

# WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

## Fundamentals of the Faith

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### **LESSON #9 — THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND DOCTRINE (PART 1)**

And that brings us to the final major point in our study of the authority and the inspiration of the Bible. Roman numeral seven on our outline, the importance of sound doctrine, in God's eyes, the importance of sound doctrine, in God's eyes. You might ask, "Why are we going to study that subject?"

Well, first of all, we're going to study it because it's part of God's Word. And it's very important. And secondly, we're going to study it because many in the religious world today, and I am saddened to say that this is true of some in the Lord's church today, say that doctrine is not important. That it really doesn't make any difference what doctrine you believe or teach or practice. Just be sincere in your heart, try to please the Lord. That statement is commonly made or statements like it, we want to compare that statement with the Bible. What does God say?

I'd like to first go to a chart to look at a summary of the major points we're going to study on this particular subject, to give us an overview of what we'll see in this section. First of all, we want to go, as always, to determine what does God say on this subject? It's not important what I say, or other men say. What does God say? Secondly, we want to answer the question: What is sound doctrine? We're talking about the importance of sound doctrine. We want to identify what it is. Thirdly, what are some of the effects of false doctrine? If false doctrine is not so bad, as people think and say, then the Bible would say not very much about it. But what does the Bible say? It has several effects. One, is that it destroys false teachers, those who teach false doctrine. We don't want that. And God doesn't want that. But those who teach false doctrine are going to be destroyed. Secondly, it destroys those who believe false doctrine. In other words, it's not just the false teacher who's in trouble with God, but those who believe false doctrine. And thirdly, it causes division among those who claim to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. We just look at the religious world today, and see that that's true. And then fourth, what is each individual Christian's responsibility in this area? That is, what does God expect of me, and what does He expect of you, in terms of sound doctrine? That'll give us an overview of where we want to go in this section of our study.

Now, let's look at our first point in our study of the importance of sound doctrine. And that is to analyze the question: What does God say on this subject? And notice the emphasis: What does God say? That's what we want to study. That's always the important question of life. What does God say? And so we're going to look at a group of Scriptures on this study, on this subject that will helpfully, hopefully, will help us all to see what God says on this subject.

And we want to begin in the book of 1 Timothy. 1 Timothy, chapter 1, verse 3. 1 Timothy 1, verse 3. Here, Paul says to Timothy, "As I urged you, when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus, that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine." Now here we have an apostle of Christ speaking by the authority of Christ. And the Apostle says to the young preacher, the young evangelist, "I left you at Ephesus for a purpose. And one of those

purposes was that you charge them..." The word translated "charge" means "command." So a command by the authority of an apostle of Christ. What was the command? That they teach no other doctrine.

Now, does that sound like to you that it's important to God what is taught? It certainly does to me. I don't think the Lord could have made it any more clear for us. He's saying it is very important, and He doesn't want any other doctrine taught than that which is in the Scripture. When some people hear that kind of thinking, or those kinds of words, they often say, "Well, that's really narrow minded on your part to think like that. Isn't that narrow minded? Aren't you arrogant and self-righteous to think that there's only one doctrine?"

Well, Let's answer that question by going to the Bible. Maybe we can learn something that will be very helpful to us in dealing with others. Let's look at Matthew chapter 7, verses 13 through 15, for what we believe is God's answer to that question. Is this narrow minded? Matthew chapter 7, verses 13 through 15. "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate, and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."

Now, this was not some preacher who said this. This was the Son of God, Jesus, the Savior. What did He talk about? He talked about: there are two ways. And each person is walking in one of those two ways. He begins by talking about the broad way. And he says, "The broad way, there are many people walking in that broad way. It's easy." There are no restrictions there, in their mind anyway. But what is the ultimate end of those who walk in the broad way? Jesus says it's destruction. From other passages of Scripture, it's clear that He's saying it's eternal separation from God, and Jesus, the Son, in the flames of hell. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 is a good passage to put down as a cross reference.

So there is the broad way, many are walking in that way, and it leads to destruction. But our Lord's exhortation to you, and to me, is don't walk in that way. You enter in the narrow way, the narrow gate. Notice how Jesus describes it. He says it's straightened or difficult. There are restrictions involved in walking in the way of the Lord. There is a narrow path that He wants us to follow. That's the words of the Savior. I'm not making that up. And notice how many He says there are in that narrow way. He said there are few who find it. That's rather narrow minded. But that's what the Savior said. There are few who find the narrow way. They're the ones who are searching for it. They want to know what God's will is, and to do God's will, to the best of their human ability. And they recognize that there is a right way, and there is a wrong way, according to God.

