Part 1-What is Doctrine?

The idea of Doctrine is very important to a Christian. In order to even call us Christians, we must have a foundation to our teaching that distinguishes us from other religions. What is the difference between Christians and muslims? Doctrine. Even in the realm of Christianity, the differences between denominations is Doctrine. One believes that Jesus was not God, while others believe that he is God. Others believe to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and yet, others believe that we are baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Can they both be right? They both claim the God of the Bible. Both claim to have the Holy Spirit. And yet, can we really believe that all these denominations are right when they believe such opposite views? Lets look at the Scripture:

**Eph 4:5**

Eph 4:5 One Lord, **one faith**, one baptism,

This is one of the most profound scriptures. This shows that there is only ONE FAITH. There is no room for another faith. There is no Methodist faith, Baptist faith, Pentecostal faith. There is only one Faith, and that is the Faith in the bible.

We know that there is only one Jesus Christ that died on the cross. Well if that is the case, then there is only interpretation that is correct in the bible. Notice these scriptures:

**Joh 1:1**

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God.

Notice, not "words" but THE WORD, one Word.

**Joh 1:14**

Joh 1:14 **And the Word was made flesh,** and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

So this "One Word" became flesh in the man of Jesus Christ. That means that there is only ONE WAY the scriptures can be correct.

Now lets look at the definition of Doctrine.

**Doctrine**

***instruction*** (the act or the matter): - doctrine, **hath been taught**

Now this definition may seem general, but doctrine has a deeper meaning than "teaching". Teaching implies that things can be changed. As we learn more, our teaching changes. But Doctrine implies a sense of authority. It is not to be changed. Once the doctrine is set, it has to remain the same. There is no changing doctrine. You might have to change your "opinion" or "interpretation" of the doctrine, but that does not take away from the true doctrine in the bible.

We know that God gives us doctrine:

**Deu 32:1-2**

Deu 32:1 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

Deu 32:2 **My doctrine shall drop as the rain**, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender -herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

**Joh 7:16-17**

Joh 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, **My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.**

Joh 7:17 If any man will do his will, **he shall know of the doctrine**, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

God also promised that he would teach us His doctrine. Some people might say that we will never fully understand His doctrine. That thought is contrary to the scriptures:

**Isa 28:9**

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make **to understand doctrine**? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

God is actually looking for someone that he can get to understand doctrine. Not just "know" the doctrine, but to UNDERSTAND it and to OBEY it.

**Isa 29:22-24**

Isa 29:22 Therefore thus saith the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale.

Isa 29:23 But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel.

Isa 29:24 **They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn\* doctrine.**

Notice what this word "learn" means:

**Learn:**

law-mad'

properly **to goad**, that is, (by implication) to teach (the rod being an Oriental incentive): - [un-] accustomed, X diligently, **expert**, instruct, learn, skilful, teach (-er, -ing).

So God is not only going to give us doctrine, but he "goads" us into it. Goad is the term used to when you try to push an animal to do a certain task, whether it be to get in a barn or to keep pulling the plow. So God was going to take people who erred in the spirit, which is about all of us, and "goad" us into his doctrine. To say that we cannot understand God is to say that God is a liar.

Now we must know that our doctrine cannot just be man's opinion of what it means. Doctrine must come from an absolute. First lets look at the definition of "absolute":

**Absolute:**

**1.** free from imperfection; complete; perfect:

**2.** not mixed or adulterated; pure:

**3.** complete; outright:

**4.** free from restriction or limitation; not limited in any way:

5. unrestrained or unlimited by a constition, counterbalancing group, etc., in the exercise of governmental power, especially when arbitrary or despotic:

**6.** viewed independently; not comparative or relative; ultimate; intrinsic:

**7.** positive; certain:

An absolute is complete in itself. An Absolute is independent from ALL OTHER SOURCES. Having an absolute ends all strife on a certain idea. If the absolute says it's one way, then no matter what you think or what you feel is right, the Absolute is still right. The Word is the Absolute to the Christian.

**Mar 13:31**

Mar 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but **my words shall not pass away.**

**Mar 5:17-18**

Mat 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Mat 5:18 For verily I say unto you, **Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**

"jot" means the very smallest of anything. It was the 10th letter in Hebrew, the 8th letter in Greek. A "tittle" is the dot over the letter "i". This shows that not one thing will be forgotten. Why? It's the absolute.

**Luk 16:16-17**

Luk 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Luk 16:17 **And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.**

**1Pe 1:24-25**

1Pe 1:24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

1Pe 1:25 **But the word of the Lord endureth for ever**. **And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.**

Even the Christian Church has a foundation to their faith. It is the Gospel the Apostles preached.

**Act 2:41-42**

Act 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 **And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**

**Eph 2:19-22**

Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Eph 2:20 **And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;**

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

Eph 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

So we see here that the foundation to our ONE FAITH is upon the apostles. Paul's gospel was our foundation to our faith:

**Rom 2:16**

Rom 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ **according to my gospel.**

**1Ti 1:11**

1Ti 1:11 According to **the glorious gospel** of the blessed God, which was **committed to my trust.**

**2Ti 2:7-8**

2Ti 2:7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

2Ti 2:8  **Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:**

**Rom 16:25**

Rom 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you **according to my gospel**, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

**1Co 14:36-37**

1Co 14:36 What? **came the word of God out from you**? or came it unto you only?

1Co 14:37  **If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.**

**1Co 3:9-11**

1Co 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

1Co 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, **as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon.** But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1Co 3:11 **For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

By these scriptures we see that whatever we believe must be also preached by the apostles. Our doctrine must be based on the doctrines that the apostles gave us. That is our foundation. If we preach something else, we are not on that foundation, but we are on a different foundation. Paul said that he "feared" this other foundation:

**2Co 11:1-4**

2Co 11:1 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.

2Co 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: **for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.**

2Co 11:3  **But I fear**, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2Co 11:4 **For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted,** ye might well bear with him.