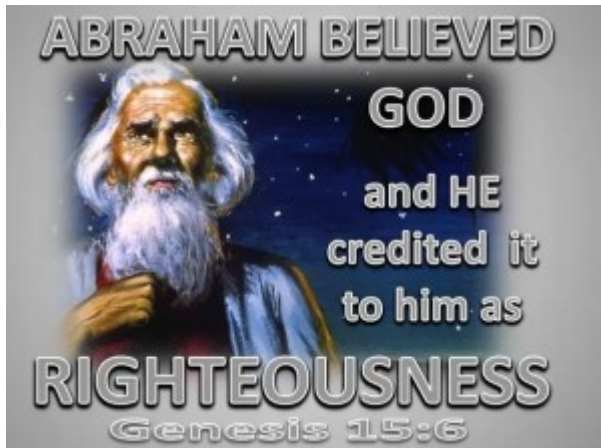
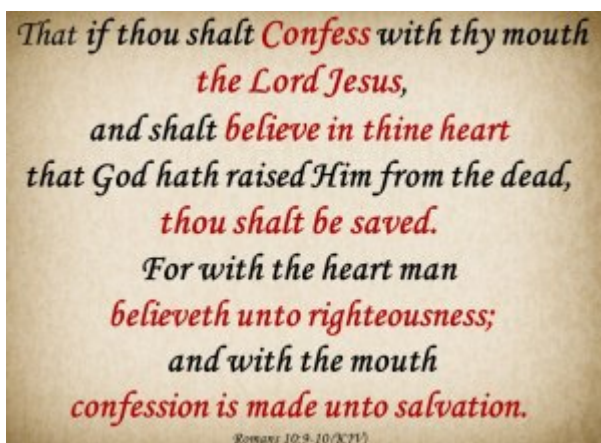


The Divine Programme of The World's History Chapter III. The Abrahamic Programme – Part I.



Abraham believed and obeyed the God who had chosen him to be the channel of the world's redemption,—and to him was communicated the third section of the Divine programme of the world's history.

True Bible Based Saving Faith in Christ



The bases of true saving faith in Jesus Christ is believing the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and that Jesus God's Son died to save us.

Watchwords for the Warfare of Life, Part 1 Words for the Battle-Field, III. The Weapons of Our Warfare.



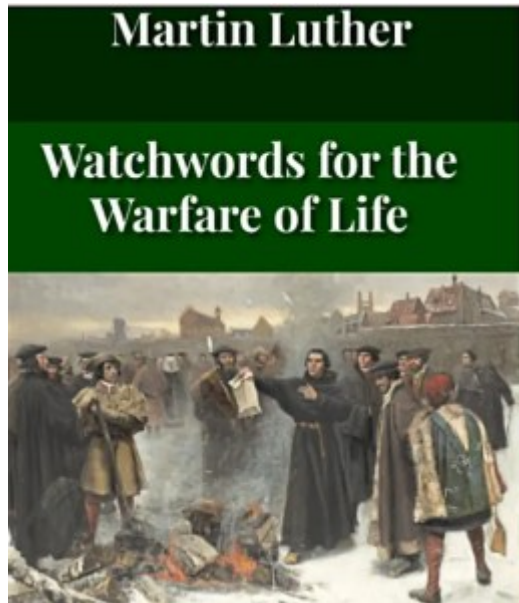
Words of wisdom from Martin Luther about the Word of God and living a fruitful life for Jesus Christ.

Watchwords for the Warfare of Life, Part 1 Words for the Battle-Field, II. Rules of the Service



Inspirational quotes from the writings of Martin Luther.

Watchwords for the Warfare of Life – By Martin Luther Part 1 Words for the Battle-Field, I. The Commander



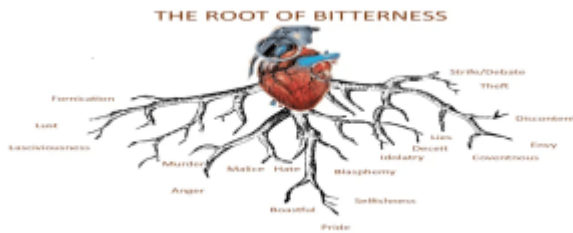
Inspiring words from Martin Luther about how to fight the warfare of life!

The Church's Rule of Faith



The Word of God, the Sacred Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule of faith and obedience for all true believers.

Bitterness: Weeding Out the Poisonous Root



—BY Jim Henry

I read this article long ago some in the 1980s. It helped me greatly to overcome the grudges and bitterness I used to have toward various people for their perceived wrongs against me. If you have bitterness in your heart toward anyone, I urge you to read it! When I was bitter toward a person, it was like a spiritual acid in my soul. I learned over time to forgive others as Christ has forgiven me. I've realized how sinful I have been in the past in my attitudes words and deeds toward some people, and knowing that humbles me greatly. I can say now by God's grace I'm free from the past and have my eyes only on the present and future, praise God!

I'm not sure who the author of this article, Jim Henry is. There's a Baptist pastor by that name. It could be him.

Bitterness is that hateful, spiteful sourness in the heart that creeps in when you have been, or think you have been, maliciously wronged. I looked up the word in a dictionary, and it was defined as a sharpness affecting the taste, the feelings, or the mind. It comes from an old English word that meant "sharpness to the taste."

If you've ever had a difficult experience with someone who made you mad, and you resented it, held on to it—you know how bad it tasted spiritually, and in your mind it raised hateful feelings and thoughts. That is bitterness, and God's Word has something to say about it.

RECOGNIZING BITTERNESS

How does bitterness show itself?—In at least three ways.

One kind of bitterness is directed against God. You can become bitter against God in the loss of a loved one, when a friend swindles you out of money, when the boss passes you over for a promotion you really deserved and gives it to someone else, or when your husband walks off and leaves you for another woman.

You are angry, and you say, "Lord, if You love me so much, why did this happen? If You answer prayer, why didn't You answer mine? Either You are not powerful enough, or You didn't care enough. Either way, I am angry with You!"

A second kind of bitterness is against other people. It can be there in a child who decides to rebel against his parents, to run away from home because he believes they are unfair to him. It can be there in a wife who says, "I'll have a nervous breakdown if my husband keeps treating me like this, and I'll get even with him."

It might be a person who says, "OK, if I forgive them for what they did to me, that wouldn't be fair. They don't deserve to be forgiven. I'm going to carry this a little longer and maybe somehow along the way they'll see what it has done to me, and something will happen to them."

You and I cannot afford the luxury of holding on to bitterness and resentment against others, because it only becomes the root of other problems.

Your bitterness can also be directed against yourself, and show itself in an inability to forgive yourself, even though God has forgiven you. You carry that load until you say, "I deserved it, but I'm strong enough to take it, and I'll just carry this thing and deal with it myself." Self-centered pride latches onto your heart and you refuse the forgiveness of God and others.

This can also cause you to live in self-pity. You say, "OK, I deserve this. God's trying to punish me. I shouldn't have done this or that, and now I deserve what I'm getting, and I'm just going to have to be a martyr and carry it." So you trudge along in life nursing bitter resentment and a grudge against God or someone else. You carry it until you make life miserable for yourself and everyone around you. Why? Because you never dealt with your bitterness. The Bible says, "Watch out for such bitterness!" ("Look diligently"— Heb.12:15 .)

