

# WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

## Fundamentals of the Faith

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### **LESSON #15 — THE INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD SOUND DOCTRINE? (PART 3)**

Then in the book of Titus. In Titus, the third chapter, and verse 10, Titus 3, verse 10. Towards the end of this epistle, revealed by God, through the Holy Spirit, through the apostle Paul. He says, "Reject a divisive man, after the first and second, admonition." "Reject a divisive man, after the first and second admonition." Where the New King James Version says a divisive man, the older version of the King James says a heretic, reject a heretic. And we studied in several classes ago, that a heretic is one who holds a self-willed opinion and refuses to submit to the standard of truth, God's Word. And by his actions, then causes division and the development of breakaway bodies, bodies which break away from the body of Christ, the one true body.

So God says, "Reject such a person. Don't have anything to do with them. Turn away from them." Are we to do that when someone just makes a mistake in a Bible class or a sermon, just automatically, just turn away from them and have nothing to do with them because they've made an innocent error? That's not what God is talking about. We've talked about the fact that we need to work with our brethren. Galatians 6:1 — you who are spiritual, you see one who has overtaken in a transgression, something that is contrary to God, restore such a one, in a spirit of meekness, considering your own self, lest you be tempted. So God expects us to work with our brethren, and encourage them to teach and do what is right. So He doesn't expect us immediately when someone just makes a mistake, an innocent mistake, in teaching the Word of God to reject them, to withdraw fellowship from them.

He goes in to elaborate on that fact, in this very verse. He said, "After the first and second admonition." What is an admonition but a warning and exhortation? So, when we encounter someone who has been teaching this doctrine, and continues to teach this doctrine, in spite of the fact that they know it's wrong, that it's false doctrine. It's contrary to the sound doctrine of Christ. What are we to do? We're to go and admonish them. Admonish them — warn them. Exhort them, "Stop teaching this which is false, teach, come return to teaching the sound doctrine of Christ, the gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And God says, after the first, and after the second admonition, if they don't repent, if they don't make things right with God, change their teaching, then reject them, have nothing to do with them anymore.

So whether it's in the local congregation, or the brotherhood, the church as a whole, we need to be careful, those that we associate with, and fellowship with. We need to love our brethren dearly. And we need to always strive to build up wholesome fellowship among those who are faithful to the Lord. But if a person chooses to continue to teach that which is false, we must reject them. And we have to make a determination: Do I want the approval of this person more than I want the approval of God? That's really what it boils down to. We might be afraid of rejecting a false teacher because of what they might think about us, what they might

say about us. But we always need to keep in our minds, that's not really the important issue. The issue is, what does God think about me, and this behavior, this action. And God says, someone refuses to repent of their false teaching, despite being warned, you reject them, you withdraw your fellowship from them, so that they're not approved, so that brethren know this person is wrong. He's out of rank, he's walking disorderly, and we must withdraw in the hopes that he will return to the right path, the right doctrine.

Please always remember in dealing with this difficult subject of withdrawal of fellowship, of rejecting those who are false teachers. A passage of scripture that always needs to be burned upon our mind and in our memory, is Ephesians chapter 4, verse 15. And God says, that you and I need to speak the truth, in love. We don't need to lie to each other. We don't need to cover up those things that are wrong. We need to be honest, and in dealing with each other and speak the truth. But our manner, our spirit, our attitude in doing that needs to be of love. Love for whom? Well, first and foremost, love for God. He says, "Love Me with your whole heart, soul, mind and strength" (Matthew chapter 22, verse 37 and following). So we must love God, and if we love God, we're going to obey Him. And we're going to strive to do what He says, including reproofing those who are walking disorderly.

So we need to speak the truth, loving God, but we also need to love our brethren. In that same context of Matthew 22, Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." And we should love our brethren with pure and fervent love, sincere (1 Peter, chapter 1, verse 22). So we need to love each other. And as we deal with each other, when rebuke or reproof is necessary, then we need to do it in a spirit of love. That person needs to know, "I love you dearly. I'm not doing this to hurt you. I'm doing this to help you because I want you to be happy on this earth. And I want you to spend eternity in heaven." So whatever we do, we should do in love. And that's a statement also found in 1 Corinthians chapter 16. Whatever we do, should be done in love.

