

## SS-Doctrine 1-Inerrancy of God's Word.

Today we will begin our study of Doctrine.

The word doctrine as used by Paul and other writers of the Bible simply means... teaching... the *act of teaching*... and *that which is taught*.

In the OT, the Hebrew word is pronounced, **leh'·kakh** ... and it means: learning, teaching, insight, instruction

IN the NT, the Greek word is pronounced, **dē-dā-khā'** from which we get our English word, didactic... which means... teaching.

**dē-dā-khā'** means, teaching, instruction, that which is taught.

### Doctrine is truth and teaching... correct teaching of truth.

The writers of the Bible did not set out to create a list of 'doctrines of the faith'... the specific delineation of specific teaching from Scripture always came in response to the introduction of error and false teaching. For example, one of the first specific teachings on a specific area of doctrine was Paul's comforting of the Thessalonians about our 'blessed hope,' the Rapture. False teachers had been claiming that the Rapture had already occurred and some in Thessalonica were afraid that they'd missed it. Paul described the Rapture, and our waiting and looking for it, in conjunction with the future apostasy of the Church in the last days as well as the appearance of the Antichrist.

Everything always fits together with everything else.

The entire Bible is one continuous interwoven teaching... one doctrine... God... revealing Himself to man.

Revealing Himself first in **Creation**, then in the **spoken Word**, then in the **written Word**, and finally in the person of **His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ**.

**Rom 1:18 ff** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**,<sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse...

He has revealed Himself through His creation.

Then we see God walking and speaking with Adam.

Then we have God inspiring the prophets to speak and to write down what He has told them... and finally culminating in His revelation of Himself through the Lord Jesus Christ...

**2 Pet 1:21** for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

Some translations say... *as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit*...

**Heb 1:1** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,<sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

In fact, Jesus Christ is called, the Word of God... the very Word of God...

**John 1: 1** In the beginning was the Word, and the **Word was with God, and the Word was God.** <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it... <sup>14</sup> **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,** and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

So what we have is this... from Gen 1:1 through Rev. 22:21... In entirety, the Bible is, God's Doctrine to man in one seamless interwoven revelation of God and truth.

Although written over a period of some 2000 years, by 40 different authors on three continents... shepherds, kings, scholars, fishermen, prophets, a military general, a cupbearer, and a priest, they had different temporal purposes for writing and they had different styles and educations and yet, they were all led by the Holy Spirit to consistently reveal the same themes and purposes of God...

The goodness and perfection of God... the continual rebellion of man against his creator... the righteous judgment of God... and His promise of complete salvation and future glory for the people of God whom He had chosen for Himself, before time began.

And that brings us to our first and our most important, foundational doctrine which is The Word of God... the inerrancy of God's Word... its perfection and its being without error.

**Inerrancy of the Bible...** Why is inerrancy of the Bible so important... why is it absolutely foundational to all our teaching and learning?

God is perfect and His revelation of Himself in His Word is perfect.

After showing Himself in creation, everything we know of God, His plans and purposes comes to us directly from His Word... the Bible.

If we can't have absolute confidence in the Bible as God's Word, then we can never have confidence in anything taught in that Word.

**Rom 10:13** ff For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? <sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach unless they are sent?... <sup>17</sup> So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

And how shall they effectively preach, unless they believe what they preach?

When Jesus finished His sermon on the mount, it says in **Matt 7:28**... And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching.

Why were they astonished at His teaching? Was it because He told the best jokes or had the most interesting sermon illustration stories, or was it because He ended right at 12 o'clock?

No... it goes on to say that they were astonished at His teaching, because...

**He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.**

He spoke the Word of God; He quoted the Word of God... He Is The Word of God.

The scribes, on the other hand, would always say, as they still do today... 'Rabbi So and So said... Rabbi Levi wrote... and many preachers today do the same thing... well, Calvin wrote, or Jacob Arminius wrote, or Billy Graham said, or Kenneth Hagen taught... and on and on...

Today, sadly, so many preachers preface everything with IMO... in my opinion... I think... I believe... I have decided...

Rather, God said... or Paul wrote... or God instructed Peter and John to write...

Paul wrote to Timothy... **2 Tim 3:10** ff ... you have carefully followed my **doctrine**... from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus... <sup>16</sup> **All Scripture** *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for **doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Paul wrote... **ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God.**

Inspiration of God... what does that mean...

the Greek word which God inspired Paul to use is **the-o'-pnyü-sto**

Theo... Theology... God... Pnuesto... pneumatic... air... of lungs... it means... God-breathed...