BITTERNESS BEGINS UNSEEN

Not only am I to "look diligently" for bitterness, but because it may be unseen, I may not be aware of it; and being unaware of it, I may be especially liable to its danger.

Look what the Scripture says: "See to it that no one misses the grace of God, that no bitter root grows up..." Now, where is a root? Usually under the ground. You don't see it, but it's there. I have some weeds in my yard, growing through everything—even bricks! There are roots down there somewhere. They cause weeds to grow, whether there's shade or sunshine—I can't get rid of them. I don't see the roots, but the evidence is everywhere.

Bitterness can be an unseen enemy, growing like a tumor in your mind and in your spirit. The Bible says we should look out for it. Just because we don't see it, doesn't mean it's not there.

Bitterness is the unharvested fruit of anger, and in time it will show itself. As Numbers 32:23 says, "Be sure that your sin will find you out."

BITTERNESS SPRINGS UP & CAUSES TROUBLE

The Bible warns that the root of bitterness will spring up, and when it does, what does it do? Cause good things to happen? No! Cause joy? No! Cause love? No! Cause peace? No! "See to it...that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble!"

Bitterness, improperly handled, causes trouble—and it does so in at least two ways.

First, it causes physical problems. In his book "None of These Diseases," S. I. McMillan says, "Anger, unhandled, will show itself in at least 50 diseases."

Dr. Norman Wright, a professor of psychology at Biola University and a Christian writer, agrees with McMillan. God has constructed us, says Dr. Wright, with a tube about 30 feet long that begins at our throat and runs to our rectum (the alimentary canal). That long tube, disturbed by bitterness and anger, produces things like colitis, diarrhea and ulcers. (Editor's note: Of course, such ailments often result from many other causes besides bitterness or anger.) When we are angry and do not handle it properly, there are physical consequences.

Bitterness can also show itself in our mental condition. Bitterness is really displaced anger. We can be angry at other things, other people and other objects, not knowing it comes from bitterness. All our energy and mind are set in an anger-mode, and we're affected mentally. There is no joy, no creativity, no positive power flowing through our lives because there is resentment there.

We are also affected spiritually when bitterness is not resolved. How? By an inability to accept God's Love. It can cause you to doubt your relationship to God. Ray Burke has written a book called Anger-Diffusing the Bomb, and in it he says that each time he dealt with those who doubted God's Love for them, somewhere along the line he discovered they harbored bitterness against God, themselves, or someone else. When this bitterness was dealt with and resolved, their ability to accept God's Love and forgiveness returned.

HOW DO WE OVERCOME BITTERNESS?

The good news is that anyone can overcome a bitter spirit. God encourages us to deal with it. He says in Ephesians 4:31, "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger..."

The Bible is so practical and clear that if we take what God teaches us about overcoming bitterness and apply it, we can be free of the bondage of bitterness.

BITTERNESS TOWARD GOD

Begin by dealing with any bitterness toward God. The following steps may help.

First, trust God's wisdom. This doesn't mean you should believe that everything that happens on Earth is good. Sin is in the World. Satan is still the prince of the air. Yet I must believe that God allows things to happen that He may not like, and which we may not like. But in His wisdom, somewhere down the line, God will turn it around for good for His children, according to His promise in Romans 8:28 .

Second, I have to ask God what He's trying to teach me through this. The Bible says we're the disciples of Jesus. What is a disciple?—A learner. The Bible says the Father is the teacher, and we are disciples. We are learners. The experiences of life are teaching experiences. Sometimes we are so anxious to get to our destination that we forget how much joy can be ours along the way. When bitterness comes and you are tempted to be angry with God, ask Him what He is trying to teach you.

Third, apply one of God's promises to your situation.

Fourth, reject self-pity. Have you ever been a victim of the "Poor Me Syndrome"? Perhaps you know someone else who always seems to be saying, "Poor me, just look what's happened to me." No one likes being around such a sad-sack for very long, because it's no fun. So don't get into that syndrome.

Fifth, put time into proper perspective. Every difficult experience you may be dealing with now, circumstances that tend to make you angry and bitter, will in time pass away.

Sixth, be quick to give thanks. I've learned a little chorus recently, and I start singing it almost from the time I wake up in the morning: "It's amazing what praising can do." The song goes:

It doesn't matter when things go wrong,
Jesus fills my heart with a song.
It's amazing what praising can do.

You can't be bitter against God and praise Him at the same time. You can't be blessing Him while you're also shaking your fist at Him. So the Bible says, "In all things, give thanks."— 1Th.5:18 . Learn to give thanks unto the Lord and praise His Name, and it's really amazing what praising can do.

BITTERNESS TOWARD YOURSELF

Many times we get angry with ourselves. It shows up in many forms—we feel rejected, we wallow in self-pity, and our self-image is poor.

It may be because of some sin or failure of yesteryear, something that, if we had it to do all over again, we wouldn't do for a million dollars; but we did do it, and we're having trouble forgiving ourselves.

How do I deal with that?

I begin by confessing my sin to the Lord, and believing His promise: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"— 1Jn.1:9 . Then once I know God has

forgiven me, I can forgive myself.

BITTERNESS TOWARD OTHERS

How do you deal with bitterness against others? One thing you must do is to keep your anger temporary. In Ephesians 4:26 God tells us we should not let the sun go down on our anger. If you're mad at somebody today, you should get it settled before the sun goes down. If it goes down and you don't deal with it, it will simmer all night, and tomorrow there's a good chance you'll be twice as angry and bitter about it as you are today. Washington Irving said that a tart temper is the only thing that doesn't mellow with age. So deal with your anger before the sun goes down. Keep a short account.

Another crucial area is the tongue. The Bible reminds us that though the tongue is a little instrument, it causes a lot of problems. You can't get into trouble for something you didn't say. That's why it's so often best to mentally stamp "N.C." on things you hear or observe. Do you know what that is? "No Comment." You can keep out of trouble that way. Watch your words. A sharp tongue is a tool that grows keener with use. Watch it.

We can also pursue peace. "Make every effort to live in peace with all men."—Heb.12:14 . "Seek peace and pursue it."— 1Pet.3:11 . We must chase after peace, like a dog after a fox! Go for it! In Philippians 4:5 we are commanded, "Let your gentleness be evident to all." Be gentle—not to most people, or to some, but to all of them. Live gently. Pursue peace.

Also, if you know someone is harboring anger, hurt or bitterness towards you because of some wrongdoing on your part, you can take the positive step of initiating reconciliation. In Matthew 5:23-24 , Jesus says that if you come to Him with your offering in hand, and then remember that a brother has something against you, leave your offering, go to your brother, and make your offering after you're reconciled with your brother. So the Lord not only tells us to go to others when we're bitter or unforgiving towards them, but He covers both angles and also tells us to go to those who are bitter or angry towards us.

There's something else: Forgive and forget. How can you forget something negative that's stuck in your mind? The Bible says God remembers our sins no more. So how can God forget something when He is omniscient? How can He know everything and still forget? Here's the secret: When you forgive and forget, the forgetting means that you, like God, don't hold that wrongdoing to the offender's account. God forgets the charge against us; He remembers it no more. Oh, He knows about it, just as you do, but He will never bring it up again. That's what we are to do. Don't fish in the pond of history. Leave it there.

