul instructed Tim. To contend for the faith by "preaching the word of God". 2Ti 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2Ti 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Then Paul told Tim. this: 1Ti 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

When God gave Moses the directions or blueprints to build the tabernacle, God told him to build it according to the plan and change it not. **Exo 25:9** According to all that I shew thee, *after* the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make *it*.

I haven't found any place in the Holy Scriptures where the Lord told us or gave us the freedom to alter the doctrines of Christ, as a matter of fact, *it is a very dangerous* thing to change or add to the word of God.

Rev. 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. I hear this statement made now and then by some of the modern-day preachers and teachers: we are living in different times and we must make changes because of different cultures, but we don't have the right to change the teachings of the doctrines of Christ.

Jesus made this statement: Heb. 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. I think the doctrines of Christ will fit any society at all times. Cultures do change but Gods' word won't change ever.

This world was formed by the word of God, and if He is capable of creating a world, by that strength, his doctrine should be true and very reliable in all times.

The doctrines of Jesus Christ, they are the main artery through which the life given substance flows that brings eternal life. We must preach the doctrines of Christ if we are going to have any future hope for our churches and our children. Falsehoods are entering and seeking ways to enter in and capture our old-time churches so they may pollute bible doctrine. When something is polluted, it loses its effectiveness.

Now let us look at this thought in Duet. 32:1-4

Deu 32:1 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. Here God has summoned this people to listen to his words because his words are doctrinal and they are important, and because listening and learning would help us deliver the doctrines to the world. This commandment has never been taken away either.

Duet. 32:1-4 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass. To distill is to extract the pureness of Gods' word from false doctrine.

Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth without iniquity, just and right is he. God makes no mistakes in his judgments (of right and wrong), they are perfect and right.

This chapter of Duet. Is referred to as a song that Moses delivered to the nation of Israel. Brothers, I echo this song to us today from a long ago, it's still the doctrine of Christ today.

I believe the writer here is making a solemn plea to a people concerning the importance of the truth. To be rebellious against the truth will without any doubt bring repercussions, obedience will bring joy. He said my doctrine shall fall as the rain. Rain can sometimes come as a hard sweeping, beating force upon a rebellious people and then again it can be a refreshing to the people of God, a savour of life unto life.

(The subject of this song is doctrine) God had given them a song of praise in the book of Ex. 15 But here he is giving them a song of instruction.

I think as rain comes from above to make the earth fruitful, this doctrine is to make the people of God fruitful. There is no such thing as standing still in the work of God, we are to be productive. God promised that his doctrine would drop and distil as the dew; he said the rain would fall silently without noise. The rain or the doctrine is sent from above to bring results. God is just in his dealings with his people, He is righteous even when his judgments are great and deep, and painful.

Isa_28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts.

The prophet here was complaining about this people remaining in an unlearned state of mind. The writer made the statement, whom shall I teach knowledge? These people seem to be almost unteachable; it angered them because he was teaching the elementary doctrine, small steps. There was no improvement in their Christian walk, I hope this will not be the situation with any of us. I believe our walk must agree with our talk, let us not be hypocrites.

KNOWLEDGE = Having strong or unusual powers of mind, or intellectual qualifications. A clear perception of truth. Most people have this power of mind, they are just simply too lazy to use it, and that was the case with these people.

This writer was hopeful that this would teach them about the knowledge of God and his will for them to help them understand doctrine.

This is God's way of dealing with men, to enlighten men's minds first with the knowledge of his pure truth. God wanted to gain their love so that He could bring

them to the point where he could teach them his laws. This is a continuous learning process, it never ends as long as we live.

These people were so stooped in moral evils that they began to say (who does he think we are? He talks to us as if we were mere children. Brothers if we don't want God to look at this country as unteachable people and especially preachers of the household of faith, we must learn and teach the doctrines of Christ.

Sometimes I hear preachers use the term, (I just can't teach) if you and I can preach, we can teach because I don't think you can do one without doing the other. We might not preach and teach like the next brother but we can strive for that level of work by being teachable.

Let us look at our lesson text again: Joh 7:15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?

Joh 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. I think the thing that amazed these people was that Jesus was telling them that he didn't learn the things he was teaching them from their schools; he learned it from a much higher source. it is the teaching of him who sent me. Folks I have been blest to obtain a very nice library of commentaries' for study purposes, but the best study book in my library is the old King James bible.

These people was offended because the things he was teaching wasn't learned in their rabbinical schools. What he was teaching couldn't be learned in their schools.

Jesus could truly say that this teaching was of divine nature, and being equal with the father. What he was saying this doctrine is not mine only or mine alone.

Joh 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

Joh 7:18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

Joh 7:19 Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?

When the Jews heard Jesus speak, they were amazed at his doctrine because they had never heard a man speak like this before. His words were full of grace and truth and he spoke with authority and power. The proof of his teaching was so full power that it amazed them and they marveled.

Brothers, our heavenly father expects us as God called ministers to study and surrender ourselves to his will so the things we preach will amaze the people because of the preaching of the gospel. Not that we should glory in it but give the glory to God. We should never brag on ourselves.

Jesus said my doctrine or my teachings are not mine. John 5:31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. Jesus was so careful not to leave anything to question. If I have no other evidence than my own testimony about myself, My testimony; my evidence. The proof would be questionable.

John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

To do the will of God is to obey His commandments; it means to yield our hearts and lives to His requirements. When we have obeyed and holding back nothing, this has happened a few times in my life, and the H.S. will give us witness that his doctrine is true, and that it is from God. Brothers I don't know about you, but that is a good feeling.

While doing the study on this lesson, I came across this thought and it's not original with me but I thought it fit in with my study so well. I believe that Jesus is telling us a most excellent truth in these passages of scripture that I am going to quote. This is a quote that the disciples would perfectly understand, but it may be somewhat foreign to us in today's world. It is understood that the disciples perfectly understood the practice of crucifixion because it was a familiar practice among the Romans in those days. In understanding that, we will look at the typical crucifixion. One accused is brought before the court to be judged, if the accused is found guilty, the charge of the accused is carved in their cross, then the accused picks up his own cross and carries it to the place where the accused would die. The charge is put on the cross so that all may see as the criminal travels to its destination what crime was punishable by death. This is why Jesus' cross read (King of the Jews) because he was guilty of nothing except being the prophesied Son of God. I say that to show that carrying one's cross is intended to

be the last and only work that one does after picking it up. So, if you are a child of God, Jesus instructs us to pick up our cross, (this is our part in this work) and carry it and only it until we leave this walk of life.

Doctrine is so important, without it, the scriptures would be void of truth and it would make everything we preach a lie. The doctrine of Christ is truth and if believed, it will produce eternal life. In closing, is that not why we study and preach so that the lost folks of this world can be saved? If we spurn our time away and fail in our studies to learn, teach and preach the doctrines of Christ, our churches now in this lifetime and our children and the entire lost world will suffer in eternity.