

A DISCUSSION ON THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

1. Question - Does the Bible teach, that there is a Doctrine of Christ?

Answer - **Yes it does.** We can read it in 2 John verse 9. "*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not "In the Doctrine of Christ"*". This verse says **Yes**, there is a Doctrine of Christ.

2. Question - How important is Christ's Doctrine?

Answer - Lets read the rest of 2 John 9, and we will know for sure just how important Christ's Doctrine is to the church. "Anyone who abideth not in the Doctrine of Christ, **hath not God**".

There are millions and millions of people in the world today, who do not believe that this verse is true.

Question - How do we know that this, is a true statement?

Answer - Matthew 15:8-9. Jesus said, "*This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*" (**which means that their hearts, are far from Christ's Doctrine**).

Verse 9, "*But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*"

lets read what Jesus said in Verse 10. "*And He called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear and understand.*"

In this verse, Jesus is pleading with each one of us who are reading and hearing His words that are written here, to give our full attention to His Doctrine. We must know what the word Doctrine means. In the Greek word study (Strong's Exhaustive Word Study) the word **Doctrine means teaching and instructions**. So in the verses that we have just read, Jesus is saying to us, Hear my teaching and my instructions.

Note: There are two kinds of hearing mentioned in the Bible. One is physical, and the other is spiritual. **Physical hearing**, is when that which is heard, goes in one ear, and out of the other ear. **Spiritual hearing**, is when that which is heard goes into both ears, and then into the heart.

Jesus tells us why we cannot understand His words. It is found in John 8:43.

Jesus says, “*Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word.*”

Did we understand what Jesus said in this verse? Jesus is simply saying, if we do not hear these words that He is saying, then we will not understand that these words that He speaks is the Doctrine of Christ, and they are to be believed, and obeyed.

There is something else that needs to be said on the statement,” that there are millions and millions of people who will themselves Christians who do not believe the words of God in 2 John verse 9, that “*if we abide not in the doctrine of Christ, then we are not of God*”.

Please notice these facts about those who do not believe totally in the Doctrine of Christ. They write their own doctrines. They call them their own creed books.

For example. 1. the Baptists call their creed book, the Baptist Manual.
2. the Methodists call their creed book, the Methodist Discipline.
3. the Catholics call their creed book, the Catholic Cataclysm.
4. the Saddleback church has two creed books written by its founder Rick Warren. They are called, the Purpose Driven Life, and the Purpose Driven Church.
5. the Mormon church call their creed book, the Book of Mormon.

This is enough examples to prove, that most religious people are completely satisfied with believing, and following the doctrines of these denominational churches, which are the teachings of men, and not of Christ.

Question - Why would we need all these creed books if they are the teachings and instructions of Christ?

Answer - If we will honestly answer this question, wouldn't it be, we would not need their creed books.

Isn't it an amazing fact, that we have over 3,000 different creed books from this one little book that we call the New Testament. Many of these creed books take longer to read than the whole New Testament.

Question - Are we still hearing the words of Jesus, when He says, “Hear and understand. *If anyone abides not in the Doctrine of Christ, he hath not God.”*

Here is the saddest commentary that anyone who calls themselves a Christian can have said concerning them. And that is, they lived their lives not believing that God really meant what He said in these verses. We must listen and hear the words of Jesus in John 12:48. “*He that rejected me, and receiveth not my*

words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

We read in John 8:32. Jesus says, “*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*”

Question - What is truth?

Answer - The Doctrine of Christ.

Question - What does the truth set us free from?

Answer - 1. The law of Sin and Death - Romans 8:2.
2. The truth will also save us from the creeds of men.
3. The truth when it is obeyed, is the only thing that will free us from our present and future sins.
4. The truth when obeyed, will set us free from the strong hold of Satan.
5. The truth when obeyed, will set us free from all our doubts and fears, about our souls destination when this life is over.

Question - What can the creeds of men set us free from?

Answer - There is one thing that the creeds of men can set us free from and that is the “Doctrine of Christ.”

If we are having any doubts about this statement, all that we have to do is to purchase some of these creed books that men have written for a guide line on how to be saved, and on how to live the Christian life, and read them for our own learning, and then compare them with the Doctrine of Christ. We will then know for ourselves why the word of God says, “*If we abide not in the Doctrine of Christ, we hath not God*”.