Sometimes we are like the man who came running into the office of a marriage counsellor. "Sir, you've got to do something about my wife. Hurry! She's historical, she's historical!" The counselor said, "Now, wait a minute. You mean she's hysterical." He said, "No! She's historical! She's bringing up everything from the past!"

Some people can go back and reel off in chronological order everything that a person has done against them during their entire relationship. If you forgive a person, forget their offenses and never bring them up again. Don't dwell in the past and don't let the past dwell in you.

Robert E. Lee, after the Civil War, visited a home in Kentucky. The lady of the house pointed to a limbless, battered tree trunk standing on the front lawn, and said, "Before the Union army came through here, that was a beautiful, magnificent magnolia tree. Then they blasted it with their artillery, and that's all that's left. What do you think about that?"

She expected the general to sympathize with her and criticize the Union Army. But instead, he looked at her and said one sentence: "Cut it down and forget it."

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Do you have some trees of bitterness standing in your life? Bitterness toward God? Toward others? Toward yourself? Cut them down and forget them.

Resolve to deal with your bitter spirit. "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."— Eph.4:31-32 .

Science Cannot Explain What You Think It Does



Science and faith in God do not conflict, they complement each other.

Five Basic Postulates Of Protestantism



Five basic differences between Bible following Christians and Roman Catholics.

God Is Not A Backstairs Politician



This article is from chapter 17 of "Out of the Labyrinth: The Conversion of a Roman Catholic Priest" by former Roman Catholic priest Leo Herbert Lehmann, first published in 1947 and made available online by The Lutheran Library Publishing Ministry LutheranLibrary.org. It's good to share with Catholics. And if you were not raised a Catholic, it will give you insights about the Catholic mindset and why they pray to Mary and the saints.

I had to look up the meaning of the word "backstairs." I don't remember ever hearing it in conversation or reading it in print.

backstairs adjective
back·stairs 'bak-,sterz

1 : secret, furtive
Example: backstairs political deals

I FIND IT most difficult to convince Roman Catholic people that Christ has won for sinners the right of direct access to God. They always fall back on what their priests have taught them, that to obtain mercy and forgiveness they must cajole some saint, some close and favored friend of God to intercede for them. The most powerful intercessor of them all is Mary, since she, they say, is the actual mother of God.

A very sincere and devout Catholic woman once put it to me in the following way. "If you wanted an interview with President Truman," she argued, "you would have to go first to some one else, his mother or some of his political friends, and ask them to intercede for you with the President and arrange for you to see him." My answer was, of course, that that may be true as far as President Truman is concerned. "But it so happens," I told her, "that

President Truman is not God.”

This belief of Roman Catholics is in accord with their Church’s peculiar teaching that Jesus Christ brought only justice on earth, and that Mary and the other saints must be looked to for mercy. “Ye know very well, venerable brethren,” Pope Pius IX declares in one of his encyclicals, “that the whole of our confidence is placed in the most Holy Virgin, since God has placed in Mary the fullness of all good, that accordingly we may know that if there is any hope in us, if any grace, if any salvation, it redounds to us from her.”

From this extravagance it follows, in the eyes of Roman Catholics who are taught in this way, that Mary and the saints have even more power to save than Christ. They come to believe that the saints can get them into heaven, literally, by the backstairs, even if they die before a priest can come to forgive them their sins. Saint Joseph, for instance, has been officially proclaimed by the Catholic Church as the “Patron of a Happy Death” This special work is given to him because he was the foster-father of Jesus Christ and because he died before Jesus left home to begin His ministry. He therefore had Our Lord and the Virgin Mary at his deathbed. As the husband of Mary, Joseph is believed to be very powerful as an intercessor with Jesus Christ, and can actually get sinners into heaven at the last minute even if they die without a priest to absolve them.

Priests go to extraordinary lengths to convince their congregations that devotion to Saint Joseph is the surest guarantee sinners can have of getting to heaven. They picture him as heaven’s most powerful ‘politician’ who can obtain any favor he wants from God. I remember how a priest in Naples, Italy, once proved this in a sermon to his congregation. Here is the story he told (which is true in every detail according to what Catholics are taught about heaven, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Saint Peter, Saint Michael and others there):

One day the Archangel Michael, the policeman of heaven, came to Saint Peter at the golden gates and said: “Look here, Peter! How is it that there are so many scoundrels in heaven who have no right to be here? Heaven is swarming with sinners who don’t deserve a place even in Purgatory.”

“Don’t blame me, Michael,” Peter replied. “Everyone knows my reputation as guardian of the heavenly gates. You know I would never let even a Pope get in unless I’m sure first that all his sins are forgiven and that he has served his full time in Purgatory. But since you’ve asked me a straight question I’ll give you a straight answer, if you’ll come with me after I’ve closed up the gates for the night.”

They met as appointed and Peter led the way around the outer walls of the Celestial City to where the house of the ‘Holy Family’ was situated, high up against one of the battlements, and from the back window of which the Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus – could look down and see everything that takes place on earth.

It was a bright moonlit night and Peter drew Michael down behind some shrubbery and told him to wait and see what would happen. After a

little while, they heard what seemed like pebbles being thrown against the window overlooking the wall. In less than a minute the window was opened, and a rope was let down and pulled up again. At the end of the rope was one of the disreputable sinners whom Michael had complained about.

They waited until the sinner was hauled in and the window shut. "Now," said Peter triumphantly to the amazed Archangel, "There's your answer!"

Next morning early, Michael, dressed in his best official uniform, and with a very determined look on his face, knocked at the door of the Holy Family's house. Mary opened the door and called to Joseph and the Child Jesus to welcome their distinguished visitor. He took a seat and in a tone of the sternest dignity turned to Joseph and said: "Joseph, I've found out what has been going on here every night, and I would fail in my sacred duty if I did not tell you that your practice of getting sinners into heaven by your back window must stop at once!"

"I'm sorry, Your Highness," Joseph replied with a guilty look, "but I'm publicized on earth as the last refuge of dying sinners. I've furthermore been proclaimed 'Patron of the Universal Church,' and I've solemnly promised to get poor sinners into heaven by hook or by crook who are faithful in their devotion to me during life. I simply can't refuse their appeals and let them go to hell. My position and reputation as husband of Mary and the foster-father of Jesus Christ are at stake."

Michael rose from his chair, and drawing himself up to his full archangelic height, decisively replied:

"There can be no exceptions to the eternal and immutable justice of the Almighty God whose stem commands I am appointed to carry out to the letter. Since the day I hurled Lucifer and his rebellious angels from these same ramparts of heaven I've been entrusted with the duty of keeping sinners out of it, and seeing that the laws of the Almighty are rigidly enforced."

"In that case," Joseph meekly replied, "I can no longer stay in heaven. I must go elsewhere and try to keep my promises to poor dying sinners."

As Joseph moved to the door, Mary ran to him and clutched his arm. Turning to the unbending Archangel, she said: "Joseph is my lawful husband, and if he goes I go too, and then there will be no Queen in heaven!" Michael was taken back at this thought, and tried to find words to meet this unexpected situation. But before he could think of anything appropriate to say, the Child Jesus spoke and said: "And if my mother goes I will have to go too, and then you'll have no God in heaven either."

