

In my library I have several books on theology. To name a few:

Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*

I have Charles C. Ryrie's *Basic Theology*

*Understanding Christian Theology* which is edited by Charles Swindoll and Roy B. Zuck.

Several Theologians took part in this textbook.

Paul P. Enns' *Moody Handbook of Theology*

Why do these books matter? Why so many?

Who really cares about Bible Doctrine?

Who really cares about *Basic Theology*?

As we approach this subject we must remember the following:

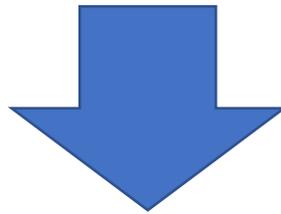
## HOLY SPIRIT

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 4:1-5 are about teaching. Romans 12:6-7: the gift of teaching. 1 Tim. 3:2: elders must be able to teach.



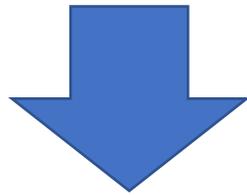
1 John 2:27: we must read in context. Look at 1 John 2:22. The concern in 1 John 2:27 is false teachers teaching without the Holy Spirit. They don't need them because they have the Holy Spirit.

## WORD OF GOD



## TEACHERS

Teaching is necessary, but must follow this order. Teaching must come from the Word of God and then we ask the Holy Spirit to use the Word of God to discern and make sure the teaching does not contradict the Word of God. Acts 17:10-14: the Bereans searched the Scriptures.



If we take 1 John 2:27 out of context and say that we do not need any teachers that means: no preaching; no Sunday School; no Moody Radio, etc.

## PEOPLE OF GOD

Further, to quote another teacher, Dr. Rydelnic in his book: *50 Most Important Bible Questions*:

*Everyone has questions about the Bible. Age doesn't matter, nor does gender, nor does the state of your spiritual condition. Regardless of where we might be on our spiritual journeys, when we encounter the Scriptures, we all have questions. Once, my neighbor, who had decided to read the New Testament for the very first time, read the first verse ("The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham," Matt. 1:1), and burst out with questions: "Wait a minute! Who's this David and who's this Abraham?" Another friend, a woman from our congregation, became a follower of Jesus some 75 years ago and has written numerous Bible study guides. Still, she'll call me from time to time with some technical question about the laws of the Levites and Priests or the meaning of an obscure prophetic text. From seekers to new followers of Jesus, from growing believers to mature teachers of the Word, we all have questions about the Bible.*

*I was leading a congregation when I first realized that many people had many questions about the Bible. As a result, for the next 10 to 12 years during worship services, I would periodically take time, not to give a sermon, but to answer questions. During that service, people could ask me any Bible question they had, and I'd do my best to answer. Now I didn't always know the answer, but I did know how to do biblical research. And if I couldn't answer immediately, I would give an answer the next time we gathered together.*

*When I became a professor at Moody Bible Institute, one of my favorite parts of teaching became answering the many Bible questions my students had—and they have tons of questions. When Moody Radio's Donald Cole retired from Open Line, the program in which he answered questions as radio pastor, people were still calling in with Bible questions. So I had the privilege of stepping in to answer Bible questions once a week for several years on the Moody Radio Chicago's morning program. When Moody Radio realized that listeners still needed their Bible questions answered on a regular basis, they decided to revive Open Line as a Saturday morning program. Since 2012, I have spent two hours every Saturday morning answering listener questions about the Bible, God, and the spiritual life.*

*Frequently people call Open Line and ask, "What do you think about (fill in the blank)?" Regardless of the topic, **my automatic response is that it doesn't matter what I think, "Let's look at what the Bible has to say about that."** Of course, I have opinions, but I will always try my best to anchor my answers on biblical revelation. That is the underlying premise of every answer in this book. Whatever the subject, I will do my best to answer these questions biblically. I believe that the Bible is God's inerrant Word; it is inspired, harmonious, understandable, and relevant to our lives. It not only addresses lofty theological issues but also the daily issues of our lives. Most importantly, I want to answer these questions in a way that brings honor to the Lord Jesus the Messiah. Since He is the central subject of the Scriptures, answering questions with an emphasis on what the Bible reveals is the best way I know to honor our King, the Messiah Jesus.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Rydelnic, Michael. *50 Most Important Bible Questions* (pp.13- 16). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

You know, maybe the Bible has something to say about Theology, maybe the Bible has something to say about doctrine. Let's turn to 1 Timothy 1:3-11 and see what Paul has written about doctrine.