If we do not care enough about where our souls will spend eternity, then read and follow the creed books that men have written, rather than the Bible. Then if we are lost on Judgment Day, we can blame no one but ourselves.

Question - Do we know what the Apostle Paul said about the importance of believing and obeying the Doctrine of Christ.

Answer - Read Galatians 1:6-12. “*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel*.”

Verse 7, “*Which is not another; but there be some that*

trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Verse 8, *“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel (**Doctrine**) unto you that that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”*

Question - Did we hear and understand how serious Paul said it was to teach another doctrine than the Doctrine of Christ?

Answer - Galatians 1:9, *“As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”*

Verse 10, *“For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”*

Verse 11, *“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.”*

Verse 12, *“For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

Question - Is there anything in these verses, which are written by the Holy Spirit through the hand of the Apostle Paul, that is difficult to understand?

Fact: It is written so simple, that the least educated person should have no problem in understanding it.

For clarification, lets write down what Paul wants every one to know.

1. There is no other doctrine, than the Doctrine of Christ.
2. There are many who teach that there is another Doctrine of Christ.
3. Do not listen to any doctrine of men.
4. Do not listen even to an angel, if one should come to you and say any thing that is contrary to the Doctrine of Christ.
5. Anyone who gives heed to men’s doctrine, or an angel’s doctrine, let him be accursed.
6. Do not seek to please men.
7. Seek to please Jesus Christ only.
8. Paul said, I received the “Doctrine of Christ” from Jesus Christ himself. Now isn’t these words of the Apostle Paul easy to understand?

Now, lets read 2 John verse 10. *“If there come any unto you, and bring not this*

*doctrine, receive him not into your house,
neither bid him God speed."*

Verse 11, "*For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*"

I believe that we are all mature enough to understand that John is speaking to the Christian about Spiritual matters, and not about physical matters. The words of these verses points that out very clearly. Please notice in Verse 10, John says, "*If there comes any one unto us, and bring not this doctrine.*"

Question - What doctrine?

Answer - The Doctrine of Christ.

Do we still remember the meaning of the word Doctrine? It is the teachings and instructions of Christ.

Question - Does the Bible tell us in words that are easy to understand, what the Doctrine of Christ is, on how to become a member of the body of Christ? Lets go to the words of God, and Christ, and the Apostles, and see.

Mark 16:15-16. Jesus said, "*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*

Verse 16, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."*

Question - Is these two verses a part of the Doctrine of Christ?

Answer - Yes they are, because it is the teachings and the instructions of Christ.

We can read some more of the Doctrine of Christ in Romans 6:4. Paul says. "*Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*"

In Colossians 2:12 Paul says, "*Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead.*"

Some one may say, these words are the words of Paul and not Christ. Lets notice where Paul gets his authority. We can read it in Galatians 1:11-12. The Apostle Paul says, "*But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.*"

Verse 12, "For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Question - Is being immersed in water a part of the Doctrine of Christ?

Answer - It sure sounds like it to me.

Fact: There are many churches today who does not teach this Doctrine. They teach all that a sinner has to do to be saved, is to repeat a so called sinner's prayer that is led by a preacher.

Question - Is this the Doctrine of Christ, or is it the doctrine of men?

Question - Is sprinkling or pouring water on one's head the Doctrine of Christ, or is it the doctrine of men?

Answer - It is the doctrine of men.

Now, lets read 2 John verse 9 again. "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

Question - If we are not to believe or practice this verse, why did the Holy Spirit have John to write it?

These verses sound to me like the obedient believer is not to worship and fellowship with those who do not teach the Doctrine of Christ. This is the reason that I cannot worship and fellowship with them. My conscience will not permit it.

There are those who believe and teach, that the Doctrine of Christ is to teach that Jesus Christ did come in the flesh, and that is all that John was teaching. Notice, Paul teaches the very same thing in Galatians 1:6-12 that is taught here by John, and he never even mentions deceivers and antichrists.

Paul is referring to those who have left the Doctrine of Christ, and had returned to Judaism. Paul also makes it as plain as the English language can make it, that there is no other doctrine, but the Doctrine of Christ.

The Apostle Paul also says some very strong words in 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12. Verse 10, "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love the truth, that they might be saved."

Verse 11, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they

should believe a lie."

