



Introduction. Visit to the Osteopath with back trouble. The skeleton so vital to our health and well-being. A strong, interconnected structure.

1. WHY IS DOCTRINE SO NECESSARY?

Every sermon should be full of sound doctrine and rich in biblical theology. We are preaching God's truth, God's thoughts. The bible is not a systematic theology book but it DOES contain a system of DOCTRINAL TRUTH. If we know what it teaches as a whole it will save us from misusing particular verses.

E.g. See James 2:21-25 "Justified by works..." Compare Eph 2:8-9

The whole of the rest of scripture speaks of Justification by FAITH so James cannot mean what it seems. Look again in the light of SOUND Theology.

2. WHAT DOES GOOD DOCTRINE INCLUDE?

What does the bible say about God. His holiness, eternity, truth, omnipotence, love

What about Creation. By God's word, out of nothing, perfect, marred by sin.

What about Providence, (Sovereignty) His absolute rule and control.

What about Redemption. Planned, foreshadowed, His love in the death of Christ.

What about Justification. Forgiveness and acceptance of repenting sinners.

What about Judgement, heaven only for believers, hell for the unsaved.

Not every sermon can contain everything but all must fit in with the TRUTH.

Illus – The beautiful garden with 66 flowerbeds. You are showing someone round one of them. Ask them to stand back and see how it fits into the whole garden.

See Rom 6:17; 2Tim 1:13; Acts 20:27; 2Tim 4:1-4 (In the light of 2Tim 3:16)

Some doctrines are MAJOR – Those above,

Some are LESSER (But still vital biblical truth) Assurance, peace, joy, church government, worship forms, baptism, Lord's Supper, Last things.

You can get to heaven without them, but they are for our great help and comfort.

Illus. You can survive on a diet of rice only but meat is good and so are sweets.

3. HOW DOES DOCTRINE HELP

i. What does God want for our lives? His Law (The Ten Commandments) Not for our salvation by works but to teach us how to live. Life, marriage, property, honesty.

(Jesus perfectly fulfilled the Law – as an example and also on our behalf)

ii. How do we conduct our worship. Communion, Baptism, Services are to be God-centred, Word-centred (NOT music-centred). Holiness is not an EMOTION but a life of obedience to God's Word.

iii. How we witness to the unsaved. The bible says that unsaved KNOW there is a God, (Rom 1:18-20), they are sinners and rebels and enemies against God

(Rom 2:5-6), God is angry against sinners and will judge them but will have mercy on them through Christ. We MUST start with God rather than people's need.

Now let's try preparing a sermon on John 13:1-17 "Washing the disciple's feet."



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