### **Read with me 1 Timothy 1:3-11:**

*Just as I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, to remain on at Ephesus so that you would instruct certain people not to teach strange doctrines,<sup>4</sup> nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to useless speculation rather than advance the plan of God, which is by faith, so I urge you now.<sup>5</sup> But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith.<sup>6</sup> Some people have strayed from these things and have turned aside to fruitless discussion,<sup>7</sup> wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.*

*<sup>8</sup> But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully,<sup>9</sup> realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and worldly, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers,<sup>10</sup> for the sexually immoral, homosexuals, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,<sup>11</sup> according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.*

- I. In verses 3-4 Paul warns Timothy to watch your doctrine. (Notice also the background information in verse 3. Paul was going to Macedonia and he urged Timothy to stay in Ephesus).
  - a. Verse 3: instruct certain men to stay away from false doctrines. Here's Timothy the new pastor in Ephesus; his mentor and spiritual advisor is gone. And Timothy has some fires to put out. Timothy must be careful to make sure people stay away from *false doctrines*. If you look at verse 20 Paul references a few who apparently didn't stay away from false doctrines, so Paul delivered them over to satan.
  - b. What are false doctrines? For today's context this would be any doctrine that is contrary to the Bible.
    1. In the first century context this was likely some type of legalistic, misinterpretation of the Old Testament. In verse 8, Paul says that the Law is good. So, maybe this *false doctrine* taught that the law was bad.
    2. In verse 4 Paul writes about myths and genealogies, so it is likely that this *false doctrine* read in between the lines of myths and genealogies.
    3. An early fictitious collection of stories about Jesus is gathered in The Infancy Gospels, dating from the second century. In 18:1-3 the writer narrated the following incident about Jesus:

*<sup>1</sup>In the month Adar Jesus gathered together the boys, and ranked them as though he had been a king. <sup>2</sup>For they spread their garments on the ground for him to sit on; and having made a crown of flowers, put it upon his head, and stood on his right and left as the*

guards of a king. <sup>3</sup>And if any one happened to pass by, they took him by force, and said, Come hither, and worship the king, that you may have a prosperous journey.<sup>2</sup>

- ii. That might have been the type of myth which Paul was writing against.
- iii. These myths or reading into genealogies might have been justified, or attempted to be. This still happens today:

The other day I read of what someone saw on the charismatic television station. He writes:

*There was a person being interviewed and he said he was born in 1929. And he said God had him to be born in 1929 because his life verse is Matthew 19:29. "Oh how wonderful, and what is Matthew 19:29?" "With men it is impossible but with God all things are possible." Oh, what a life verse. That's your life verse cause you were born in 1929. And then the host said, "Oh I was born in 1934, what's Matthew 19:34? That will be my life verse." And so his wife looked up Matthew 19:34 and, of course, Matthew 19 doesn't have 34 verses. And so, Mark doesn't have 19 chapters, so you're left with Luke. And he said, "Look up Luke 19:34...Look up Luke 19:34, that will be it." And she looked it up and with great excitement she said, "And Jesus said, I have need of him, I have need of him." And he said, "That's it...He has need of me, He has need of me." And she kept looking and this she looked up and said, "No, no, no, it's talking about a jackass."<sup>3</sup>*

- iv. **We must be so very careful of misapplying Scripture and interpreting the Bible correctly.**
- v. **This all has to do with doctrine. Paul was talking about *false doctrine* and so this is *false doctrine* because it is miss-interpreting or adding to Scripture.**
- vi. **Doctrine means: it is a noun and is a set of beliefs or principles held and taught by a Church, political party, or other group. <sup>4</sup> Theological beliefs would be *doctrine*. The Bible teaches *doctrine*. The word translated *doctrine* is used 21 times in the New Testament; 15 times in 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus.**

c. Apply:

- 1. How is your doctrine?
- 2. What is your doctrine?
  - a. Do you know what you believe?
  - b. Do you know the Christian beliefs?
- ii. It is important that we as Christ followers take our faith so seriously that we are studying in order to know what we believe and why.
- iii. Here are a few ways to help you, please don't miss this. This is something you can take with you.
  - 1. Read

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<sup>2</sup> Lea, T. D., & Griffin, H. P. (2001). *Vol. 34: 1, 2 Timothy, Titus* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (69). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> I believe this is from John MacArthur

<sup>4</sup> Soanes, C., & Stevenson, A. (2004). *Concise Oxford English dictionary* (11th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- a. Read the Scriptures
    - i. The Bible is full of Doctrine. This is because the Bible is full of the teachings and beliefs of Christianity. It is hard to have a relationship with Christ without the Scriptures.
  - b. Read Books about Scripture
  - c. Use Study Bibles: study Bibles can help make sure that you are interpreting the Bible correctly. The ESV Study Bible has a section in the back on Theology, other religions, interpreting Scriptures and so much more.
2. Listen
- a. Listen to sermons online or on the radio. There are many good Bible teachers and preachers on the radio and online. We waste too much time listening to or watching frivolous things.
    - i. You can get these from [oneplace.com](http://oneplace.com)
    - ii. You can get these from itunes, they are free. Check out *Grace to You*, *Insight for Living*, or *Walk in the Word*.
3. Pray
- a. Pray doctrine.
    - i. As you read the Scriptures, pray for understanding. You can say, "Lord, help me to understand this passage."
    - ii. You can pray the Scriptures: As you read Psalm 119:11: you can pray, "Lord may I treasure Your Word in my heart so that I don't sin against you."
4. Talk
- a. Talk about doctrine:
    - i. We do this as we meet as a church, but you can also do this as a family. Consider having short Bible studies as a family.
    - ii. Or, simply read a chapter of the Bible as a family and discuss it. You don't have to have all the answers.
5. Don't give a license for false doctrine
- a. We must not give in.
  - b. This is true for the major religions, the cults as well as the things hardly talked about.
    - i. Don't give in to horoscopes; don't give them the time of day.
    - ii. Christians don't mess with witchcraft
    - iii. Don't mess with Ouija boards
      - 1. This is not just a little fun. Don't let them inside your house. The devil is active and he wants you to think it's just a little fun.