So there we have talked about some scriptures that help us to see the individual Christian's responsibility. What is our responsibility in this area of sound doctrine? Now we've covered quite a large number of scriptures in this section. We've done that on purpose. We wanted to show without a shadow of a doubt, what God's will is in this area. Primarily because it's God's will, but also because some people believe that it's not important what you teach, or preach, or practice. And we believe that these and other Scriptures teach us that is not true, it is important. It's critically important. And God just doesn't leave the responsibility with the elders, or with the preacher who is preaching the Word of God, or the Bible class teacher. He expects each one of us to do our part, to hold up that which is good, and stand up and stand against that which is wrong.

Let's go back now and summarize the major points that we've studied: the individual Christian's responsibility in the area of sound doctrine. First of all, we looked at 1 John, chapter 4, verse 1. God tells us try or test the spirits, because there are many false prophets out in the world. And we of course, we use the standard of the Word of God to try, or test, the spirits.

Next, in Ephesians 5, verses 10 and 11 — He wants us to prove what is acceptable to Him, to God. And of course, we must use the standard that He has given us the Word of God, to test to prove what is acceptable to Him. But furthermore, in those verses, He made two major points. First, that we should have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Those

things that are opposed to the light of the gospel of Christ. Don't participate, don't share in, anything that God calls unfruitful works of darkness. And second step that He wants us to take, is rather than having fellowship, he wants us to reprove or to expose them. Make them obvious before all, that those things are wrong, by shining the light of God's Word on them.

Then we studied next 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5, verse 21 and 22. Here, God commands us, "You prove all things, test all things, examine all things again," by using the Word of God. Why does God want us to do that? Two things in these verses. First of all, to hold fast to that which is good. God wants us clinging to, not letting go of, that which He defines as good in His Word. And secondly, He wants us to abstain from every appearance, or form, of evil. Shun that evil. Stay away from it, flee from it even.

The next verse we looked at, concerning the individual Christians responsibility, Acts chapter 17, verse 11. There He commended those in Berea, and that they were more noble than those in Thessalonica, for two reasons. First of all, they received the Word of God with all readiness of mind. They were eager, they wanted to learn God's will. And secondly, they searched the Scriptures daily, to determine whether the things that were being taught were in accordance with those Scriptures. You and I must follow that example today if we want to please God.

Then we looked at Mark 4, verse 24. Here Jesus tells us, "You take heed what you hear. You need to be careful to examine what is being taught. Look intensely into it, zealously, carefully, to make sure that you're hearing what is right or true.

And then in Luke 8, verse 18, God said, "Take heed how you hear, not just what you hear, but how you hear. That is, what is your attitude, your disposition, towards what is being taught, and preached. Be careful that you have a mind that is open and receptive to the Word of God, and shut to that which is wrong.

Next passages in Psalm 119, verse 104, and verse 128. The Psalmist said we get understanding through God's precepts, through His law, through His Word. That's how we understand what His will is, by applying ourselves to the study of that Word. And for that reason, he said, we need to hate every false way, every way that is not God's way, every way which contradicts His Word, His will, for you and me. Not hate people, but hate those ways, those actions, those activities, those teachings, which are false, contrary to God.

Then in the book of Romans, chapter 16, verse 17, God tells us to mark those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which we have in revealed for us in the New Testament, and avoid them. Stay away from them, because they will contaminate you with that false doctrine, if you allow them to. So we must mark and avoid those who refuse to repent of teaching that which is contrary to the doctrine of Christ.

Then in the book of 2 John, verses 9 through 11, God tells me, and He tells you, if we don't remain in the doctrine of Christ, if we go onward, we transgress the doctrine of Christ, we do not have Him, we don't have God. That's a frightening thought to know that we're in this wicked world, and don't have God to watch over us. But that's the result of not remaining in the doctrine of Christ. And because of that, he tells us that we need to take several actions. First of all, we need to be on guard, we need to be careful, we need to beware of false teachers. Need to be checking what they're saying, as we've seen in these other passages of Scripture. Another action we need to take is, don't show our approval of them in any way.

