

## **Session 5: The Importance of Sound Doctrine:**

### **Part 1: What is sound doctrine?**

- **Some Key scriptures:**
  - **Jude 1:3**
  - **1 Timothy 1:3-4**
  - **1 Timothy 4:6-7**
  - **1 Timothy 4:13, 16**
- **A few basic introductory thoughts:**
  - It is a logically organized attempt to expound the most essential element of "the faith" or "sound doctrine:"
  - It begins with going to the scriptures to study what they say about these matters.
  - It through diligent study puts together a well-organized, logically connected body of facts that we can pass on to the next generation.

### **Part 2: What are some practical reasons to study doctrine?**

- **Reason 1: American Christianity is filled with ignorance, confusion, and thoroughly unbiblical concepts:**
- **Reason 2: The church will crumble in a culture if sound doctrine is not being regularly expounded:**
- **Reason 3: False Teaching is personally destructive to people's lives:**
- **Reason 4: What we do begins with what we are and what we believe:**
  - Values begin with the Creator's design and purpose.
  - What we believe must be rooted in an objective authority.
  - The enabling to live the Christian life begins with conversion and an understanding of how God matures people.
- **Reason 5: We must articulate doctrine with clarity:**
  - We need to know what the scriptures teach about foundational matters.
  - We need to know the primary scriptures that address these issues.
  - We need to know the terms.
  - We need to be aware of the debates and how they are affecting the people we love.
  - We need to communicate sound doctrine effectively.

### **Part 3: What does scripture say about studying sound doctrine?**

- **The great commission commands us to teach sound doctrine: Matthew 28:20**
- **The New Testament pattern for teaching begins with sound doctrine:**
  - **Romans: Doctrine 1-11/Practical Implications 12-16**
  - **Ephesians: Doctrine 1-3/Practical Implications 4-6**
  - **Colossians: Doctrine 1-2/Practical Implications 3-4**
- **The apostles' final words command us to teach sound doctrine:**
  - **2 Timothy 3:10; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9; Titus 2:1; 2 John 1:10; 2 Peter 3:1-2**

### **Part 4: What are some specific areas of doctrine that we must teach to the whole church?**

- What is scripture and is it without error?
- What books are actual scripture?
- Who is God?
- What is trinity and why does it matter?
- How does God's sovereignty relate to sin, suffering, and salvation?
- Who is Christ?
- What is man?
- What is marriage and why does it matter?
- How are sinful people reconciled to God?
- What is the gospel and what does it accomplish?
- What is the church and why does it matter?
- What is the church mandated to be doing?
- Who should be overseeing and instructing the church?
- What is the ultimate hope for the Christian?

### **Part 5: How should the church teach sound doctrine?**

- **Preaching:** Our preaching should exegetically sound and theologically rich expositions.
- **Teaching in the class setting:** We need to thoroughly address these critical questions.
- **Teaching one on one or in small groups:** Discipleship especially in the formative early years after someone's conversion.
- **Christian fellowship:** We should be growing in our love for sound doctrine so that it is naturally a part of our Christian relationships.
- **Interacting with excellent resources:**