

8. SOUND & FALSE DOCTRINE

Introduction

Many people claim that doctrine is not very important. Let's look at Paul's attitude about sound teaching and false doctrine.

Read this passage to emphasize the importance of sound and false doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

We cannot possibly study all of the false teachings that exist today. We will only be able to address some of the more prominent ones in this Bible study. By far, the best way to know false doctrine is to study sound doctrine. If we have strong convictions about what the Bible DOES teach, we will easily identify what it does not teach.

"Federal agents don't learn to spot counterfeit money by studying the counterfeits. They study genuine bills until they master the look of the real thing. Then when they see the bogus money they recognize it." ~ John MacArthur

FALSE DOCTRINE

There are many teachings that have appeared over the last 2,000 years that do not agree with scripture. In each case, we will look at the false doctrine and then address scriptures to refute it.

ORIGINAL SIN

The idea that because of Adam and Eve's sin, we are all born guilty before God.

Exodus 34:6-7

Children certainly suffer consequences of their parents sin. When their parents divorce, do not love God, abuse them, or do not deal with their own character, it will inevitably effect their children. However, God does not hold the children spiritually responsible for their parents guilt.

Ezekiel 18:19-20

We are each responsible for our own sin.

INFANT BAPTISM

The practice of baptising infants before they are old enough to make their own faith decision.

The scriptures are very clear on prerequisites for baptism:

Colossians 2:11-12 buried in baptism through your faith in the working of God

Q: Can an infant have faith? (See also Heb 11:6, Romans 10:17)

Acts 2:38 repent and be baptised

Q: Can an infant repent?

Matthew 28:18-20 go make disciples, baptising them

Q: Can an infant become a disciple of Jesus?

FAITH ALONE SAVES YOU

Became popular with Martin Luther during the reformation period (16th century A.D.) in reaction to the “works doctrine” of the Catholic Church. It is interesting to note that Luther did not believe the book of James should be included in the Bible. Why? James contradicts this false doctrine.

James 2:19-26

Faith is necessary but so is discipleship (Matthew 28:18-20), repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38). Faith without deeds is dead. Faith does save. The idea of faith alone is problematic.

ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED

There are many churches that teach that salvation can never be revoked. In other words, once you have been saved, it is impossible to lose that salvation. Many scriptures refute this teaching.

Hebrews 6:4-8, Hebrews 10:29-30, 2 Peter 2:20

Stubborn refusal to repent of sin can certainly lead to a hardened heart that no longer responds to God. God's grace is magnificent. We should never want to test where that line lies!

PRAY JESUS INTO YOUR HEART/ACCEPT JESUS AS SAVIOUR

Only began in the 18th century and became popular in Christian revivals on the early 20th century by preachers like Billy Sunday. Belief is that you only need to believe in Jesus, accept him as your personal saviour, and pray for salvation. See article *The Sinner's Prayer* by Steve Staten for a more thorough history of this false doctrine.

This doctrine is often justified by Revelation 3:20 and/or Romans 10:9-10.

Revelation 3:20

(notice who this is written to...see Revelation 3:14)

This verse was written to the church, people who were already baptised disciples. The instruction is about repentance from their lukewarm lives. This is NOT about salvation.

Romans 10:9-10

This is true but context is critical. This passage is addressed to the Israelites in Romans 10:1. They struggled with faith that Jesus was the Son of God. Paul taught the necessity of baptism in Romans 6:1-5.

Acts 22:8-16

Great example connecting faith, Lordship, and baptism. It must all go together for salvation.

BAPTISM IS A MERE SYMBOL

(Also known as an “outward sign of an inward faith.”)

This evolved in conjunction with the previous two false doctrines. If faith alone and praying Jesus into your heart saves you, what role does baptism have? Baptism is downgraded in importance to justify these other false teachings.

Romans 6:1-5

Baptism is participation in death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. New life begins.

1 Peter 3:20-21

We are saved at the point of baptism and it is compared to Noah being saved through water during the flood.

THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

Luke 23:39

Some will say that the thief on the cross was never baptised. Yes, remember baptism in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins only began after Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. Moses and Abraham will be in heaven though they were not baptised, they lived and died as Jews under the old covenant.

SOUND DOCTRINE

Galatians 1:6-9

Any other gospel (teaching about Jesus) but doesn't hold to sound doctrine is condemned by God.

- » We are saved **BY** grace (Ephesians 2:10), **THROUGH** faith (Romans 3:22), **AT** Baptism (Acts 2:38).

FURTHER STUDY (CAN BE GIVEN AS HOMEWORK)

<u>Matthew 7:21-23</u>	Only those that obey God's will are saved
<u>2 Corinthians 11:3-4</u>	Paul warns about false teaching
<u>2 Peter 2:1-3</u>	Peter warns about false teaching
<u>Jude 3-4</u>	We are called to fight for our beliefs
<u>Titus 3:8-10</u>	We are to avoid foolish controversies