

## See What You Know (Doctrine)

By Lloyd Anderson

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Now we come to our final lesson in the studies through January and February, in which we've sought to share with you the idea that as a believer in Jesus Christ, it's your responsibility, and mine, to know the answers to a number of very, very striking questions that have been asked by many, many people. Is it possible for me to know God? What makes Jesus Christ so different? Here I am, but how and why? Why do I need the Holy Spirit as the comforter of my life? Does the devil have plans for my life? Am I really that bad? Has all of this spiritual truth been given to me? Are angels for real? All of these questions we've sought to answer as we've come to a study of the word of God itself. Now, in our last study in this series through January and February, coming as we do, to the end of the month of February; I'd like to have you turn with me, if you will, to a very interesting passage in 2 Timothy, chapter 4. And again, I'm using my Bible here, you can hear me turning the pages of it. But in 2, Timothy, chapter 4, we have a very interesting scripture. And to it, I would like to have you turn if you have your Bibles. And I'd like to read verses 1 to 4 before we say a word and have a word of prayer. "I charge thee, therefore, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come where they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch

thou in all things, endure affliction, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

Now, in our concluding lesson in this particular series on the believer, and some of the problems of life, and their answers, we must remember that you and I first of all, according to 2 Timothy 4 verses 1 to 4, are to speak sound biblical doctrine. We read in the word of God that "We should be no more children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the slight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive. But speaking the truth in love, we might grow up into him in all things, which is the head even, Jesus Christ," Ephesians 4 versus 14 and 15. Now this is the prerogative of the believer, and certainly we need to remember it. These great doctrines of the faith, spoken of in the Book of Ephesians 4, should be remembered not only for our knowledge alone as believers, but as a help in our everyday life to keep us from being spiritually undernourished. We should learn to speak and to show, or exhibit, sound doctrine and living before the Lord Jesus Christ, and before the peoples of this world.

Now, Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 4:1-4 that we are to proclaim sound doctrine. When the apostle Paul wrote to young Timothy and Titus, he emphasized to each one of these young ministers the need of knowing sound biblical doctrine, speaking sound doctrine, and living sound doctrine. It is not just enough to have a head knowledge of these things, but unless they help you to become a Christian or to be a better Christian, as the case may be, this knowledge will have availed absolutely nothing in your life and mine. Now we must proclaim this wonderful truth, says Paul to Timothy and Titus. You remember in Titus, Chapter 2, verses 1 to 6. Titus was admonished by the apostle Paul to speak the things which become sound doctrine. And Timothy was told by Paul to preach the word: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.

In other words, they were to take advantage of the opportunity which was open to them, because the time would come when men would not be interested in sound doctrine. Now that sounds almost like the time has already come, doesn't it? That's why this mid-20th century needs you and me as believers to proclaim the doctrines or the teachings of the word of God. And we must know what we believe, and we must be able to teach them to others also, in order that they might be able to carry on. You remember in 2 Timothy, Chapter 2 is that very sparkling and wonderful verse in the second verse of 2 Timothy, Chapter 2, he says, "Now therefore my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ, Jesus and the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others, also." Now this is the program of the New Testament Church. This is the program that we are to follow. And so we're told to proclaim the word of God.

Sound doctrine comes from knowing the true God. As we learned in one of our first studies in this particular series, you see the greatness and the goodness of the Lord is shown in his creation of all things. Every mountain, and bird, and flower, and star, shows the marvelous handiwork of God. But God's goodness is revealed to us by his love and grace. We read in the New Testament, "Because God so loved the world, he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." He was willing to give his only begotten son for the sin of mankind. Philippians Chapter 2 is one of the greatest chapters on what God was able to do in Christ. We saw in that passage, in Philippians 2, beginning with verse 5, how that Jesus Christ willingly became sin for you and me. He died the death of the Cross. But he did not stay on that cross. God has highly exalted him with honor and glory, according to Philippians, Chapter 2 versus 9 through 11.

We have studied, you remember, about the Holy Spirit in our series, The Holy Spirit, who is our comforter, paracletus, one who is brought alongside to help. His work in the world today is to convict men of sin, and righteousness, and judgment, and to bring comfort and guidance to the Christian. Sound doctrine is built upon correct biblical teaching concerning God, concerning Jesus Christ, and concerning the Holy Spirit. We must proclaim this to a sinful world in which we happen to be living.

Now, not only does the word of God say that we must proclaim sound doctrine, but it will also persuade people if we do. You see leaders of the churches, and any Christian worker, are to follow the advice given in Titus Chapter 1 and verse 9, where the scripture says in the words of Paul, "Holding fast the faithful word, as he had been taught that he may be able by sound doctrine, to exhort and to convince all disputes is against it." Now, we must always remember, my friend, that it is the word of God in the control of the Holy Spirit that really brings conviction to lost men and women.