God, by His Holy Spirit, breathed into the Bible's authors exactly what He wanted to be said and written.

The idea here is called, verbal plenary inspiration... it means, every word is planned by God Himself. It doesn't mean that God dictated to them, word for word, but that He put into their hearts and minds, using their own individual personalities, education and writing styles, exactly what He wanted said to the people to whom they spoke... and to whom they wrote... us... now.

The Word of God is actually alive and active...

**Heb 4:12** For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

God's Word cuts right into our hearts and minds, differentiating between our souls and spirits and correctly discerning all of our thoughts and intentions...

**James 1** says... <sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for he sees himself, then goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. <sup>25</sup> But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

When we study God's Word, we not only understand correctly about God Himself, but we can understand correctly about ourselves... it is so easy to lie to ourselves and others, seeming to be what we are not... but when we see and believe God's Word, God teaches us the truth about ourselves and our own deceitful hearts.

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be perfect/complete, thoroughly furnished/equipped for every good work... That means, every word of every book of the Bible is alive and active now and is useful for us to learn doctrine first, and then to be reproved of sin, to be corrected from error and to be taught how to live a life pleasing to God in every way... if we understand this, and study **all of His Word**, we can be equipped and ready for every good work in our lives.

The Word of God is alive and active... now!

Some claim that our first priority in reading Scripture is to understand the original audience and original purpose

That is not so... **we** are also the original audience and the original purpose is for us, now.

1 Pet 1 says... To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven— things which angels desire to look into.

They were writing to us... for our benefit... we are the audience... God's Word is alive and active now... in us...

God's Word is alive and active and He is watching over it to preserve it completely.

**Jer 1:12** *for I will hasten my word to perform it... I will watch over My Word...*

**Isa 55:11** So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

**Psalm 12:6** ff The words of the LORD *are* pure words, *Like* silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times. <sup>7</sup> You shall keep them, O LORD, **You shall preserve them** from this generation... **forever**.

**Prov 30:5** **Every word of God is pure**: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

**Mark 13:31** Heaven and earth shall pass away: **but my words shall not pass away**.

Every Word... even every comma... Jesus said, <sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Mt 5

Jesus said He had come to fulfill the OT... the Old Covenant... He said that His Word would remain, protected by Himself until God destroys the present Heaven and Earth... as long as Heaven and Earth remain, God will protect and preserve His Word... not only every letter, but even every mark... Jesus said that not one jot or tittle would pass away... jots and tittles are the small punctuation marks around several Hebrew words and letters.

Jesus said that He had come to fulfill the Old Covenant... and that not one jot or tittle would pass until all is fulfilled

Jots and tittles are a part of the Hebrew language.

Here is something to think about...

God chose and created a specific people with their own language, Hebrew, to receive and preserve His Word, the OT... the Old Covenant... No one else spoke Hebrew and His Word was virtually kept within the confines of that one small specific people... His Word and His people... the Israelites, the Hebrews.

From the time that the Hebrews rejected God's revelation in His Son, Who did, at that time... fulfill all the law and prophets of the OT... God never again used the Hebrew language to convey and preserve His Word.

With the NT... the New Covenant... God's grace and revelation sent out to the entire Gentile world, He chose to use the best, current world wide language, that is, Greek. Greek was the main language of the known world because of the vast empire conquered and consolidated by Alexander the Great some 350 years previously. God didn't choose to use Latin, the language of the current world empire, Rome, but He chose Greek... an expressive and exacting language in which Paul was expert.

Now, for the past 200 years, we have been force fed a steady diet of sayings like, 'well yes, the Bible is without error in the original languages, or in the original writings, but with thousands of copies and thousands of copiers, there are now thousands of mistakes and errors. The original intent has been lost.

That is one of the **doctrines of demons** of which Paul warned us. If the Word of God can be made suspect, then everything in it and God Himself, if He even exists, is therefore suspect and unknowable. Therefore there is no real, objective truth that can be known. Therefore the Lord Jesus Christ is a fiction as is His promise of salvation and eternal life... Doctrines of demons...

Jesus said that He not only brings us truth... but that **He Is Truth**. He said, I am the way, the truth and the life... no one comes to the 'Father but through Me.

God said that He **watches over His Word... He protects and preserves it...** until Heaven and Earth pass away... He is protecting and preserving it... now.