This was too much, even for the Archangel Michael, and knowing himself defeated, he bowed himself out of the house with as much dignity as he could muster.

“And that is the reason why,” this Neapolitan priest told his listeners, “no one who practices devotion to Saint Joseph during life will fail to get into heaven.”

There are some, even non-Catholics, who will say this is a very realistic and human way of preaching to ignorant people who cannot read and write or understand the things of God in the words of the Gospel. But is this sufficient excuse for the Roman Catholic Church which has been the sole, undisputed teacher of Christian people for more than fifteen centuries? The Roman Catholic Church insists to this day on being the sole interpreter of the Bible, its Pope the infallible mouthpiece of God. It could as easily have taught the people the truth from the New Testament which records Christ as saying (John 10:9): “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” Or again (John 14:6): “I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” Or again (Acts 4:12): “Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”

But doing so would have meant the scrapping of its many shrines, saint-devotions and novenas, which are financially so profitable.

Protestant Reformation Notes



An outline of the Protestant Reformation which Martin Luther started on October 31st, 1517, when he nailed his Ninety-five Theses on a church door in Wittenburg Germany.

Is the Doctrine of Salvation by Faith Alone Taught Only in Paul's Epistles?



The question in the title of this article is the topic of discussion with one of my friends. He wrote me saying,

"Salvation by faith not of works is not just a mere opinion of Paul. It's the *central thesis* of his letters! Paul passionately believes it and he stands or falls on this doctrine. The important question then is whether this doctrine is true. If we were to read the Bible through, from Genesis through Revelation but without the Pauline letters, would we get the impression that we don't need works? Or that the Law is dead?"

This question casts doubt on what the Apostle Paul wrote in his epistles about salvation:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

But does Paul teach that Christians do nothing at all after getting saved? In his letters, the phrase "good works" appears 11 times. Here's one of them.

1 Timothy 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

My friend's statement about works and the law and about reading the Bible without including any of Paul's letters inspired me to research the question directly from the Bible. I could search the Internet and tell you what other

preachers have to say, but I want to see what the Scriptures themselves have to say. Is the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in the Word of God alone taught *only* by Paul who called himself an apostle of Christ? I was inspired to take up the challenge to see if the doctrine of salvation through grace alone, through faith alone is taught by other writers of the Bible as well, and not only by Paul.

In this Bible study, I will purposely not reference any of Paul's letters to the churches. Let's search the Scriptures if the doctrine of salvation through faith alone and grace alone came only from the Apostle Paul or if other writers of the Bible also confirm it.

Confirmation from the Gospel of John

Let's start out with the Gospel of John. Did you know the word "*believe*" occurs more in the Gospel of John than all the other three Gospel accounts combined? In Matthew it occurs 7 times, Mark 11 times, Luke 5 times and John 52 times! And if you include the word "*believeth*," Matthew has none, Mark has 2, Luke has none, and John has 17! I will list only the verses with the words believe or believeth that apply to salvation. Saving faith is believing what the Word of God says.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to **become the sons of God**, even to them that **believe on his name**.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ**.

John 3:14-16 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That **whosoever believeth in him should not perish**, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish**, but have everlasting life.

John 3:18 **He that believeth on him is not condemned**: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 **He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life**: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is **the work of God, that ye believe on him** whom he hath sent.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that

every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.**

John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for **if ye believe not that I am he** (Christ), ye shall die in your sins.

John 11:25-26 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: **he that believeth in me**, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and **believeth in me** shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 20:31 But **these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ**, the Son of God; and that **believing ye might have life through his name.**

There are more verses about the importance of believing who Jesus is in the Book of John, but these are the ones I think are the clearest that apply to salvation.

Confirmation from the first Epistle of John

The Apostle John also makes it clear in his letters that salvation comes through belief in the Word of God about Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:1 **Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God:** and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto **you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Why is belief in God's Word so important? When a person hears God's Word and accepts it as truth, God counts it to that person as righteousness! The very first occurrence of the word "righteousness" in the Bible has to do with belief in God's Word!

Genesis 15:4-6 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him (Abraham), saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And **he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.**

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith,

Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Confirmation from Jesus to the dying thief on the cross

Luke 23:39-43 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**

In my opinion, this passage from the Gospel of Luke is one of the strongest proofs of the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The dying criminal had no opportunity to do good works, or even to receive water baptism, and yet because of his proclamation of faith in Jesus as Christ, Jesus told him that he would be with Him in paradise! What amazing grace!

Confirmation from the Apostle Peter

The Apostle Peter in the Book of Acts taught the house of Cornelius salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Acts 10:43-44 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name (Jesus Christ) **whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.** While Peter yet spake these words, **the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.**

The Holy Ghost fell on them because they not only heard the Word of God, but they *believed* it as well!

Peter also defended the doctrine of salvation through grace by faith in the Word of God in Acts chapter 15.

Acts 15:5 But there rose up certain **of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.**

6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

7 And when there had been much disputing, **Peter rose up, and said** unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

11 But **we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved**, even as they.

Peter in his epistle wrote about it:

Peter 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of **the grace** that should come unto you:

Confirmation from James

The concept of obtaining righteousness through belief in the Word of God is confirmed by James, the half-brother of Jesus, the writer of the Book of James. This is especially interesting for me because the Catholic Church and other legalists use the Book of James to try to prove we need to do good works and keep the law of Moses in order to be saved.

Acts 15:13 And after they had held their peace, **James answered**, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

19 Wherefore my sentence is, that **we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:**

20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

As you see here, James gave only four ordinances for the Gentiles to keep. Sabbath day observance was not one of them!

Confirmation from the Book of Hebrews

The authorship of the Book of Hebrews is in dispute, but it's safe to say that Paul did not write it. The style of writing is different from Paul's letters to the churches. Hebrews teaches us that we are no longer under the old Mosaic Covenant but under a new Covenant, the Covenant of Christ!

Hebrews 8:6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he (Jesus) is **the mediator of a**

better covenant, which was established upon better promises.
Hebrews 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless,
then should no place have been sought for the second.
Hebrews 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold,
the days come, saith the Lord, when **I will make a new
covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of
Judah:

Hebrews 8:9 Not according to the covenant that I made with
their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead
them out of the land of Egypt; because **they continued not in
my covenant**, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with
the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will
put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:
and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a
people:

Hebrews 8:13 In that he saith, **A new covenant, he hath made
the first old**. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is
ready to vanish away.

Salvation by faith alone through grace alone are two of the four *solas* (Latin meaning alone) of the Protestant Reformation. They are: *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone), *solus Christus* (Christ alone), *sola fide* (faith alone), *sola gratia* (grace alone).

This is exactly the *opposite* of what the Roman Catholic Church teaches! The Roman Catholic church teaches that Christ, having purchased redemption by His blood and death, delivered it to the *Catholic Church* to be distributed to men through her sacraments. The Catholic Church teaches, "*extra ecclesiam nulla salus*," or, "outside the Church there is no salvation." This doctrine ties you to organized religion, the Roman Catholic Church, and not a direct relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ based on your personal knowledge of the Word of God in the Bible and your belief in it. In fact, the current pope, Pope Francis, actually *discourages* you from having a personal relationship with Christ! He says,

"There are those who believe that you can have a personal direct and immediate relationship with Jesus outside the communion and mediation of the Church. These temptations are **dangerous and harmful**."

