



Sound Doctrine

“Important Words, Beliefs, and
Concepts in the Christian’s Life”

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

- Titus 2:1, NIV

The word *doctrine* literally means “instruction.”

- Warren Wiersbe



**Here is a little “sound instruction” about Important Matters
that are not addressed elsewhere in this manual:**

Angels: Lit., *messenger*. “Created” heavenly beings who serve as messengers from God (Gen 19:1ff, Matt. 2:13-15). See II Peter 2:4 for angels who sinned. Humans do not become angels (Heb. 2:7). Little babies who die do not become angels in Heaven. The role of Angels: Messengers, protectors, “death notification”, servants, and instruments of God plan—including judgment.

Antichrist: Opponent of Christ, the evil figure who will come in the last days to oppose Christ and everything of God (I John. 2:18).

Ascension: Going up, refers to the return of the risen Jesus to the Father (Acts 1:8-11).

Atonement, to Make: To cover, to cancel one's sins (Ex. 30:16). God in Christ atoned for our sins by dying on the cross.

Baptism: Immersion, submersion (Rom. 6:1-4). Baptism doesn't save a person, but is a symbol of his or her salvation and a sign of their obedience to Christ. Water baptism is a picture of death, burial, and resurrection. It pictures new life with Christ and future resurrection from the grave (Rom. 6:1-6).

Believe: Trust, have faith in, commit to. May mean simply “to know” intimately (cf., Jas. 2:19), but usually means to trust in God with commitment and obedience (Jn.14:1, Rom. 10:9-10). Unconditional surrender to Christ is required for all who would believe in Him and trust Him as Lord and Savior.

Bible: The Bible is the inspired (by God alone) and inerrant (its origin has no mistakes) Word of God. The sixty-six books that make up Holy Scriptures. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew (except for a little Aramaic in Ezra, Jeremiah, and Daniel). The New Testament was written in Koine (common) Greek. “Plenary Verbal Inspiration” is the belief in a full word-for-word inspiration of the Bible as a God-breathed book.

Blaspheme, Blasphemy: Slander, insult, injure the reputation of, lie about. Usually refers to cursing God or using abusive language about Him, His Name, or His Word (Lev. 24:16, Rom. 2:24). The only unforgivable sin in the Bible is blasphemy (when used in the perfect tense—meaning a continual, unrepentant stance of disobedience.) In the simplest terms, it is never surrendering one’s life to Christ for salvation.

Born Again: our first birth was *physical* and our second birth is *spiritual* in nature (John 3:3). Jesus told Nicodemus that it was necessary to be “born again” (spiritually) to have a right relationship with God (John 3:5).

Covenant: Mutual agreement between two persons or parties (Gen 31:49-53). The covenant between God and people is unique: God alone sets the terms, and each person decides whether to agree and enter the covenant (Gen. 15, Heb 8:6, II Cor. 3:6).

Day of the Lord: The day of Christ's return to the earth (Phil 1:6, 10).

Deity: God, being a god. Example: We believe in the *deity* of Christ.

Disciple: Learner, student, follower, apprentice, one who accepts the teacher's teachings and imitates his practices (Luke 6:40, Isa, 8:16).

Discipleship: Commitment to learn a way or follow a leader. A commitment to Christ that includes learning and applying the Bible to life, sharing Christ with others, serving the church, and fulfilling the goals God designs for each person (Matt. 28:18-20).

Doctrine: Instruction. Teaching about God that affects how you live (Prov. 4:2, Titus 2:1).

Faith: Belief, trust (Heb. 2:4, Mark 11:22). Faith in Jesus Christ is essential for salvation (Eph. 2:8-10). Faith is active, showing in action and attitude.

Fornication: Sexual intercourse between two people who are not married to each other (I Thess. 4:3-6). Sometimes translated *immorality*, it can refer to sensual sins in general. Condemned by God because fornication hurts people (I Cor. 6:18, I Thess. 4:60). God designed sex for marriage (Prov. 5:19, I Cor. 7:2). *Fornication* is also used to picture unfaithfulness to God (Is. 23:17, Jude 1:7, John 8:41).

Grace: Favor; a gift from God that provides eternal life and/or gives the ability to accomplish something. It has been said that grace is getting what you don’t deserve. (cf., Mercy—which is not getting what you deserve).

Heaven: Place of perfect happiness, a Christian's home after death. We will be with God in heaven, and there will be no more tears, death, sorrow, or pain (Rev.21:4). We will have new bodies and new experiences (I Cor. 15:35-57, II Cor. 5:1-10).

Hell: Place and condition of eternal punishment for those who reject Jesus as Lord and Savior (Duet. 32:22, Matt. 5:22, 29-30, 10:28, 16:18). Words related to *hell* include "Gehenna, Hades, and Sheol."

Idolatry: Putting anything in place of God (as the priority of one's life) or putting anything ahead of God (Ex. 20:4-6).

Incarnation: Literally meaning "in flesh." (e.g. "God became man--incarnate.")

Intercession: Praying or pleading on someone else's behalf.

Jehovah: An alternate pronunciation of Yahweh (THE LORD—printed in SMALL CAPS). Yahweh was believed to be so holy by the Masoretes (writers of scriptures) that they took the consonants from Yahweh and the vowels of the name Adonai (The Lord—printed without small caps). This combination of vowels and consonants produces the hybrid "Jehovah" in English. The word "Jehovah" does not appear in the biblical text.

