

# Four Pillars: Doctrine 1 – What Is Doctrine?

## *The 4 Pillars*

Acts 2:42 - And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' **doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

## *What Is Doctrine?*

NT:1322 - didache (did-akh-ay'); from NT:1321; instruction (the act or the matter):  
KJV - doctrine, hath been taught.

*Doctrine refers to teaching/instruction; specifically, this is the doctrine taught by Jesus & His apostles in scripture*

## *What Is Scripture?*

### **Is Old Testament Scripture?**

Luke 24:44-47 - He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

### **Is the New Testament Scripture?**

2 Peter 3:15-17 - Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the **other Scriptures**, to their own destruction. 17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.

### **Built on Apostles & Prophets**

John 17:20 - Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

Eph 2:20 - And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

2 Pet 1:19 - 2:2 - And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no **prophecy of Scripture** came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them — bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Did Jesus give authority to His original apostles to establish scripture? YES
- 2) Are both the Old Testament and New Testament scripture? YES
- 3) Does scripture come from our private interpretation? NO
- 2) Men spoke and scripture came by the will of man or by the Spirit of God? Spirit of God
- 3) Does the Bible warn that false teachers/prophets will try to pervert what scripture teaches? YES
- 4) How can we protect ourselves from false teaching and erroneous doctrines?

*We must read, study, and know scripture to protect ourselves from false teaching and erroneous doctrines....*

### *Scripture: A Sure Source of Truth*

John 18:38 - Pilate saith unto him, What is truth?

*These are words that will forever stand in history, "what is truth?" So many people today do not even know, they need to encounter someone who truly knows truth...*

Ps 119:89 - Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

Matt 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

John 17:17 - Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

*When God speaks, it is ultimate truth, and we have, in scripture, His preserved and divinely inspired word!!!*

### *Questions for Consideration*

- 1) Are we regularly taking in the Word of God through scripture?
- 2) What is our routine of reading and meditating on scripture?
- 3) What is our routine of studying and growing in scripture?
- 4) Can we truly be strong disciples of Christ and not know what scripture teaches?

### *Action Items*

- 1) Let's begin (or continue) a healthy diet of taking in scripture
- 2) When is the best time for you to read scripture regularly (adding on to prayer, before work, at lunch, etc...)?
- 3) Set a realistic goal, such as 1 chapter a day, and stick to it
- 4) Set a goal to do deeper study of some item or topic (i.e. once a month), and study scripture regularly