Fundamentals of the Christian Faith

The Importance of Doctrine in Faith and Practice
Lesson 1
2 Timothy 3:1-4:5

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
June 3, 2018
The Importance of Doctrine in Faith and Practice

- Fundamentals of the Christian Faith
- The importance of teaching the Bible – doctrine
- The authority of the Bible
- The Triune God
- God the Sovereign Creator
- The doctrines of grace – T - U - L - I - P
- The Christian life
- The three enemies of the Christian
- The Church and the church
- Eschatology – the future for the believer
- Review – a life changing study
The Importance of Doctrine in Faith and Practice

- A lesson from history – the formation of Trinity Bible Church
- A lesson from Paul on the work of the church (2 Timothy 3:1-4:5)
History of Trinity Bible Church

- Central Bible Church (Portland Union Bible Classes)
  - Dr. John G. Mitchell, 1931 to 1967
  - Rev. L Dwight Custis, 1967 to 1981

- A Bible teaching ministry

- A ministry under pressure
  - Style of ministry
  - The doctrine of salvation

- Final message, 1/18/1981
  - (tbcpxd.org – Browse - Other Messages - 1981)
History of Trinity Bible Church

- What to do next?
- A call to preach
- A prayer meeting, 1/24/1981
- Gresham Armory, 1/25/1981 – first meeting
- A God-centered ministry – training from Scripture
- The characteristics of the ministry (page 10)
The Apostle Paul Teaches About the Ministry
(2 Timothy 3:1-4:5)

- Conditions in the world in the last days (3:1-13)
- Difficult times in the last days
  - Gen 49:1; Isa 2:2; Jer 23:20; 49:39; Ezek 38:16; Hos 3:5; Mic 4:1
  - Acts 2:17; 2 Tim 3:1; Heb 1:2; Jas 5:3; 2 Pet 3:3
  - OT – Great Tribulation and Millennial Reign of Christ
  - NT – The New Covenant era – since the day of Pentecost

- Character of humanity
  - 3:2-4 – 19 traits listed
  - Lovers of self, not lovers of God
  - Lovers of money and lovers of pleasure

- Holding a form of godliness, but denying the power

- Turn away from such men as these
The Ministry of “These Men” (3:6-9)

- They prey on weak women, weighed down with sins
- They are opponents of truth
- They have depraved minds
- They are rejected in regard to the faith
The Example of Paul’s Faith and Practice (3:10-13)

- A marked contrast – dealing with difficult times
- Paul’s qualifications – 1 Timothy 1:15-16
- Teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance
- Persecution and suffering v. money and natural pleasure (Gal 6:14)
- Contrast – more evil – deceiving and being deceived
Timothy Must Continue (3:14-17)

- Timothy’s experience of ministry
  - Consider his teachers from childhood – grandmother and mother
  - Consider the teaching – Sacred Writings
- Wisdom that leads to salvation by faith in Christ Jesus
- All Scripture is inspired
- All Scripture is profitable for teaching – doctrine
- All Scripture is profitable for reproof – rebuke
- All Scripture is profitable for correction – restore to upright
- All Scripture is profitable for training in righteousness
- The outcome: faith and practice
How Is Timothy to Conduct the Ministry (4:1-5)

- Preach the word!
- A solemn charge before God and Christ Jesus
  - The Judge of the living and the dead
  - Anticipating the return of Christ and His Kingdom
- Reprove, rebuke, exhort with great patience and instruction
- The difficult times
  - Rejection of sound doctrine
  - Seeking teachers who promote their desires
  - Rejection of truth – preference for made up stories
- The faithful minister: sober, endure, evangelize, fulfill ministry
The Importance of Doctrine in Faith and Practice

- Understand the nature of the difficult times
  - The character of man must be changed
  - The only instrument is the Word of God – doctrine/truth
  - Turn away from the wisdom of man (Isa 2:22)
- Pursue this kind of ministry
  - Personal reading and study of the Word of God
  - Attend to the preaching and teaching of the Word of God
- Pray for churches to persevere in preaching and teaching the Word of God