"It is an absurd dichotomy to love Christ without the Church; to listen to Christ but not the Church; to be with Christ at the margins of the Church. One cannot do this. It is an absurd dichotomy," the Pope explained in a mass he gave on Jan. 30, 2014.

By absurd dichotomy, the Pope means it's absurd to separate salvation from the Church! And what is his definition of "the Church"? He's not talking about the biblical definition of church which is the true Body of Christ, the true believers in Jesus Christ, he's talking about the Roman Catholic Church,

his organized religion! And of course, he excludes all other churches because they don't hold the popes of Rome as the Vicar of Christ on earth. The Roman Catholic hierarchy wants you to be dependent on *them* because they consider all other churches competition. This is also the attitude of the Russian Orthodox church. They don't like missionaries coming to Russia and ripping off their sheep. It's less income for them when they lose church members.

Conclusion

We are no longer under the law of Moses according to the Book of Hebrews, but under a new law, the Law of Christ! That means if we are truly saved and been born again into God's family, we will keep God's commandments! And we will do good works to help others! It comes naturally after being born again in Jesus Christ!

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

This is Christ's Law of Love. If we obey it, we will not lie, cheat, steal, curse, kill, or do anything ungodly to our neighbor or our brother or sister or wife or child or anybody! We will be kind even to God's creatures, cats, dogs, etc. We will automatically fulfill the Law of Moses and love the Lord our God our all our heart and soul and mind and our neighbor as ourselves.

What is the Standard of Righteousness?



True righteousness is determined by our faith in Jesus Christ and the Word of God, not what society tells us.

Is Doctrine Important? Tagalog Version

Is Doctrine Important? Tagalog Version

doctrine (n.)

late 14c., “the body of principles, dogmas, etc., in a religion or field of knowledge,” from Old French doctrine (12c.) “teaching, doctrine” and directly from Latin doctrina “a teaching, body of teachings, learning,” from doctor “teacher” (from <https://www.etymonline.com/word/doctrine>)

It's been my personal observation of Pentecostal-Charismatic type of Christians that they seek experiences with the Holy Spirit which result in emotional highs and don't care so much about biblical doctrines. And the ironic thing is, though they assert that teaching doctrine from the Word of God is not as important as being filled with the Spirit, they have developed their *own* doctrines which are patently false and unscriptural!

One pastor of a Pentecostal church boasted to me how *little* Bible he knew or memorized and yet he is “filled with the spirit.” I tend to agree with him that he's full of some spirit, but the question is, which spirit? Is it really the Holy Spirit? My Bible says,

John 6:63b ...the **words** that I speak unto you, **they are spirit**, and **they are life**.

Ang Espiritu ang nagbibigay-buhay; hindi ito magagawa ng laman. Ang mga salitang sinabi ko sa inyo ay espiritu at ito ang nagbibigay-buhay.

One “brother” told me once, “We have Jesus, we don't need the Bible.” But how are we going to have Jesus without the Bible? NO WAY! The Bible is the only authority a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus can stand on. And if he or she cannot explain their faith in Christ directly from Bible verses, I wonder if they have any real faith at all. The Bible says the source of true faith is through hearing the Word of God. The Bible is the only sure source of the written Word of God.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Kaya't ang pananampalataya ay bunga ng pakikinig, at ang pakikinig naman ay bunga ng pangangaral tungkol kay Cristo.

I once wanted to share the historicist interpretation of Daniel 9:27 to an elderly Pentecostal lady I was helping in setting up her new house. She told me flat out she wasn't interested in hearing it. She introduced me to Todd White who teaches doctrines such as, "the Bible doesn't tell you to rebuke the Devil." And she introduced me to Heidi Baker who sometimes appears before a congregation acting so drunk as if she had just drank several bottles of wine!

In showing the list of Scriptures in the Bible with the word "doctrine" I will be commenting on the number of times it appears in certain sections of Scripture. I've been influenced by the teaching of Pastor Michael Hoggard who believes numbers in the Bible and specifically in the King James Version of the Bible, are significant because it shows that the KJV is a translation that can be only inspired by the Holy Spirit. For example, the word "godhead" appears exactly 3 times in the KJV signifying the truth of the doctrine of the Trinity. Other English translations do not do so. The New King James version in the Book of Acts uses the words "divine nature" instead of godhead. That's wrong and a different meaning entirely!

Scriptures with the Word Doctrine

The word doctrine appears six times in the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 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:

Pumatak nawang gaya ng ulan ang aking ituturo, ang salita ko nawa'y tulad ng hamog na namumuo;

Job 11:4 For thou hast said, My **doctrine** is pure, and I am clean in thine eyes.

Ipinipilit mong tama ang iyong paniniwala, at sa harap ng Diyos ika'y malinis na lubos.

Proverbs 4:2 For I give you good **doctrine**, forsake ye not my law.

Pagkat tiyak na mabuti itong aking sinasabi, kaya't aking mga katuruan huwag mong isantabi.

Isaiah 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.

Ganito ang sinasabi nila laban sa akin:

"Ano kaya ang palagay ng taong ito sa atin;

sino bang nais niyang turuan at pagpaliwanagan?

Ang sinabi niya'y para lamang sa mga batang musmos na nangangailangan pa ng gatas.

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

Magtatamo ng kaunawaan ang mga napapalayo sa katotohanan, at tatanggap ng pangaral ang mga matitigas ang ulo."

Jeremiah 10:8 But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a **doctrine** of vanities.

Silang lahat ay pawang hangal at mangmang.

Ano ang maituturo sa kanila ng mga diyus-diyosang kahoy?

It appears 12 times in the four Gospels. It's interesting that Jesus chose 12 Apostles!

Matthew 7:28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his **doctrine**:

Namangha kay Jesus ang mga tao nang kanilang marinig ang kanyang pagtuturo
Matthew 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the **doctrine** of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. At naunawaan nila na sila'y pinag-iingat niya sa mga katuruan ng mga Pariseo at mga Saduseo, at hindi sa pampaalsang ginagamit sa tinapay.

Matthew 22:33 And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his **doctrine**.

Nang marinig ito ng mga tao, namangha sila sa kanyang katuruan.

Mark 1:27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new **doctrine** is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him. Ang lahat ay namangha kaya't sila'y nagtanungan sa isa't isa, "Paanong nangyari iyon? Ito ay isang kakaibang katuruan! Makapangyarihan niyang nauutusan ang masasamang espiritu, at sumusunod naman ang mga ito sa kanya."

Mark 4:2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his **doctrine**,

at sila'y tinuruan niya ng maraming bagay sa pamamagitan ng mga talinghaga. Ganito ang sinabi niya:

Mark 11:18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his **doctrine**.

Narinig ito ng mga punong pari at ng mga tagapagturo ng Kautusan. Buhat noo'y humanap na sila ng paraan upang patayin si Jesus. Subalit natatakot sila sa kanya dahil humahanga ang lahat sa kanyang mga turo.

