

Session 8: Foundations of Christian Belief (Chapters 20 and 21)

Overview of Bible Doctrine

Bible Doctrine: when you add up all the authors and books of the Bible together then boil them down to what the Bible teaches (what subjects the authors teach and what they say about each subject)

There is a basic body of doctrine that nearly all Christians have historically agreed upon. The author refers to this body of doctrine as the 10 Great Doctrines of the Bible:

1. The Bible: the origin and nature of the Scriptures
2. God
3. Christ
4. Holy Spirit
5. Angels: investigates the reality of the spiritual world
6. Man: investigates the origin, nature and destiny of humanity
7. Sin
8. Salvation
9. Church
10. Future Things: looks into biblical prophecy, and what the Bible says about future events, the end of the world and eternity.

The Doctrine of the Bible

Facts about the Bible:

- The Bible offers itself as a source of truth.
- The Bible does not defend itself. It was written to people who accepted its message and therefore spends little time convincing its readers of its authenticity.
- The fundamental assertion the Bible makes concerning itself is: it is a revelation of God to man, it was written without error, and it can be trusted to reveal the truth to us regarding God, man, life, and death.

4 Major Subdivisions of the Doctrine of the Bible:

1. **Revelation:** The Bible was *revealed* to man by God. God made known to man that which He wanted him to know.
2. **Inspiration:** God made sure that when man wrote down His revelation, they did so *without error*.
3. **Illumination:** The Holy Spirit must enable people to *understand* and *embrace* the truth of Scripture.
****The Holy Spirit gradually illumine the *receptive mind* to *understand* and *embrace* more and more of the Bible, as the Christian matures in his or her spiritual walk.**
4. **Interpretation:** We must be diligent *students* of Scripture to understand its deeper teachings. ****We must be diligent in pursuing biblical knowledge. *The more the Christian reads and studies the Bible, the more the Holy Spirit will illumine his or her mind, which encourages the student to read and study further.***

All scripture is God inspired and useful to teach us: 2 Timothy 3:16-17