

"SOUND DOCTRINE"

TEXT: ACTS 2:41-47

INTRO:

- *Passage describes the characteristics of the early church.
- *These characteristics still essential for the church today.
- ***Characteristics:**
 - Person baptized after saved.
 - Continue steadfast - doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, & prayer
 - one accord inside and outside the church.
 - gladness & singleness of heart
 - praising God.
- *As a result we see that the Lord added to the church.
- *This morning I want to focus on is **vs. 42**.
- *Notice, what is first mentioned on the list, that these new Christians continued steadfastly in. - **"doctrine"**.
- *Seeing God mentions "doctrine" first should enlighten us to the fact of the importance God places on "sound doctrine"
- *Unfortunately, in most of our churches today, "doctrine" is placed on the bottom of the list, if it makes the list at all. Amen.
- *As a result, that is why churches are having so many problems today.
- *We hear of church splits, the pastor running off with a woman in the church, the deacons chasing the pastor off, etc.
- *I am not talking so much about liberal churches but instead the so-called fundamental independent Bible-Believing Baptist Churches.
- *This morning, we want to look at the importance of sound doctrine.
- *If it is important to God, then it should be important to us.
- *I believe because God mentioned doctrine first on the list in Acts 2:42, that He is interested in His people knowing the teachings of His Book.
- *We all know that "God is love", but this God of love desires for us to learn doctrine.
- *It is very essential to our spiritual well-being as Christians.
- *We see in the pastoral epistles, I & II Timothy, & Titus, that the word, **"doctrine"** is stressed over and over again by the Apostle Paul.
- *Timothy & Titus were men called of God to pastor churches that had been established by the Apostle Paul.

*In these letters to Timothy and Titus, the Apostle Paul provides instruction and direction on the guidance of the churches which they were to pastor.

*One thing that the Apostle Paul stresses is doctrine.

*Understanding and knowing correct doctrine is essential not only to the man of God, the pastor but also to the individual Christian.

1) I Tim 4:13 - The Christian is to be told to give attendance to doctrine.

*In other words, we are to give doctrine our careful attention.

*So, we can know how to rightly divide the word of God.

*The Bible tells us in II Tim. 2:15:

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

*You see when you don't rightly divide the Bible, don't give attendance to doctrine.

*Then you end up with such nonsense as the Charismatic Movement.

*The Charismatic Movement de-emphasizes the importance of doctrine and emphasizes the "Christian Brotherhood", ecumenical garbage, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

*They rely heavily on feelings and experiences rather than what the Bible teaches.

*The Charismatic, for example ignores the doctrinal teaching on the gifts of tongues.

*They would rather trust in the smiling face of their charismatic preacher, then trust what the word of God says.

*If they trusted the word of God, they would find that it teaches contrary to what they believe on tongues and healing.

*The bottomline is the charismatic would rather trust in man than the Bible as their final authority.

*Talk about being unscriptural - Amen!!!!

2) I TIM 4:16 - We are told to take heed to doctrine.

*Heed means to warn.

*In other words, "you better do this or you will get into trouble"

*You better heed the warnings that doctrine provides.

*For example:

-Look out for bad women - *Prov 1, 5-7*

-Look out for bad men. *Prov 1-3*

-Pay attention to your inner thought life. *Ps 19:14*

-Keep your sins judged and confessed. *1 Cor 10-11 (Chapters)*

-Watch your temper. *James 1:19*

-Forgive quickly, and don't harbor grudges. *James 5:9, Eph 4:32*

- Make sure you spend time in the Book and in prayer. Ps. 1 & Jer 17:5-8
- Don't forsake the assembling of yourselves together - attend a good Bible Believing Local New Testament Church. Heb. 10:25
- Abstain from all appearance of evil. 1 Thess 5:22

*A lot of Christians today are hiding out in those interdenominational "love" churches.

- Churches afraid to include Baptist in their name, lest they offend someone.
- Christians who attend these kinds of churches don't want to be in a church that teaches doctrine, because they know they will be expected by the Holy Spirit to act on what they hear.

