

# 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
  - ([tbcpdx.org](http://tbcpdx.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