Mark 12:38 And he said unto them in his **doctrine**, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, Sa kanyang pagtuturo, sinabi ni Jesus, "Mag-ingat kayo sa mga tagapagturo ng Kautusan na mahilig magpalakad-lakad na suot ang kanilang mahahabang damit at gustung-gustong binabati nang may paggalang sa mga pamilihan.

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

Kaya't sinabi ni Jesus, "Hindi sa akin ang itinuturo ko, kundi sa nagsugo sa akin.

John 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.

Kung talagang nais ninumang sumunod sa kalooban ng Diyos, malalaman niya kung ang itinuturo ko'y mula nga sa Diyos, o kung ang sinasabi ko ay galing lamang sa akin.

It appears four times in the Book of Acts. There are a lot of combinations of "fours" in the Bible, four Gospels, four beasts (Revelation 6:1,6), four angels, four corners, four winds (Revelation 7:1)

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

Inilaan nila ang kanilang mga sarili upang matuto sa turo ng mga apostol,

magsama-sama bilang magkakapatid, magsalu-salo sa pagkain ng tinapay, at manalangin.

Acts 5:28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your **doctrine**, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

"Hindi ba't mahigpit namin kayong pinagbawalang mangaral sa pangalan ng taong iyan?" sinabi niya. "Ngunit tingnan ninyo ang inyong ginawa! Laganap na sa Jerusalem ang inyong itinuturo at nais pa ninyo kaming papanagutin sa pagkamatay ng taong iyan!"

Acts 13:12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the **doctrine** of the Lord.

Sumampalataya ang gobernador nang makita ang nangyari, at humanga siya sa katuruan tungkol sa Panginoon.

Acts 17:19 And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new **doctrine**, whereof thou speakest, is?

Siya'y isinama nila at iniharap sa kapulungan ng Areopago at tinanong, "Maaari bang malaman namin kung ano itong bagong aral na itinuturo mo?"

It appears 21 times in 12 chapters of the Pauline Epistles! The number 21 can be factored to 3 X 7, both significant numbers in the Bible. And of course, 12 is a significant number.

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of **doctrine** which was delivered you.

Ngunit salamat sa Diyos, kayong dating mga alipin ng kasalanan ay taos pusong sumunod sa katotohanan na nasa aral na ibinigay sa inyo.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the **doctrine** which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Mga kapatid, nakikiusap ako sa inyo: mag-ingat kayo sa mga pasimuno ng mga pagkakampi-kampi at sanhi ng pagtalikod dahil sa pagsalungat nila sa aral na tinanggap ninyo. Iwasan ninyo sila.

1 Corinthians 14:6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by **doctrine**?

Kaya, mga kapatid, kung pumunta man ako rian at magsalita sa inyo sa iba't ibang mga wika, ano ang mapapakinabang ninyo sa akin? Wala! Makikinabang lamang kayo kung tuturuan ko kayo ng mga pahayag ng Diyos, ng kaalaman mula sa kanya, ng mga mensahe mula sa Diyos, at ng mga aral.

1 Corinthians 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a **doctrine**, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

Kung nagpapasalamat ka sa Diyos sa pamamagitan ng espiritu lamang, paanong makakapagsabi ng "Amen" ang isang taong naroroon ngunit walang gayong kaloob, kung hindi niya nauunawaan ang iyong sinasabi?

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of **doctrine**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Nang sa gayon, hindi na tayo magiging tulad sa mga batang madaling matangay ng sari-saring aral. Hindi na tayo maililigaw ng mga taong ang hangad ay dalhin tayo sa kamalian sa pamamagitan ng kanilang katusuhan at panlililang.

1 Timothy 1:3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into

Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other **doctrine**,
Gaya ng ipinakiusap ko sa iyo bago ako pumunta sa Macedonia, nais kong manatili ka sa Efeso upang utusan mo ang ilang tao diyan na huwag magturo ng maling aral,

1 Timothy 1:10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound **doctrine**;

Ibinigay rin ang Kautusan para sa mga mahihilig sa kahalayan at nakikipagtalik sa kapwa lalaki, para sa mga kidnaper, para sa mga sinungaling at sa mga bulaang saksi. Ang Kautusan ay ibinigay para sa lahat ng mga sumasalungat sa mabuting aral.

1 Timothy 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good **doctrine**, whereunto thou hast attained.

Kung ituturo mo sa mga kapatid ang mga bagay na ito, ikaw ay magiging mabuting lingkod ni Cristo Jesus. At habang itinuturo mo ito, dinudulutan mo rin ang iyong sarili ng pagkaing espirituwal mula sa mga salita ng pananampalataya at sa tunay na aral na sinusunod mo.

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to **doctrine**.

Habang wala pa ako riyan, iukol mo ang iyong panahon sa pagbabasa ng Kasulatan sa harap ng mga tao, sa pangangaral at sa pagtuturo.

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the **doctrine**; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Pakaingatan mo ang iyong sarili at ang iyong pagtuturo. Patuloy mong gawin ang mga ito sapagkat sa paggawa mo nito ay maliligtas ka, pati na ang mga nakikinig sa iyo.

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and **doctrine**.

Ang mga matatandang pinuno ng iglesia na mahusay mamahala ay karapat-dapat tumanggap ng paggalang at kabayaran, lalo na ang mga masigasig sa pangangaral at pagtuturo ng salita ng Diyos.

1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his **doctrine** be not blasphemed.

Ang mga alipin ay dapat magpakita ng buong paggalang sa kanilang mga amo upang walang masabing masama laban sa pangalan ng Diyos at sa ating aral.

1 Timothy 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the **doctrine** which is according to godliness;

Kung nagtuturo ang sinuman ng ibang katuruan at di sang-ayon sa mga tunay na salita ng Panginoong Jesu-Cristo at sa mga aral tungkol sa pagiging maka-Diyos,

2 Timothy 3:10 But thou hast fully known my **doctrine**, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

Ngunit sinunod mo ang aking itinuro sa iyo, ang aking ugali at layunin sa buhay. Tinularan mo ang aking pananampalataya, pagtitiyaga, pag-ibig at katapatan.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in

righteousness:

Ang lahat ng Kasulatan ay kinasihan ng Diyos, at kapaki-pakinabang sa pagtuturo ng katotohanan, sa pagsaway sa kamalian, sa pagtutuwid sa likong gawain at sa pagsasanay para sa matuwid na pamumuhay,

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and **doctrine**.

ipangaral mo ang salita ng Diyos; pagsikapan mong gawin iyan napapanahon man o hindi. Himukin mo at pagsabihan ang mga tao, at palakasin ang kanilang loob sa pamamagitan ng matiyagang pagtuturo.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound **doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

Sapagkat darating ang panahong hindi na sila makikinig sa wastong katuruan; sa halip, susundin nila ang kanilang hilig. Maghahanap sila ng mga tagapagturo na walang ituturo kundi ang ibig lamang nilang marinig.

Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound **doctrine** both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Kailangang matatag siyang nananalig sa mga tunay na aral na natutunan niya, upang ito'y maituro naman niya sa iba at maipakita ang kamalian ng mga sumasalungat dito.

Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound **doctrine**:

Kaya naman ituro mo ang mga bagay na angkop sa wastong aral.