If God is able to protect and preserve His Word over thousands of years in Hebrew and Greek... then He is more than able to do the same thing when He directed His Word to be translated into Latin for hundreds of years of preservation until He directed it to be translated into English, the world language of the end times... and finally into many different languages in these last days. God is more than able to perfectly preserve His Word though 2000 years of writing, through another 2000 years to our present time and finally for another 1000 during the Millennium until He finally destroys with fire the present Heavens and Earth and replaces them with a new Heaven and new Earth to last for all eternity. That is how long Jesus said that His Word would stand complete.

What we have today in English, especially the King James Version, completed in 1611, the New American Standard Version, completed in 1971 and the NKJV, from 1982 are good and faithful renditions of what God has given to man in revelation of Himself and His plans and purposes. Those three were translated in what is known as... **formal equivalency**, meaning the intention to actually translate word for word syntax for syntax, being faithful to the original form... from Hebrew and Greek into English. Other versions, such as the NIV, were produced using what is known as dynamic equivalency, meaning, rendering of phrase for phrase, idea for idea... leaving behind strict adherence to the grammatical structure of the original text.

Then we have things like the Message, where a majority of original intent is abandoned in favor of modern idiom and catchphrase.

How is it possible for so many to believe or at least, claim to believe that the Bible says what it doesn't say, or that it doesn't say what it says?

The first answer to that... it's because of mans own sinful deceiving heart... so many refuse to believe truth. The other reason... although God's Word is perfect, our understanding is not perfect. We can only correctly understand and believe God's Word through that same inspiration from God by His Holy Spirit.

We can only believe about God... by faith... and the Bible teaches that the faith to even believe is a gift of God.

Belief and Faith are not synonymous... they are not the same thing. The illustration is often given... that when you flip a light switch, you are by faith believing that the light will go on, or that when you sit in a chair, you are by faith believing that the chair will hold you, but both are untrue. That kind of belief is not faith... but rather, a response to experience and conditioning. The light switch has worked before... it will work again. The chair has worked before... it will work again today.

True faith, on the other hand has nothing to do with experience... it is the gift of God.

**Eph 2: 8 ff** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

**Rom 12:3** God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

The measure of that faith that He has given to everyone is an amount whereby every person is without excuse for not believing in **God**.

Remember, He said in Romans 1... They are without excuse.

The light switch and chair are belief through experience... the difference is... God cannot be discerned through any experience in the physical realm. We cannot **see** Him, or **hear** Him, or **smell** Him, or **taste** Him, or **feel** Him in any way with our physical bodies.

Therefore, we can only know God through our Spirits... and that is God's gift...

**1 Cor 2:9** ff <sup>9</sup> But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him. <sup>10</sup> But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God... no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

Peter wrote... **2 Pet 1:16** ff ... <sup>16</sup> For we haven't followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. <sup>18</sup> **And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount (of Transfiguration)**... watch this... Peter said... but... <sup>19</sup> **We have also a more sure word of prophecy;** whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: <sup>20</sup> Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

That's amazing... Peter wrote... we saw it and we heard it with our own eyes and ears, and yet, even so... we have something even more sure than that... we have God's written Word... prophecy... God's Word is more reliable than anything we can experience in the physical realm... and we would do well to pay attention!

Over the next many weeks, we will examine what God's Word teaches us about Himself and about His Salvation for us and about all of reality.

If you have the faith to believe that God's Word is true and accurate, then you will be able to understand and believe what God's Word teaches us about everything He has chosen to reveal to us.

The first thing to remember as we study and learn together... we must choose to believe what God says... or we can reject it, but simply because we reject it... or fail to understand it... does not change the fact that it is true and reliable.

He said, **let God be true and every man a liar.**

God said, in **Isaiah 55**... "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**Psalms 33:11** But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

**Isa 14:24** The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will happen..."

God has given us everything He wants us to know... for now... from the time before time began, until the time after time ends.

We can either acknowledge that God knows everything, or we can believe that we know more and better than God, and that He should have, in fact, that He must have done things according to how we would have done it.

Those are the kinds of things we will learn...

Such as... God's divine Election of His chosen, God's wrath and judgment of the lost, God's promise of eternal security to His children, etc.

Not everything God reveals is easy to accept... Peter wrote concerning Paul... who taught all these things...

**2 Pet 3:14...** <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; <sup>15</sup>and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, **according to the wisdom given to him**, has written to you, <sup>16</sup>as also in **all his epistles**, speaking in them of these things, in which are **some things hard to understand**, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

God's Word is true... it is complete... it is perfect...

It is His revelation to us... for us to study, understand and stand upon... until He one day soon returns for us in the clouds... when we see Him as He is... and we shall be like Him... so shall we ever be with the Lord.