

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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SERIES: The Foundations on Which We Stand – Why We Believe What We Believe!

“WHY DOCTRINE IS IMPORTANT”

2 Timothy 3:10-15, 4:1-5

Our purpose in this series is to acquaint ourselves with the fundamentals of our faith. Why We Believe What We Believe - today - Why Doctrine is Important. Vince Lombardi the great coach of the Green Bay Packers would start each football season with veterans and rookies about the fundamentals of football. I believe Christians today at all levels need to be schooled in the basics so, you are not as Ephesians describes, *“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.”* (Eph. 4:14)

Now I want to remind you this morning that **Bible** is our first name and our most important identification of this church which Paul called “the pillar and ground of truth.” (1 Tim.3:15) We may change methods or strategies. We may remodel buildings or shake up the order of worship. But we’ll never stray from an emphasis on strong biblical preaching and a doctrinal emphasis. So, today’s message title is:

“Why Doctrine is Important.”

We first ask the question, **What is Doctrine?** Doctrine is simply “teaching” the Bible as we see in **2 Timothy 3:10-15**. So, let’s consider several important truths about **DOCTRINE**.

I. WHY IS DOCTRINE IMPORTANT?

1. Doctrine is something worth dying for **V-11**. I am willing to die if necessary, for my Biblical Convictions, but not my preferences.
2. Doctrine is Bible. Simply put doctrine is God’s revealed truth. Jesus said in **John 17:17**, *“Sanctify them by Thy truth, Thy Word is truth.”*
3. Doctrine is teaching. The word “doctrine” which you see repeated often in Paul’s letters, comes from a Greek word that simply means teaching.

II. WHY IS TEACHING DOCTRINE SO IMPORTANT?

I have listed seven reasons why we must know and understand why we believe.

1. We’re living in a predicted age of Biblical illiteracy. Look down again at **2 Timothy 4:2-4**.
2. Doctrine is important, because Jesus thought it was important.
3. Doctrine is truth and truth means freedom. **John 8**.
4. We must know what we believe because we need to discern false teachings. If knowing the truth sets you free, embracing false truths or false doctrines keep you in bondage. Look at **Romans 16:17-18, 2 Peter 3:17, 2 Corinthians 11:3-4**.
5. Doctrine is important because the decisions we make and the actions we perform is based on what we believe.
6. Doctrine is important, because we need to know how to share our faith. As Christians, God has called us to be light in this world.
7. We must pass it on to the next generation. Paul said this to Timothy in **2 Timothy 2:2**.

III. A FINAL WARNING ON DOCTRINE

I must give a final warning on doctrine. Any time you teach on this, I think you must acknowledge several things.

1. First of all, don’t ever confuse knowledge of what you believe with a vibrant walk with God. Remember that the church of Ephesus had left it’s first **LOVE** – **Rev. 2:1-5**.
2. Doctrine is truth and life. But a few things must be considered:
 - ◆ Let’s not become arrogant about being right. This happens too often among “fundamentalists.”
 - ◆ We often make the mistake of confusing doctrine with those gray areas of the Christian life. Too many fundamentalists argue over nonessentials, like being right, and are pompous and angry.
 - ◆ Remember the theme of our faith is grace, God’s unmatched grace, toward sinners.
 - ◆ We want to continually know the Bible, but let’s not just become fat with knowledge. Let’s do something with it as James tells us *“let’s be doer of the Word not just hearers.”* (**James 1:22-23**)