

23rd of August 2015

Our source for Doctrine (Doctrine Pt 1).

Introduction.

This is the first study on the word “doctrine” in the holy scriptures.

Three points are established from the scriptures for this study.

1. Doctrine is what is taught, and
2. The world is a source for doctrine, and
3. The scriptures are a source for doctrine.

Meanings and or occurrences of key words.

* There are 51 occurrences of the word “doctrine”, and 5 of the word “doctrines” in five verses.

* In Hebrew there are three words that are translated doctrine:

(i) “Leqach” is also translated: learning and fair speech, and (ii) “Muwcar” is also translated: bond, chasteneth, chastening, chastisement, check, correction, discipline, instruction, and rebuker, and (iii) “Shmuwah” is also translated: bruit, fame, mentioned, news, report, rumour, and tidings.

* In Greek there are three words that are translated doctrine;

(i) “Logos” is also translated: account, cause, communication, concerning, fame, have to do, intent, matter, mouth, none of these things, preaching, question, reason, reckon, rumour, saying, show, speaker, talk, thing, treatise, utterance, word, and work, and (ii) “Didaskalia” is also translated: learning and teaching, and (iii) “Didache” is also translated: hath been taught.

* According to the Oxford Dictionary “doctrine” means: “What is taught, body of instruction; religious, political, scientific, etc., belief, dogma, or tenet.” According to the scriptures Prov.4: 2 indicates that doctrine is instruction, and Rev.2: 14 indicates that doctrine is teaching.

Summary of meaning: what is taught in the form of correction, instruction, and preaching.

Our three points in more detail.

1. Doctrine is what is taught.

Supporting verse.

1Tim.1: 3 “As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine”.

Context and meaning of our verse.

* Paul sets out the purpose of his letter to Timothy and points out that he is writing to his son in the faith. He reminds Timothy that he besought him to stay in Ephesus while he went to Macedonia. And the purpose of Timothy staying in Ephesus is explained in our verse: to charge the teachers not to teach any other doctrine (than that preached by Paul – 1Tim.6: 3), and then in the next verse he continues, with Timothy’s charge to them, which included: “neither give heed to fables, endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith”.

Other scriptural support.

Is.28: 9, Mt.15: 9, Mk.7: 7, Acts 5: 28, 1Tim.6: 3 & 2Tim.4: 3.

Application of our verse today.

* The letter to Timothy is part of Paul’s instruction to the Gentile church, and is therefore applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* Some claim that modern-day Bibles do not change doctrine, i.e. the content of the NIV, the NWT, and other versions are essentially the same as Holy Scripture. But whether teachers teach from the Scriptures, or a reader reads the book for themselves, the **words** convey doctrine. It is no different to a book about science, the words convey doctrine, and therefore the reader is taught.

Learning from our Illustration.

* There are approximately 36, 000 differences between the words of the modern-day versions and the Authorised Bible (AB). Therefore, it would be logical that the doctrine of the modern-day versions is different to the AB. For example Jn.1: 1 in the NWT it says: “In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.” Whereas the AB says: “In the

beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Hence, the **words** that the NWT uses teaches the doctrine that Jesus is 'a god', whereas the words of the AB teach the doctrine of the deity of Jesus Christ, as confirmed in 1Jn.5: 7 & 8 (also deleted in some versions).

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Do **not** be deceived by those scholars who teach that **all** Bibles teach the same doctrine, i.e. they all teach the same content. Our point is: doctrine is what is taught, and words on the page convey doctrine, therefore when there are different words the content of the teaching is different.

2. The world is a source for doctrine.

Supporting Verse.

Mt.15: 9 "But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men."

Context and meaning of our verse.

* The chapter begins with the Pharisees and scribes coming to Jesus (verse 1). Their opening question identifies the source of their doctrine, where they say: "why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders", and the Lord puts the question straight back to them in the next verse by asking them "Why do ye also transgress the commandments of God by your tradition?" He then proceeds to give them evidence that they transgress the commandments of God by their tradition, where he says: "For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death" (verse 5). "But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, it is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;" (verse 6) "And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition."

* The Lord then calls them hypocrites and quotes Isaiah, saying "The people draweth nigh unto me with the mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (verse 8). Then we have our verse (verse 9) "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (referring to Is.29: 13). Hence our point, the world is a source of doctrine.

Other scriptural support.

Mt 16:12, Mk 7:7,

Scriptural examples.

* When Israel were in the land they desired a king because of the example of their worldly neighbours (1Sam.8: 5), hence they took instruction from the world.

Application of our verse today.

* This verse is given to the children of Israel to whom Jesus came, but we apply it to us today because today science is a source for doctrine.

Illustration.

* For many churches today the source for their doctrine is the world. This was made clear when a minister in the Presbyterian church put forward a submission to Government in support of the 2013 Bill to change the definition of marriage. The Presbyterian minister quoted scriptures, and indicated that they were quite conclusive, but she made excuses that the sodomite relationship was not known at the time of writing the scriptures, and that science has since determined by research that people are born as sodomites.

Learning from our Illustration.

* The minister of God revealed her source for doctrine **as** this world, because for her, worldly doctrine had greater authority than the scriptures. Hence she would attest that the world is a source for church doctrine. However, everyone that is born again of the Spirit of God, is in the body of Christ, and their source for doctrine is no longer from this world.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* The religious leaders during the time of Jesus had replaced the source of their doctrine which should have been the law, with the commandments of man, i.e. the doctrines of this world, or

doctrines of devils (1Tim.4: 1). And that is where we would expect the unsaved to source his doctrine from, but is that the same for the Christian who is in the body of Christ?

3. The scriptures are a source for doctrine.

Supporting Verse.

2Tim.3: 16 "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness".

Context and meaning of our verse.

* The context is the last days, and Paul is pointing out to Timothy "that in the last days perilous times shall come" (verse 1). He then lists what men shall be: "lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection...Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (verses 3–5). The church has been infected with the things of this world, where verse 6 says: "this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (verse 6 & 7). Paul then sites examples of those in Moses' time who were like this, "Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." Paul then says to Timothy in verse 10 "But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long suffering, charity, patience" (verse 11). In verse 13 Paul takes us back to those who are like the men of verses 2 – 5, where he calls them "evil men and seducers", they "shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." Then Paul takes Timothy back to the days when he was "a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (verse 15). Then we have our verse, which points out the usefulness of scripture to a believer, where he says "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness". Hence our point that the scriptures are a source for doctrine.

Application of our verse today.

* The letter to Timothy is part of Paul's instruction to the Gentile church, and is therefore applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* Many ministers of God today are quite happy to have different versions of holy scripture as their source for doctrine, in such instances **they** chose **their** doctrine. Whereas for the teacher whose source for doctrine is the AB, that source is solely the holy scripture.

Learning from our Illustration.

* The scriptures are God's written revelation of Himself. And as God is not the author of confusion there cannot be different versions of them, as there are different authorities for science, and other doctrines of this world.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* If your source of doctrine is the scriptures, and not the world, then be prepared to stand up and identify them, because they cannot be in the pool of 200 plus versions which contradict each other, and they cannot be in the Greek and Hebrew, because which edition would you choose?

* For me and my house the holy scriptures today are available, they are our source of doctrine, and we have a copy of them in the 1611 English text of the AB. Let us remember that the scriptures are a believer's source of doctrine, make sure you know where they are and can put your hands on a copy. It is only **then** that you can say Amen with Paul, and know, and use those scriptures as a source for all your doctrine.

Summary of our three points.

1. Doctrine is what is taught, and
2. The world is a source for doctrine, and
3. The scriptures are a source for doctrine.