

WHAT TO DO WITH DOCTRINE

1 Timothy 1:1-4

Introduction:

- There are a lot of differences in doctrine within Christianity
 1. The wrong question to ask: W_____ is right?
 2. The right question to ask: W_____ is right?
- The apostle Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to deal with false teachings and teachers within the church.
 1. Paul p_____ to the Ephesians that false teachers would arise from within the church (Acts 20:29)
 2. Paul wrote to Timothy to instruct and encourage him.
- The letter to Timothy
 1. Was also to be read to the c_____
 2. Was to be read to the other churches (see Col 4:16; 2 Pet 3:15,16).
 3. Therefore, the letter is for the churches of today.

Avoid s_____ doctrine – based on experience (3)

- What is considered strange doctrine?
 1. The word is translated as *strange, other, different, false, contrary*.
 - a. It refers to teachings that the a_____ did not teach
 - b. The apostles were told by Jesus that they would pass on His teachings under the inspiration of the H_____ (Jn 14:26; 16:13)
 2. Therefore, in practical terms, strange doctrine refers to teachings that are not taught in the B_____.
- Many such teachings occur because of powerful experiences
 1. What if an angel were to appear to you and tell you to preach a different gospel? (Gal 1:8)
 - a. You are to consider that angel as under the w_____ of God (*let him be accursed*).
 - b. Satan can appear as an angel of l_____ (2Cor 11:14).
 2. The Mormon religion is based on one man's experience – Joseph S_____ - he claimed supernatural experiences a
 - a. He claimed that God told him in a v_____ that he was restore true Christianity.

- b. He claimed that an a_____ appeared to him and told where to find a book, which eventually he translated into the Book of Mormon
- c. The Book of Mormon teaches that sin is cleansed by the g_____ works we do (2 Nephi 25:23; 3 Nephi 11:22-34).
 - 1) But the Bible teaches that our sin is not cleansed by our works but by Jesus's work – His b_____ cleanses us (Matt 26:28; Eph 2:8,9; I Jn 2:1,2).
 - 2) We do not do good works in order to be saved. We do good works b_____ we are saved.
- 3. Trying to communicate with dead loved ones
 - a. Wiccan religion uses m_____ to contact the dead to speak through them to loved ones.
 - b. But this is called an abomination to the Lord (Deut 18:9-11). All witchcraft deals with powers that are anti-God and so are condemned throughout the Bible (Acts 19:19,20; Gal 5:20; Rev 9:21).
- 4. The Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles, Calif. (1906-1915)
 - a. Speaking in t_____, miraculous healings, and prophecy went on for years, which attracted visitors and news reporters from all over the w_____.
 - b. Many took their experience back to their towns (every Pentecostal church that exists today can be traced back to someone who attended this revival).
 - c. Many strange teachings emerged
 - 1) Speaking in tongues as a requirement for s_____
 - 2) P_____ in tongues as being more spiritual than praying with understanding (but see I Cor 14:13-19).

Ignore s_____ tive doctrine – based on reasoning (4a)

- Timothy was to instruct people not to pay attention to m_____ and endless genealogies because it causes people to focus on speculation.
 - 1. Myths – stories made up to explain a p_____ event.
 - a. Greek mythology – gives stories about the o_____ of the universe, how nature works, legends of mighty warriors (e.g. lightning exists because of Zeus)

- b. Liberal Christian scholars have pushed the idea that the stories in Genesis are m_____ - the ancient practice of making up stories to explain things (however see Col 1:16; Jn 1:1-3).
 - c. Peter stated that the apostles did not follow clever tales but they were e_____ witnesses of the stories about Jesus (2 Pet 1:16)
2. Endless genealogies – the Old Testament has several lists.
- a. This is not to say that genealogies are unimportant but that they are not to be used for speculating.
 - b. Examples of speculations today.
 - 1) What is the m_____ of the beast (666)
 - 2) How to know the identity of the anti-Christ (adding up the numerical values in a n_____)
 - 3) How unfulfilled biblical prophecy will be fulfilled.

Accept _____ doctrine – based on faith (4b)

- Focus on those things that promote the _____ of God (fill in the word your Bible uses).
 - 1. This word refers to the m_____ of an owner’s affairs.
 - 2. God has given believers management over spiritual things and we are to pursue that (e.g. – making disciples, using your spiritual gift to build others up, loving those around you, etc)
- Sound doctrine is not based on experience or speculation but on f_____ or trust in God.
 - 1. We must trust God’s r_____ (the Bible)
 - a. We can know historically that Jesus died, but we must trust God’s revelation that Jesus’s death was for our s_____.
 - b. We can know that Jesus was a human being, but we must trust God’s revelation that Jesus is G_____ in the flesh.
 - 2. Experience and reason are not to be discarded
 - a. They are just not to be the b_____ of our beliefs.
 - b. They can c_____ the truth of the Bible.

Conclusion – questions to ask yourself to keep you focused

- Does it come from God’s word? If so, where?
- Does it contradict God’s word? If so, what?
- Does it keep you focused on God and on carrying out your God-given responsibilities? If so, how?

Sound doctrine is based on faith in God’s revelation, the Bible.