

Calvary Chapel El Monte
Essential Doctrines of the Faith - Session 1

Doctrine is important!

There can be no deliverance from depravity, the devil, demons or death apart from solid Biblical Doctrine.

But the Bible says in 2 Timothy 4:3, that the time would come when they will not endure sound doctrine...friends, the time has come, and this is not good.

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, *"We cannot have the benefits of Christianity if we shed its doctrines."*

In his book *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis makes a great analogy. *Doctrines*, he says, *are like maps. They are not the reality and may not be as exciting as reality, but they chart reality for us in a vital way. Just as studying a map of the shore of the Atlantic is not as exciting as walking along the Atlantic coast itself, so studying the doctrine of atonement is not exactly the same as the experiencing the cross itself. But the purpose of a map is to represent, graph, and explain the reality. If you want to find your way, you need to have a reliable map, and we should consult it frequently.*

In this series we will be covering 7 Essential Doctrines of the Christian Faith

The word Essential is defined as, "Absolutely necessary."

When we refer to the essentials of Christianity, we're referring to our core creeds, the basic beliefs that make us Christians and characterize our faith, and which, of course, separate it from other beliefs.

What does a person need to believe in order to rightly be called a Christian?

1. The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible
2. The Triune God (Trinity)
 3. God the Father
 4. God the Son
 5. God the Holy Spirit
6. Salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
7. The return of Jesus Christ and the eternal establishment of heaven and hell.

We will also be covering 7 Important Practices of the Christian Faith on our upcoming LiveTalks (Tuesdays at 4PM).

1. Baptism
2. Devotional Life
3. Discipleship
4. Fellowship
5. Church Life
6. Exercising your Gifts
7. Sharing Your Faith

THE BIBLE

The Bible is the essential of the essentials, it's from the Bible we derive our fundamental faith about God, and man, and all that pertains to life.

Karen's mother was startled to find her five-year-old going through a new Bible storybook and circling the word God wherever it appeared on the page. Stifling her first reaction to reprimand the child for defacing a book, she quietly asked, "Why are you doing that." Karen's matter-of-fact answer was: "So that I will know where to find God when I want him."

Wouldn't it be nice to have her confidence that all we had to do was open a book and find God waiting for us? The truth is, we do have such a Book—the Bible.

The Bible is unlike any other book. **THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD TO US, it's truth in the land of lies.**

Although it's not by any means an exhaustive description, some have used the following acronym to describe the Bible:

B – Basic

I – Instructions

B – Before

L – Leaving

E – Earth

Don't put it off, because none of us knows the day of our departure.

Adrian Rogers, *"The Bible is not the book of the week; it is not the book of the month; it is no the book of the year. It is the book of the Ages!"*

The Bible is divided into 2 sections, the Old and New Testament.

The Old Testament contains 39 books, while the New Testament contains 27, for a total of 66 books.

One of the wonders of the Bible is that although there are 66 books, with over 40 different authors, from vastly different backgrounds, and even though some of those books were written over 1,000 years apart, they all fit together cohesively (miraculously) in an amazing unity and with the same theme woven within the words from Genesis to Revelation.

Bible Teachers have a popular maxim, *"The New is in the Old concealed, and the Old is in the New, revealed."*

I. Bible Revelation

THE BIBLE IS THE REVELATION OF GOD TO HUMANITY, PRIMARILY IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST. The Old Testament is Jesus Predicted, the Gospels are Jesus Manifested, the book of Acts is Jesus Preached, the Epistles are Jesus Explained, and the book of Revelation is Jesus' Return. (John 5:39; Luke 24:27; Hebrews 10:7; Acts 8:35)

John 5:39 (NKJV) "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."

Luke 24:27 (NKJV) "And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

Hebrews 10:7 (NKJV) "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'"

Acts 8:35 (NKJV) "Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him."

Adrian Rogers, *"Cut the Bible anywhere, and it will bleed. The blood of Jesus stains every page."*

THE TWO AVENUES OF REVELATION ARE GENERAL REVELATION AND SPECIAL REVELATION.