What is at the end of this narrow way, and this narrow gate? Jesus said life is at the end of it. Life of the more abundant form while we're here upon this earth (John 10:10). And eternal life in Heaven, if we're found faithful at the point of our death (Revelation, chapter 2, verse 10). And it is no accident that at the end of His discussion of the broad and narrow way, Jesus warns us. He says, "You beware." Beware of what, Lord? It doesn't make any difference what you teach, or what you practice. That's not what Jesus said. Beware of false prophets. What is a false prophet? He's one who teaches that which is contrary to the Word of God. He's one who is going in the broad way, who has left the restrictions imposed by the Word of God. And

is this person going to come up to me and to say, "I'm a false prophet. You better beware of me"? That's not what Jesus said. Jesus said, "They'll come to you in sheep's clothing." A sheep is an innocent, harmless animal, in most cases, not going to do any harm in anyone. So what's the Lord saying? They're going to appear to be religious. They're going to appear to be righteous in many respects. But they're inwardly ravenous wolves, that is, wolves who have tremendously large appetites for their victims. So Jesus said, "You be careful. Watch what people do. There are false prophets out there. They want to lead you astray from the narrow way, which leads to life, to the broad way, which leads to eternal separation from God."

So is it narrow minded to teach that there is no other doctrine that is acceptable to God, but the Word of God? No, it's not. Not in the sense that people use it. That is that it is a prejudiced or arrogant way. That's the way of God. That's what God said. We didn't make these words up. You have seen them from the Scripture, yourself.

And then in this same context, in verses 21, through 23, of Matthew chapter 7, the Lord talks about, "Not everyone who comes to him and says, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of the Father who is in heaven." And the Lord says, "Many will come to me in that day. And they will say, 'Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we cast out demons in your name? Didn't we do mighty wonders in your name?'" And Jesus will say, "Depart from me. I never knew you, you workers of iniquity." Is that narrow minded? The Lord said there are lots of people who are going to be crying out, "Lord, Lord," and who have claimed of work miracles, who have claimed to have done many things by the authority of Christ on that last day. They're not going to enter into the gate that leads to life. Why? Because they didn't obey the Father. Because they haven't done the things that please the Lord. Because they've been workers of iniquity. Yes, the way of God is a narrow way, not because some man said so, but because God said so in His Word.

Now, with that in mind, let's look at some other passages of Scripture on the subject of doctrine. In the book of Matthew, in the 15th chapter this time, and verse 9. Matthew 15, verse 9. Again, the speaker is our Lord Jesus Christ. He said, "And in vain, they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." Do you mean to tell me that I can go through the acts of worship, and that worship be vain? That's what Jesus said. Well, what is it in this context that makes a person's worship vain? And what is it that vain means? "Vain" means "useless, of no value to us, and to God."

Well, what is it that makes our worship useless in this context? He said, "They teach as doctrines the commandments of men." That is, they have substituted what men have said, for what God has said in the way of worship. And that makes worship vain. So I can be going to a place to assemble together with others who claim to have a faith in the Lord. And I can be going through certain acts of worship, and that can be vain. And it's vain if it's done according to the doctrines and commandments of men, rather than the Word of God. Is doctrine important? I believe that passage of Scripture shows us very clearly it is.

Then let's look in the book of 2 Timothy. 2 Timothy chapter 1, verse 13. 2 Timothy 1, verse 13. Here, God said through Paul, "Hold fast the pattern of sound words, which you have heard from me, in faith, and in love, which are in Christ Jesus." Notice the words from God: "Hold fast." You cling to, grab ahold of, and don't let loose of whatever God's talking about in this verse. What is it? He said, "Hold fast to the pattern of sound words." Now there are people

today who say, "There is no pattern. We don't go to the New Testament of Christ to find a pattern for the organization of the church, for the worship of the church, for the way we ought to live our life." That's a lie. That's just contrary to the Scriptures. And we don't say that in any spirit of unkindness or meanness, but to point out that there is a difference between what men say, and what God says. God commands us to cling to the pattern of sound words, sound doctrine. And he tells us that those words are the words spoken by Paul, and the other apostles and prophets of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So it's important for us to cling to the pattern revealed to us in the New Testament by the apostles and prophets of Our Lord, as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Then in 2 Timothy, the second chapter. 2 Timothy, chapter 2, verse 15. 2 Timothy 2 verse 15. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Again, we have very strong words from God. He tells us to be diligent. That means, you give great energy to this project. You work very urgently on whatever I'm telling you in this verse. You Be diligent to what? To present yourself approved to God. That's what all of us should be seeking for: the approval of God. And we want to present ourselves approved unto God. How do we do that, according to this verse from God? He says, "Present yourself approved unto God, workers..." We need to give diligent effort to, we need to work at, doing whatever He says, in this verse. Workers who do not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth. That's how we can present ourselves approved unto God: rightly divide the Word of truth. What does that mean? Literally, it means "to cut a straight path." Don't deviate to the right. Don't deviate to the left. Don't add to God's Word. Don't take away from God's Word. That's how we can show the diligence, the effort, that will result in our being approved by God. He will see us working in that process of striving to please Him, and we won't have any reason to be ashamed, if we handle properly the Word of God, without adding to it, or taking away from it. Is doctrine important? This passage tells us just as the others that we've studied, yes, it is important. God says so.