- iv. Don't mess with reincarnation, karma, or these eastern religions
    - v. Don't add to or subtract from the Bible.
  - d. As a church this must be taken seriously. Paul gives Timothy a command about this.
  - e. In verse 4 Paul says that these myths and this false doctrine promote controversial speculation. These things don't advance God's work. They are a distraction; they don't have any eternal value.
- II. Verses 5-7 talk about our motivations
  - a. The Christian motivation must always be love: Matt 22:37 the greatest commandment. This is summed up: *Love God, Love People*. All of the Ten Commandments are summed up in *Love God* and *Love People*.
    - i. Jesus told the disciples they will know you by your love (John 14:35).
    - ii. Our love must be from a *Pure Heart*:
      - 1. In Psalm 51:10 David prays, *Create in me a clean heart.*; 1 Sam 16:7 shows us that God looks at the inside meaning the heart. The idea of the heart is our inner, emotional being.
      - 2. A pure heart is the idea of a heart free from sin.
        - a. You may be thinking, *but we are sinners*; this means that we are confessing our sins to Jesus.
        - b. Every day our prayer time must start with confession.
        - c. By the way, don't stew over sins. Confess the sins that you can think of and ask God to reveal your sin to you. God knows you aren't perfect, that's why we need Jesus.
    - iii. Our love is from a *Good Conscience*. A good conscience is a conscience that is submissive to God. Our conscious is our inside judge. It tells you right from wrong. But our conscience is guided by our brain. So, your conscious can be off if you are living anti God.
    - iv. Our love is from *Sincere faith*. This means you take your faith seriously. Do you take your Christian faith seriously?
  - b. Now, Paul gives an example of a problem: some men want to be teachers, yet they don't know.
    - i. Verse 6 describes those following this false doctrine as *meaningless talk*. These teachers were ignorant, and this led to meaningless talk. It was meaningless as it was in error and had no eternal value.
    - ii. Obviously, ignorance can lead to *false doctrines*.
- III. In the last few verses Paul writes that *The Law Is Good* (verses 8-11)
  - a. The law must be interpreted correctly.
  - b. When we want, we can make the Bible say things that it doesn't say, even extreme things. An extreme example is:
  - c. 2 Kings 4:41: Elisha said, "Get some flour." He put it into the pot and said, "Serve it to the people to eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot. You see we can try to make the Bible teach that *pot, marijuana*, is okay. But that is not what it is saying.

- d. We cannot condone sin. You will notice that these last few verses contain quite a list of sins. These sins cannot be condoned, but they can be forgiven in Christ Jesus.
- e. These verses show us that we are all sinners, and we need a Savior.
- f. The first three pairs, lawless-disobedient, ungodly-sinners, unholy-profane, those are pairs. And they all refer to the first part of the Ten Commandments which has to do with our relationship to God. The idea that we don't have any other gods before us, that we worship the true God, that we make no graven images, that we remember that He is the only one to be adored and worshipped and all of that. Those refer to that. Starting then with the murderers of fathers and mothers and manslayers and fornicators and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars, he moves through the second half of the Ten Commandments which have to do with our relationship to other men in society.
- g. Also, remember Paul started out writing about doctrine? The Old Testament Law when understood correctly is part of our doctrine.
- h. The law shows us that we are sinners. We are sinners in need of a Savior, and that is Jesus.

So, again I challenge you:

1. Read
  - a. Scripture
  - b. Books about Scripture
  - c. Use Study Bibles
2. Listen to sermons and Bible teaching
3. Pray
  - a. Pray doctrine and for understanding
4. Talk
  - a. Talk about doctrine
5. Don't give a license for false doctrine

There is a wonderful illustration in the book of Acts that might drive this point home. In Acts chapter 17 Paul is on a missionary journey. He is going to various cities in order to preach the Gospel. Then Paul comes to Berea. In Berea Paul goes to the Jews and preaches the gospel in a synagogue. To these Bereans, Paul might have sounded as if he was preaching *false doctrine*. Here they are Jewish and Paul is telling them that their Messiah has come and He is Jesus. You know what the Bereans did? They searched the Scriptures to see if this was of God. That is what we are to do. Study the Scriptures; search the Scriptures in order to know what is of God and what is not of God. Then you will be prepared when a missionary of another religion knocks on your door.