Justification: God's act of declaring and making the repentant sinner right with Him (Rom 4:24-25, 5:17. I Cor. 1:30). Memory hook: Justification—it's 'just-as-if-I had never sinned.

Love: Deep, enduring concern for other's welfare; affection, friendship. The highest form of love is "agape" love. It is a God-given love that is self-sacrificing in nature.

Lust: Desire that turns bad when a person wants something besides what God wants (Gal. 5:16-21).

Marriage: When a man and woman lovingly wed their lives together in a mutual commitment that is totally spiritual, mental, physical (Matt. 19:5-6, Mk. 10:7-9, I Cor 11:1, 2). God created marriage, encourages it, and commands unity in it as a life-long relationship (Gen 2:24-25. It was the first institution created by God.

Priesthood of all believers: Doctrine that all Christians can come directly into the presence of God with no mediator (Eph. 2:18, I Pet. 1:19-21). Jesus provided for Christians to have this priesthood (Rev. 1:6, 5:10).

Propitiation: Covering; atonement (I John 2:2), in general, sacrifice that appeases a god. In Christianity, propitiation is Christ's sacrificial death on the cross that makes divine forgiveness possible (I John 4:10). Propitiation is God's mercy and grace in action to put us in a right relationship with Him.

Rapture: To snatch from one place and put in another. Jesus will come again with those who have died in Christ and join them in the air with those Christians who are still alive (see Thess. 4:17). Note: The word *rapture* is not in the Bible, but the concept is.

Reconciliation: Restored relationship (II Cor 2:18-19), renewal of friendship. Christ's death provided for the removal of the barrier of sin to bring people back into a right relationship with God.

Redemption: Release that occurs when a price is paid (Lev. 25:51-52, Num. 3:49, Heb. 9:12). Jesus paid the price for our release from sin (Rom. 3:24, Eph. 1:7).

Repentance: A turning of the mind, heart, and life through trust in Christ (Jer. 26:3, II Cor. 7:8-10), may simply mean regret or change of mind (Matt. 27:3). God's repentance is not from sin but a judgment to undo what is done (I Sam. 15:11, 29, 35).

Pervert: This is Satan's main objective and role. Satan does not "create" evil, he only perverts what is good. Example: Much of our cussing language uses "God" or references to things precious to believers. Why do we use God's name so much; because Satan has perverted it and made it a name that is no longer holy to many people.

Righteous: Right or just; right with God (Mal. 3:18). A person is made right only through God in Christ (II Cor. 5:21).

Sacrifice: Something offered in worship. In the Old Testament, sacrifices expressed repentance from sin and obedience in worshiping God and receiving His favor. Christ became our Sacrificial Lamb so that we might find favor with God (John 1:29). Sacrifice can also be an individual commitment to God (Rom. 12:1).

Salvation: Safety; deliverance from evil; eternal life (Isa. 12:2, Luke 19:9). Salvation comes only by God's grace and through Christ when a person repents of sin and accepts Christ as Lord and Savior (Acts 4:12, Titus 2:11). It begins on earth and finds completion at death or at Christ's return.

Sanctification: God's cleansing process to make a person holy and like Jesus (1 Cor 1:30). It affects both character and conduct (Col. 3:1-17). It is the process by which God calls His followers to be "set apart" for Holy Living. God "call" enables the believer to live a life of purity and holiness.

Satan: The devil; evil one, the enemy in Matthew 4:10. Satan directly opposes God and hinders God's purposes (Zech. 3:1, Acts 26:18). He slanders God and His people (Job 1:6-12). He wants to control people and destroy them (John 10:10). Satan works through temptation, deception, and other subtle devices to take away the good God has given (Mark 4:15, II Cor. 11:14, Rev. 12:9, II Thess. 2:9). His power will one day be taken away, and he will be thrown into hell, where he will be forever (Rev. 20:2).

Saved: Rescued, brought to safety, delivered from the judgment of sin (Acts 2:21). A person is "saved" when they have surrendered their life to Christ and acknowledged His lordship over them.

Savior: Deliverer; one who saves (II Sam. 22:3, John 4:42). In the Old Testament, the word primarily refers to God. In the New Testament it is used primarily of Jesus, but also of God (Luke 1:47).

Security of the Believer: Also called "perseverance of the saints", it is the teaching that those who are saved will continue to be saved. (Romans 8:38-39; Phil 1.6). One's security is based on God's effort, not human effort. It has been explained, "Once saved, always saved" but might be more accurately put, "Once saved, always changed."

Sin: Lit., "Missing the mark" of God's will by choice and because of human weakness (Jas. 1:14-15, Rom 7:24-25). Action or attitude that disobeys God, betrays Him, or fails to do well (Rom 3:23, Jas. 4:17).

Sovereignty of God: Absolute authority and rule of God (Isa. 45:5-6, Rom. 9:20-21). God alone is sovereign.

Spiritual Gifts: Abilities given to believers by the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 12:7). Every Christian has at least one and is to use it to build up other believers, create unity, express love, and reach new Christians (Eph. 4:13-16). For a lists of these gifts see I Cor. 12:1-11, Rom. 12: 4-8, and Eph. 4:11-13.

Temptation: Enticement to do wrong (Jas. 1:13-14), desire to do something bad, which appeals to you, at the risk of destruction. All temptation comes from Satan and is deceptive (Luke 4:1-13).

Tithe: One tenth; One tenth of all earned income should be given to the Lord as an offering (II Chron. 31: 5-6).