Verse 12, *"That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."*

Question - Who are the ones that Paul is referring to here?

Answer - It is the one's who received not the love of the truth.

It seems that Paul leaves it up to each one of us to examine our own hearts, to see if we have believed and obeyed the Doctrine of Christ, or the doctrine of men.

Now, lets read 1 Corinthians 3:16. *"Know ye not that ye are temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"*

Verse 17, *"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."*

To understand the truth of this verse, I believe that it is a must, for us to understand whether Paul's subject "defileth" is Spiritual or material? It is really quite simple. All that we have to do, is to look at the words that Paul uses in these two verses. 1. Temple of God. 2. Holy Spirit. 3. God. 4. The temple of God is holy. 5. We (Christians). 6. Christians are the temple of God.

Question - Is these words Spiritual or fleshly?

I believe it is very obvious that they are Spiritual words. Yet most obedient believers, believe and teach that these two verses are talking about smoking, overeating, drinking alcohol, taking illegal drugs, etc.

Question - Does Jesus teach that this doctrine is true?

Answer - Mark 7:14-19. Jesus said, *"Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand."*

Verse 15, *"There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man."*

Verse 16, *"If any man have ears to hear, let him hear."*

We can tell by these words that Jesus is getting just a little perturbed with His

listeners, when He says, If any one has ears. Jesus knows that they all have ears. Then He says to them in Verse 18. *“Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;”*

Here it is about 2,000 years later, and most people still do not understand what Jesus has said in these verses. The key verse to understand what Jesus has just said is found in Verse 19. Listen closely. *“Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats.”*

Question - Is it a true statement or a false statement, when we hear some one teach, that smoking, drinking, overeating, doing drugs, defiles the temple of God.

Answer - Romans 3:4, *“Let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, that thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou are judged.”*

Now, lets go back to 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 where the Apostle Paul says, *“If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy”*. We have just read where Jesus taught that anything that goes into the mouth cannot defile the man. So what is Paul referring to, when he says that God will destroy the man who defiles the temple of God?

Question - Do we understand the seriousness of what Paul has just said?

If we do, we will immediately read the first three chapters of 1 Corinthians, and find out for ourselves what subject the Apostle Paul is discussing. Everyone who reads these three chapters, can make up their own minds who God will destroy on Judgment Day. Those who defile the fleshly body, or those who defile the Spiritual body.

Question - Does Paul tell us how we can defile our body, which is God’s holy temple?

Answer - He sure does. It is by calling it by some other name, than the One who was crucified for them, or by some one whose name they were not baptized in - 1 Corinthians 1:13.

After we have read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, we need to read verses 21-23.

1 Corinthians 3:21-23. *“Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours”*

Verse 22, “*Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your’s;*”

Verse 23, “*And ye are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s.*” (Doesn’t the Holy Spirit do a wonderful job in explaining God’s word to us?)

Here are some verses of encouragement.

Acts 2:41-42, “*Then they that gladly received His word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*

Verse 42, “*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

Question - Did we notice who these obedient baptized believers were having worship and fellowship with?

Answer - It was with fellow Christians.

Romans 16:16- 18, “*Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.”*

Verse 17, “*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine (**of Christ**) which ye have learned; and avoid them.”*

Verse 18, “*For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”*

1 Timothy 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.” (**but the Doctrine of Christ**).*

1 Timothy 4:16, “*Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”*

2 Timothy 4:2-4, “*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

Verse 3, “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers,*

having itching ears.”

Verse 4, “*And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables*”. **Are we still listening?**

Titus 2:1, “*But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine;*”

Titus 2:10, “*Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.*”

This is the only place in the Bible that this word **Purloining** is used. In the Greek word study, **it means - to hold back part of the truth from those whom we are teaching**. Paul says when we do this, we are keeping others from giving their full attention to the Doctrine of Christ. Shame on those who practice this. We each must examine our ourselves, and see if we are guilty of practicing this.

We have studied some mighty serious statements from the word of God. Such as:

1. 2 John verse 9, “*Whoever abideth not in the Doctrine of Christ, hath not God.*”

2. Galatians 1:6-8, “*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.*”

Verse 7, “*Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*”

Verse 8, “*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*”

3. 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, “*And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*”

Verse 11, “*And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*”

Verse 12, “*That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*”

4. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, “*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

Verse 17, “*If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God*