Titus 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in **doctrine** shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

Sa lahat ng paraan, maging halimbawa ka ng mabuting ugali at maging tapat ka at kagalang-galang sa iyong pagtuturo.

Titus 2:10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the **doctrine** of God our Saviour in all things.

ni kupitan man. Dapat silang maging tapat sa lahat ng pagkakataon, upang maipakita nila sa lahat nilang ginagawa ang kagandahan ng katuruan ng Diyos na ating Tagapagligtas.

It appears five times in four verses in the rest of the Epistles.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the **doctrine** of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Kaya't iwan na natin ang mga panimulang aralin tungkol kay Cristo at magpatuloy tayo sa mga aral na para sa mga may sapat na gulang na. Tigilan na natin ang muling paglalagay ng pundasyon tungkol sa pagtalikod sa mga gawang walang kabuluhan at tungkol sa pananampalataya sa Diyos,

Hebrews 6:2 Of the **doctrine** of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

tungkol sa mga iba't ibang seremonya ng paglilinis at pagpapatong ng mga kamay, at tungkol sa muling pagkabuhay ng mga patay at sa hatol na walang hanggan.

2 John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the **doctrine** of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the **doctrine** of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Ang hindi nananatili sa turo ni Cristo kundi nagdaragdag dito, ay wala sa

kanya ang Diyos. Sinumang nananatili sa turo ni Cristo ay nasa kanya ang Ama at ang Anak.

2 John 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this **doctrine**, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

Sinumang dumating sa inyo na ibang turo ang dala ay huwag ninyong tanggapin sa inyong bahay, ni huwag ninyong batiin, 11 sapagkat ang bumabati sa kanya ay nagiging kaisa niya sa masamang gawain.

It appears three times in three verses in the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the **doctrine** of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Subalit may ilang bagay na ayaw ko sa iyo: may ilan sa inyo na sumusunod sa katuruan ni Balaam na nagturo kay Balac upang mahikayat ang mga Israelita na magkasala. Kaya't kumain sila ng mga pagkaing inihandog sa mga diyos-diyosan at nakiapid.

Revelation 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the **doctrine** of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

May ilan din sa inyong sumusunod sa katuruan ng mga Nicolaita.

Revelation 2:24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this **doctrine**, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

"Ngunit para sa ibang mga taga-Tiatira, na hindi sumusunod sa katuruan ni Jezebel at hindi natuto ng tinatawag na 'malalalim na lihim ni Satanas,' ito ang sinasabi ko sa inyo: hindi ko kayo bibigyan ng ibang pasanin,

Is love also needed when teaching doctrine?

Absolutely! We should not become like the scribes and Pharisees with a holier than thou attitude when we teach doctrine from the Bible. The Bible says,

1 Corinthians 13:2 And though I have ... all knowledge; ... and have not charity, I am nothing.

Kung ako man ay may kakayahang magsalita ng mensahe mula sa Diyos at umunawa sa lahat ng hiwaga, kung nasa akin man ang lahat ng kaalaman at lahat ng pananampalataya, anupa't nakakapagpalipat ako ng mga bundok, ngunit wala naman akong pag-ibig, wala akong kabuluhan.

2 Timothy 2:25 **In meekness** instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

Mahinahon niyang itinutuwid ang mga sumasalungat sa kanya, baka sakaling sila'y bigyan ng Diyos ng pagkakataong magsisi't tumalikod sa kanilang mga kasalanan at malaman nila ang katotohanan.

We are to teach doctrine from the Bible in a spirit of love and meekness and

not in an arrogant condescending attitude. When we know our own weaknesses and faults, it's easier to remain humble. Remember, Jesus came not for the righteous, but to bring sinners to repentance. We are ALL sinners. The problem with some people is they don't think of themselves as a sinner.

1 John 1:8 Kung sinasabi nating tayo'y walang kasalanan, dinadaya natin ang ating sarili at wala sa atin ang katotohanan. 9 Subalit kung ipinapahayag natin ang ating mga kasalanan, patatawarin tayo ng Diyos sa mga ito, at lilinisin tayo sa lahat ng ating kasalanan, sapagkat siya'y tapat at matuwid. 10 Kung sinasabi nating hindi tayo nagkasala, ginagawa nating sinungaling ang Diyos, at wala sa atin ang kanyang salita.

Conclusion

From this study, would you say that teaching correct doctrine is important? Or would you say, "**Doctrine divides!** All Christians should be united as one! Let's continue on with ecumenicalism and unite with ALL religions, e.g., the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, any Christian religion that claims to be Christians such as Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, etc. Don't we all worship the same God?" My answer to that would be a resounding NO! Catholics include Mary in the Godhead.

Are Bible Doctrines Important to Teach and Know? Or is "All You Need is Love"?



doctrine (n.)

late 14c., "the body of principles, dogmas, etc., in a religion or field of knowledge," from Old French doctrine (12c.) "teaching, doctrine" and directly from Latin doctrina "a teaching, body of teachings, learning," from doctor "teacher" (from

It's been my personal observation of Pentecostal-Charismatic type of Christians that they seek experiences with the Holy Spirit which result in emotional highs and don't care so much about biblical doctrines. And the ironic thing is, though they assert that teaching doctrine from the Word of God is not as important as being filled with the Spirit, they have developed their *own* doctrines which are patently false and unscriptural!

One pastor of a Pentecostal church boasted to me how *little* Bible he knew or memorized and yet he is "filled with the spirit." I tend to agree with him that he's full of some spirit, but the question is, which spirit? Is it really the Holy Spirit? My Bible says,

John 6:63b ...the **words** that I speak unto you, **they are spirit**, and **they are life**.

One "brother" told me once, "We have Jesus, we don't need the Bible." But how are we going to have Jesus without the Bible? NO WAY! The Bible is the only authority a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus can stand on. And if he or she cannot explain their faith in Christ directly from Bible verses, I wonder if they have any real faith at all. The Bible says the source of true faith is through hearing the Word of God. The Bible is the only sure source of the written Word of God.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

I once wanted to share the historicist interpretation of Daniel 9:27 to an elderly Pentecostal lady I was helping in setting up her new house. She told me flat out she wasn't interested in hearing it. She introduced me to Todd White who teaches doctrines such as, "the Bible doesn't tell you to rebuke the Devil." And she introduced me to Heidi Baker who sometimes appears before a congregation acting so drunk as if she had just drank several bottles of wine!

In showing the list of Scriptures in the Bible with the word "doctrine" I will be commenting on the number of times it appears in certain sections of Scripture. I've been influenced by the teaching of Pastor Michael Hoggard who believes numbers in the Bible and specifically in the King James Version of the Bible, are significant because it shows that the KJV is a translation that can be only inspired by the Holy Spirit. For example, the word "godhead" appears exactly 3 times in the KJV signifying the truth of the doctrine of the Trinity. Other English translations do not do so. The New King James version in the Book of Acts uses the words "divine nature" instead of godhead. That's wrong and a different meaning entirely!

Scriptures with the Word Doctrine

The word doctrine appears six times in the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 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:

Job 11:4 For thou hast said, My **doctrine** is pure, and I am clean in thine eyes.

Proverbs 4:2 For I give you good **doctrine**, forsake ye not my law.