A. General Revelation

GENERAL REVELATION IS CREATION AND CONSCIENCE

i. Creation

ii. Conscience

B. Special Revelation

SPECIAL REVELATION IS THE LIVING WORD (JESUS) AND THE WRITTEN WORD (THE BIBLE)

i. The Living Word (Jesus) (John 1:1, 14)

ii. The Written Word (the Bible)

The New Testament was given to us through Jesus (Hebrews 1:1-3)

II. Bible Inspiration (see 2 Timothy 3:14-17)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV) "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

INSPIRATION, THE QUALITY OF BEING "GOD-BREATHED," REFERS TO THE FACT THAT GOD SUPERNATURALLY GUIDED THE AUTHORS OF THE BIBLE TO WRITE EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED TO COMMUNICATE. THE ORIGINALS ARE

THEREFORE INERRANT AND AUTHORITATIVE. Everything in Scripture is there because that's what God desired to say to humanity.

We need to know the weight of revelation.

Adrian Rogers, "*The Word of God is MORE SURE than anything we see, hear, feel, or think.*"

What?

The extent of that inspiration is defined by the two terms *verbal* and *plenary*.

A. **VERBAL MEANS THAT EVERY WORD OF SCRIPTURE IS GOD-BREATHED.**

Every single word, not just the ideas behind the words, is in the Bible because God wanted it there.

B. **Plenary** means "complete or full"; when used to describe the inspiration of God's Word, **PLENARY MEANS THAT ALL PARTS OF THE BIBLE ARE EQUALLY OF DIVINE ORIGIN AND EQUALLY AUTHORITATIVE.**

Jesus said in, **Matthew 5:18 (NKJV)** "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."

A jot is the 10th letter of the Hebrew Alphabet; the smallest of them all. A tittle was used by grammarians as accents points. Jesus referred to the little lines by which the Hebrew letters in other respects differ from one another; the meaning is, "not even the minutest part of the law shall perish," is uninspired, and will not come to pass.

In the English language the smallest letter would be an "i" and a tittle would be the equivalent to the small line distinguishing an O and a Q.

In Galatians 3:16 Paul reveals the importance of this detailed inspiration.

Galatians 3:16 (NKJV) "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ." Referring to Genesis 22:18

How?

How did God inspire the Bible? We don't believe in dictation, that God spoke, word for word to the authors what would be written. When you read the Bible, you'll notice

that each author maintains his own style, and even does his own research so in **that** sense, there is human contribution (Ecclesiastes 12:9-11; Luke 1:1-4).

The inspiration of the Bible is described in 2 Peter 1:19-21:

2 Peter 1:19-21 (NKJV) "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were moved* by the Holy Spirit."

Warren Wiersbe said, "*This is one of two important Scriptures affirming the divine inspiration of the Word of God. The other is 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Peter affirmed that the Scriptures were not written by men who used their own ideas and words, but by men of God who were "moved by the Holy Spirit." The word translated moved means "to be carried along, as a ship is carried by the wind." The Scriptures are "God-breathed"; they are not the inventions of men.*"¹

III. Bible Illumination

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE, WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO "ILLUMINATE" GOD'S WORD TO OUR HEARTS, WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND IT WITHOUT HIS ASSISTANCE AND UNLESS WE ARE SAVED.

We should pray in order "see" and understand God's Word.

Psalms 119:18 (NKJV) "Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law."

Luke 24:45 (NKJV) "And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures."

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned."

Adrian Rogers, "*The Bible is God's love letter to His children. If you don't understand it, it's because you're reading someone else's mail.*"

That's Adrian Rogers way of saying, get saved and become a child of God (John 1:12) so that you can understand the Scriptures!

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 445). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

THERE ARE BASICALLY 5 FORMS OF BIBLE INTAKE:

1. READING

2. MEMORIZING

3. MEDITATING

4. STUDYING

5. HEAR IT TAUGHT

And the more we know our Bible, the more we can test everything that's taught to us (Acts 17:10-12)

IV. Bible Application

Bible Intake is not enough, we must apply the Scriptures to our lives.

James 1:22 (NKJV) "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

***Matthew 7:24-27**

Where would we be without the Bible? Without the Word of God, we'd only have a human hunch, maybe a holy hunch, but that's not enough. We can't hinge our eternity on guessing, we need the blessing of God's Word! Amen?

The Example of William McPherson

William McPherson was severely injured when a charge of dynamite exploded in front of his face. Although he survived the blast, he lost his eyes, hands and the feeling in parts of his face. He realized how much the Bible meant to him and he greatly needed the its strength. He could not read it in Braille because of his artificial hands. He tried to place his lips on the dots but they were numb. He found he could use his tongue to decipher the Moon Type System of dashes. Although the metal left his lips and tongue bleeding and very sore, he prayed to God to help him continue to learn just one letter of the alphabet. In the 65 years that followed, he read the Bible through four times with his tongue. What love for the Bible! His example leaves us without excuse.