Good, sound, Biblical doctrine stops the mouths of those who would contradict us on every side. The origin of man, for example, where did man come from? Has been one of the most controversial subjects of the century. Christian young people should accept the biblical account of creation by faith, as they do any other doctrine of the Bible. We accepted it as a fact because God said it. The natural man, of course, wants the fact proven before he can accept it. And both of these areas, we need to remember, are validated in the word of God. However, sin is a fact that most people accept without any question at all. The doctrine of the devil, as presented by the word of God, is not so readily accepted by many people. But the two of them are linked together in the Bible, and are very much a part of the entire picture of the tragedy of the human

race in any generation. In fact, the complete understanding of their consequences is essential to comprehending many of the other doctrines of the Bible.

Now, not only must we speak sound doctrine according to 2 Timothy, 4 verses 1 to 4, but the Book of Titus. And again, I'm turning in my Bible to the Book of Titus, Chapter 2. And I'd like to have you do likewise, if you will, in the Book of Titus in the New Testament in Chapter 2, beginning with verse 7 down to verse 10. We read an interesting word. What does he say: "In all things, showing thyself a pattern of good works, in all doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, and sincerity; sound speech that cannot be condemned. That he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say about you. Exhort servants to be obedient to their masters and to please them on all things, not answering again." And he goes on to tell us that we must, by our lives, reveal the sound doctrine of the Bible that we believe with our hearts. We are to show ourselves, according to Titus, to in verses 7 and 8, a pattern of good works to unsaved men and women. We are to, in doctrine, show uncorruptness. We are to be filled with a sincere gravity. We are to be sincere. We must have sound speech that cannot be condemned. Now here, we are living out the doctrines that we believe with our hearts, you see. And this, of course, is the exercise of the true believer.

Now, in this body of ours, this body of human flesh, we cannot see what part the angels play in the whole drama of life. But we do know that they really exist. According to Nehemiah 9:6, according to Psalm 103 and verse 20, and they do assist in carrying out God's will, Psalm 145 and verses 1 to 5. And so you see these biblical doctrines, even of angels, are to be lived out by the believer in the fact that he believes in them and he understands their motivation and their purpose in the universe of God.

I think we need to remember that the greatest exhibition to the world is the local church. Whatever name that church may have, the foundation and the function of the church are clearly pictured in many forms in the Bible. The outstanding one is: "As the body of Christ." Now the body of Christ, of course, is that supernatural body into which every believer is placed as a consequence of his believing in Christ. Local churches down here in the world, of course, bear different kinds of names, and we trust they are entirely composed of saved people. But the church, the local church, is an exhibition to the world and it ought to be a good exhibit. The outstanding local church reveals Jesus Christ through its membership. It reveals Christ in what it's doing. The local church should be God's trumpet in this world that heralds sound doctrine and the good news in its community and to the uttermost part of the world.

Now, what is the purpose of living sound doctrine? Well, Titus 2 in verse 8 tells us: "That the individual who is the dispute or against you," he says, "may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say against you at all." We must learn to practice what we preach. And so what if you're unsaved friends laugh? Keep consistent in your Christian life and they will realize that you really mean business for the Lord. They will respect you, and they will want what you have, and they will admire what you possess--if you really are living for Jesus Christ in a proper manner. One sure way to be in the proper relationship with other people, is to be in right relationship to the Lord. If you are saved, then you should live a Christian life in the demonstration and power of the Holy Spirit. You should never miss an opportunity to partake of the Lord's Supper. You should be a strong member in a local church; a fundamental Bible believing church where the gospel is really preached, and take your place in that church. Work for the Lord and do his work in the Ministry of the Holy Spirit. And your colors will be seen by the world as you nail your flag to the mast. Sound doctrine, concerning any area of biblical teaching, is to be found in the

life of the believer who truly loves the Lord Jesus. Sound doctrine must be exhibited in our lives if we want to see our loved ones and our friends come to Jesus Christ. We must so live as to attract, not repel, those that we would win to Jesus Christ.

Some time ago, a Sunday school teacher asked the boy in the Sunday school class that they define the words "false doctrine." The boy's reply was very interesting, he said, "False doctrine is when a doctor gives the wrong medicine to sick people so that they get worse instead of better." Now, I think his idea illustrates false doctrine, pretty snugly. Giving false doctrine to people, as some ministers are today, as some teachers are today, and I'm sorry to have to say that, is only making people more spiritually ill, weaker, and hungrier. And I can show you people today who have gone to certain churches all their lives, and they're hungering and thirsting for the teaching of the word of God. And my friend, all they get are husks from the pulpit. This is a tragedy. And ministers are going to be held responsible when they do not preach and teach the word of God from the pulpit whenever it's possible. How important, therefore, it is that we believe sound biblical doctrine, that we learn sound biblical doctrine, and that we proclaim sound doctrine, and that we practice it day by day in our Christian lives and experience. This, my friend, is what God would have us to do.

Our father, we thank thee for these moments together. In Jesus name, we lift our hearts.  
Amen.