Isaiah 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.

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

Jeremiah 10:8 But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a **doctrine** of vanities.

It appears 12 times in the four Gospels. It's interesting that Jesus chose 12 Apostles!

Matthew 7:28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his **doctrine**:

Matthew 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the **doctrine** of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Matthew 22:33 And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his **doctrine**.

Mark 1:22 And they were astonished at his **doctrine**: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

Mark 1:27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new **doctrine** is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

Mark 4:2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his **doctrine**,

Mark 11:18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his **doctrine**.

Mark 12:38 ¶ And he said unto them in his **doctrine**, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,

Luke 4:32 And they were astonished at his **doctrine**: for his word was with power.

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

John 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.

John 18:19 ¶ The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his **doctrine**.

It appears four times in the Book of Acts. There are a lot of combinations of "fours" in the Bible, four Gospels, four beasts (Revelation 6:1,6), four angels, four corners, four winds (Revelation 7:1)

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

Acts 5:28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your **doctrine**, and

intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

Acts 13:12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the **doctrine** of the Lord.

Acts 17:19 And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new **doctrine**, whereof thou speakest, is?

It appears 21 times in 12 chapters of the Pauline Epistles! The number 21 can be factored to 3 X 7, both significant numbers in the Bible. And of course, 12 is a significant number.

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of **doctrine** which was delivered you.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the **doctrine** which ye have learned; and avoid them.

1 Corinthians 14:6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by **doctrine**?

1 Corinthians 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a **doctrine**, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of **doctrine**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

1 Timothy 1:3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other **doctrine**,

1 Timothy 1:10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound **doctrine**;

1 Timothy 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good **doctrine**, whereunto thou hast attained.

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to **doctrine**.

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the **doctrine**; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and **doctrine**.

1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his **doctrine** be not blasphemed.

1 Timothy 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the **doctrine** which is according to godliness;

2 Timothy 3:10 But thou hast fully known my **doctrine**, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and **doctrine**.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound **doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound **doctrine** both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.
Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound **doctrine**:
Titus 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in **doctrine** shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,
Titus 2:10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the **doctrine** of God our Saviour in all things.

It appears five times in four verses in the rest of the Epistles.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the **doctrine** of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,
Hebrews 6:2 Of the **doctrine** of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
2 John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the **doctrine** of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the **doctrine** of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.
2 John 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this **doctrine**, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

It appears three times in three verses in the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the **doctrine** of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.
Revelation 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the **doctrine** of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.
Revelation 2:24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this **doctrine**, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

The plural of the word, doctrines, appears five times in five verses in the Bible.

It's very interesting to me that in each case the plural word is used in a negative sense meaning bad or false doctrines!

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for **doctrines the commandments of men**.
Mark 7:7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for **doctrines the commandments of men**.
Colossians 2:22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the **commandments and doctrines of men**?
1 Timothy 4:1 ¶Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and **doctrines of devils**;
Hebrews 13:9 Be not carried about with divers and **strange doctrines**. For it

is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Words Modifying Doctrine

Deuteronomy 32:2 **My (God's) doctrine** shall drop as the rain

Proverbs 4:2 For I give you **good doctrine**

Matthew 7:28 when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at **his doctrine**:

Matthew 22:33 And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at **his doctrine**.

Mark 1:22 And they were astonished at **his doctrine**: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

Mark 4:2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in **his doctrine**,

Mark 11:18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at **his doctrine**.

Mark 12:38 And he said unto them in **his doctrine**, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,

Luke 4:32 And they were astonished at **his doctrine**: for his word was with power.

John 18:19 The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of **his doctrine**.

1 Timothy 6:1 ¶Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of **God and his doctrine** be not blasphemed.

Mark 1:27 (Jesus') **new doctrine**

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the **apostles' doctrine**

Acts 17:19 May we know what this **new doctrine**,

Ephesians 4:14 every **wind of doctrine**

1 Timothy 1:10 **sound doctrine**

1 Timothy 4:6 the words of faith and of **good doctrine**

2 Timothy 4:3 **sound doctrine**

Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able **by sound doctrine**

Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become **sound doctrine**

Hebrews 6:1 the **doctrine of Christ**

2 John 1:9 the **doctrine of Christ**

Is love also needed when teaching doctrine?

Absolutely! We should not become like the scribes and Pharisees with a holier than thou attitude when we teach doctrine from the Bible. The Bible says,

1 Corinthians 13:2 And though I have ... all knowledge; ... and have not charity, I am nothing.

2 Timothy 2:25 **In meekness** instructing those that oppose

themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

We are to teach doctrine from the Bible in a spirit of love and meekness and not in an arrogant condescending attitude. When we know our own weaknesses and faults, it's easier to remain humble. Remember, Jesus came not for the righteous, but to bring sinners to repentance. We are ALL sinners. The problem with some people is they don't think of themselves as a sinner.

1 John 1:8 ¶If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Conclusion

From this study, would you say that teaching correct doctrine is important? Or would you say, "**Doctrine divides!** All Christians should be united as one! Let's continue on with ecumenicalism and unite with ALL religions, e.g., the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, any Christian religion that claims to be Christians such as Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, etc. Don't we all worship the same God?" My answer to that would be a resounding NO! Catholics include Mary in the Godhead.

Concerning the Lord's Supper – By Martin Luther



What Martin Luther taught about the Roman Catholic sacrament of the Eucharist.

Hitchhike adventure to Ikebukero



Ikebukero is one of the large commercial centers in Tokyo with one of the busiest train stations. I intended to spend the night with a friend in Ikebukero so that I could easily go from there the next day to the American Embassy to renew my passport. It's been ten years since I got the passport in Hawaii.



Typical night scene in Ikebukero, Tokyo

The first driver was a off duty policeman who specializes in the Japanese mafia known as the "Yakuza". I hear these days the Yakuza are not very

powerful. I hardly see them anymore. The Chinese and Russian mafia have taken over.

I talked to the policeman about my experiences with the Yakuza – usually OK. They normally don't bother the common people. I've been treated to lunch by at least two of them. One thing that strikes me about mafia type of people is that they usually think they are pretty righteous and that society is wrong, not them. The policeman agreed with that point. I then brought out that man in general has this same attitude toward God. It's called "self-righteousness". We often think we know better than God. Many people even think they are "gooder" than God! But in reality, we are all sinners and criminals in God's sight. Only Jesus did no sin and therefore paid the price for our crimes of ungratefulness toward God and unloving actions toward our fellow man. He paid the price with His own death!

The concept of "sin" is pretty clear in Western cultures, but very vague in the Japanese mind. Even Japanese who have come to know Jesus Christ and are still young in faith don't understand very clearly what sin means. The policeman identified with what I had to say about the average criminal, but did not include himself as a "sinner" in his relationship with his Creator.

Unfortunately many church people in America seem to equate sin mainly with sexual pleasures, or even any type of pleasure while at the same time justifying truly horrible crimes in the eyes of God such as the occupation of Iraq! But Jesus didn't condemn the drunks and harlots. In His eyes, the self-righteous **religious leaders** of His time were the real sinners!

I forgot my hat in the policeman's car without giving him any way to contact me. I don't think he even knew my last name. Somehow he figured out where I live and brought the hat back!