- 3) *1 Tim. 5:17 - Read "Word and doctrine" "All Scripture"
 *2 Tim. 3:16 - Read - "profitable for doctrine" - doctrine listed first
 *2 Tim. 4:2 - Read. Preach the word . . . doctrine

- These verses show that doctrine is bound inseparably to scriptures.
- Therefore, churches that don't stress doctrine also don't stress the Bible!!! - Amen!!!

-Usually, a church that doesn't stress the word of God will compensate and put their emphasis on one aspect of the truth such as "fellowship" or "soul winning".

-Don't get me wrong there is nothing wrong with fellowship and soul winning but a ministry should well-balanced.

-Christians that you meet from these types of ministry may know how to lead someone to Christ but unable to contend for the faith against a heretic who says that you can lose your salvation or that water baptism is necessary for salvation.

4) Doctrine is important because Titus 1:9, tells us with sound doctrine we are "both to exhort and convince the gainsayers."

-In other words, with sound doctrine we are to correct and put down the "unruly and vain talkers" who are deceiving the sheep.

-See the description of gainsayers - out to make a gain for themselves
 - Titus 1:10-11.

-Titus 2:1 - "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:"

5) 1 Tim 6:3-5 - Describes the person who doesn't teach sound doctrine or doctrine which is according to godliness; - emphasize vs 4 - "proud - knowing nothing"

6) The word of God tells us doctrine is important because it keeps the Christian from spiritual danger. It is a marking device.

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- Some Christians whimper "doctrine divides".
- Praise God!! It is suppose to divide, separate - Amen

-Romans 16:17 -

"Now I beseech you, brethen, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them."

7) Sound Doctrine - Saves an individual

-See Romans 6:17 - "But God be thanked, that you were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."

-Saved by grace through faith

-Form of Doctrine which was delivered you - See Romans 5:1 - "justified by faith"

-The context of Romans 6 is the result of salvation - no longer a servant to sin; made free from sin; become a servant of righteousness because believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally - The word of God tells us in connection with sound doctrine a characteristic of times just before the Lord's return, time we are living in,

^{the}
-Is the majority of Christians "will not endure sound doctrine"
- SEE II Tim. 4:3-4.

*"Shall be turned unto fables"

-Men were saved exactly the same way under the O.T. Law as under N.T. grace.

-The Rosary will bring you good luck.

-The Bible is inspired only in the original autographs.

-The Pope is a Christian.

-No translation could be inspired.

-Mary can pray for you 1900 years after she died.

-Peace is coming before the advent of Christ.

-Nuclear disarmament will guarantee peace.

-The ASV, NIV, NASV are reliable translations

-You can pray a soul out of purgatory.

-The ecumenical movement, groups such as Promises Keepers is of God.

-Love of neighbor comes before ^{LOVING} love the Lord God will all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Conclusion: - Doctrine is important, must be stressed why God mentioned it first in ACTS 2:42.

1) We are to give attendance to it.

2) We are to take heed to it.

3) Doctrine and scripture are bound inseparably.

4) We are to use doctrine to correct and put down the heretic.

5) Those who don't teach sound doctrine - we are to withdraw ourselves from.

6) Doctrine keeps us from spiritual danger, used as a way to mark those who conduct themselves contrary to sound doctrine.

7) Sound Doctrine - Belief of - saves an individual

*The question is will you endure sound doctrine or will you turn away from and turn unto fables.

-Even in Jesus's day there were those who turn away from him and walked no more because they could not endure sound doctrine - See John 6:59-66.

-Will you turn away Christian because of the hard sayings, the sound doctrine in this Book?

-You can prevent this by staying in the word because if you don't you will ^{be} as a "child, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive:" - Eph 4:13.

-The marines say they are looking for a "Few Good Man".

-Well, the Lord Jesus Christ is looking for a few good Christians who will endure hardness as a good soldier of his"

-Will you be in that number or will you turn back and walk no more?