Don't praise them, commend them, recommend them to others. Those who bring other than the doctrine of Christ to us, we should not bid godspeed, not give them approving greeting, or show our approval in any way. Why? Because, if we do approve of them in any way, God says we are guilty of their sins. We don't want to be guilty of the sins of a false teacher. Because we've seen they result in the condemnation of those who teach false doctrine.

Then as we began in this class, 2 Thessalonians, chapter 3 verses 6, 14 and 15, God tells us to withdraw from the disorderly, that is those who have broken ranks with the New Testament of Christ, those who will not obey the Word of God. We're to withdraw from them. Then He tells us, we need to keep no company with them, so that they may be ashamed, so that they may repent. They may turn away from their sinful teaching, or their sinful lifestyle. Then he addresses our attitude in conducting, carrying out, this command. Don't treat them as an enemy. They're not our enemy. They're our brother or sister in Christ, purchased with the blood of Christ. Instead, we need to admonish them, warn them, as our dear brother or sister in Christ.

Then, 2 Timothy, chapter 2, verse 19, God says very clearly, if we name the name of Christ, that is, if we're a Christian, baptized into Christ in obedience to His commands, we need to depart from iniquity, turn away from it, and stay away from it.

And then finally, in Titus chapter 3, verse 10, we are to reject a heretic, one who teaches a self-willed opinion, in opposition to the truth of God's Word.

Now, like we said, that is a long list of Scriptures, but we hope that each of us, including myself, all of these things that are spoken, apply to me, as well as they apply to you. We hope that each of us will allow these Scriptures to work on our minds and our hearts. And for us to get the idea from God, that doctrine does make a difference. And it's not just the elders' responsibility to ensure that it's done right. Instead, it's mine, and it's yours, it's each individual Christian's responsibility to keep up with that.

Now, let's go back and review the last section of our study on the authority and inspiration of the Bible. That is the importance of sound doctrine in God's eyes. We've studied several points. We began by asking the question, "What does God say?" And we saw without a shadow of a doubt, God says doctrine is important. He charges us, "Teach no other doctrine." Just that simple. Teach the doctrine of Christ and other none others.

Secondly, we studied, what does it mean when we say sound doctrine? What is sound doctrine? And we saw from 1 Timothy 1:10 and 11, that it's that teaching which is according to the glorious gospel of Christ, that healthy, wholesome, uncorrupted teaching of Christ.

Thirdly, we studied some of the effects of false doctrine. What does it do? It is destructive. We've seen that in three ways. First, it destroys those who teach false doctrine. Secondly, it destroys those who believe it. And thirdly, it causes division among those who claim to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And then the final point: What is each individual Christian's responsibility in this area of sound doctrine? That gives us the final summary of that particular section of our study on the authority and inspiration of the Bible. And it concludes our study of that lesson, lesson number 1, we want to go ahead now and briefly, review those major points so that those points may be strongly made in our mind as we progress on to the next subject. Let's review those major points.

First of all, we began by asking the question, what is our standard of authority? It is the Bible, which is the Word of God. Number two, what does it mean when we say that the Bible is inspired? It means that the Bible is the Word of God, breathed out of His mouth. Number three, reasons for believing that the Bible is the Word of God. We studied 5, among many. Number 4, alternatives to accepting the Bible as the standard of authority, such as emotions, and men's customs and traditions, and found none are acceptable. Number 5, we studied about the organization of the Bible, divided into Old and New Testaments, and some uninspired divisions of those segments of the Bible. Number 6, we studied why put so much emphasis upon the Word of God. Because it's a rich treasure given to us by God. And then number 7, the importance of sound doctrine in God's eyes. It is critically important, our eternal destiny depends upon our adherence to sound doctrine.

That completes our study of the first lesson, the authority and inspiration of the Bible. May we ever thank and praise God that He has revealed to us His will in this Word, and that we can read it and understand it, and use it, to glorify Him in our lives upon this earth. We need to appreciate and be grateful for the gift He's given us in His Word.