

**BIBLE DOCTRINE:
WHY STUDY BIBLE DOCTRINE,
WHAT IS BIBLE DOCTRINE,
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT**

Last Wednesday night, we started our study with salvation, moving through “Positive Volition”, then to a prepared Pastor/Teacher, and then points on organizing your life so the study of Bible doctrine could be your number one priority.

Then we started Sunday by asking, “**What is this Bible doctrine that we should be studying? Why is the way we study the Word of God the correct way instead of a 20-minute sermon?**”

We finished Sunday’s second hour with the following two verses:

Luke 23:46: “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, Father, into thy hands I deposit my spirit; and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”

Psalms 31:5: “Into Thine hand I deposit My spirit; Thou hast delivered Me, O Jehovah, God of doctrine.”

So now we know we’re studying the Word of God the correct way, and we know what Bible doctrine is, along with where it’s found in scripture, and why it’s important.

We know that learning Bible doctrine is the only way to understand God, heaven and His essence.

Also, never forget God’s Word is free from blemish and is unpolluted by errors. It is TRUTH!

So, what’s the payoff? Well in the last hour I hope to be able to show you.

Remember your objective is to grow to spiritual maturity. In order to do this, you need to find a church where the pastor teaches Scripture from the original Hebrew and Greek languages and uses the “ICE” technique.

We need to then concentrate on the subjects taught, retain what you learn in your soul, facilitate the doctrines into paths of least resistance, and apply what you learn to life and circumstances.

You have to do this by yourself. Spiritual growth is a walk, not a run. The Word of God is alive and powerful and, as such, requires strict concentration on your part.

However, the primary Teacher is the Holy Spirit, whose spiritual link to you is through the teaching ministry of the pastor-teacher in a local church.

It's through this system that the believer grows in grace, **acquires multiple doctrines which are categorized in Scripture, and which ultimately becomes the inventory of immutable truths retained in your soul for recall and application to life and circumstances. WISDOM!!!**

Wisdom is the product of Bible doctrine. Proverbs 1:2-5

Proverbs 1:2-5: “To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding, Vs.3: To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity; Vs.4: To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion, Vs.5: A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,”

Never forget that there is no misleading superfluous information, nothing we don't need to know in the mind of Christ. The message is the same from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 21.

God's word maps out a straight course for the one who is guided by it. The word of God is the **GPS** for our lives.

You learn to live the Christian Way of Life!

How does R. B. Thieme, Jr. define “The Christian Way of Life”?

A synonym for the spiritual life of the Church Age, the esteem of divine power, provision, and protocol that enables believers to reflect the character of Christ and grow to spiritual maturity.

R. B. Thieme, Jr. Bible Doctrine Dictionary, page 35.

The Christian Way of Life refers to all the things that God has provided for the believer to conduct himself in the Angelic conflict, with the ultimate goal of becoming a Winner Believer going from a spiritual baby to spiritual maturity.

Through Bible study, we learn the mechanics and techniques needed to execute the Christian way of life in the Church Age.

The Christian Way of Life centers the believer's spirituality, a supernatural element that is only available to the believer.

As you live the Christian Way of Life never forget you cannot identify legalism and false doctrine if you don't have Bible doctrine in your soul found in the mind of Christ.

Bible doctrine in the soul must be number one priority in the life of the believer. 2 Peter 1:12-13

2 Peter 1:12-13: “Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. Vs. 13: I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder,”

So, the objective of the Christian Way of Life is for the believer to teach spiritual maturity. The believer starts out in the Christian Way of Life as a spiritual baby and is commanded by God to grow to spiritual adulthood. Hebrews 6:1

Hebrews 6:1: “Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,”

In eternity past, God made provisions via His plan to advance the positive volition winner believer to spiritual maturity. Philippians 2:12-13; Revelation 3:2; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 1:3-6

Galatians 4:19: “My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you.”

Reaching spiritual maturity is the consistent intake of Bible doctrine from a right Pastor/Teacher.

While salvation requires only a single decision, reaching spiritual maturity requires thousands of positive volition decisions. Hebrews 6:1-3; Ephesians 4:15-16

An R.B. Thieme, Jr., teaching tool sets progressive stages of growth for the winner believer. Childhood, Spiritual Self-Esteem (SSE), Spiritual Autonomy (SA), and Spiritual Maturity (SM). The following characteristics activate at Spiritual Self-Esteem and grow stronger at Spiritual Autonomy.

1. **The start of inner happiness**. Consistent in living in the divine dynasphere.
2. **Mental stability** – Romans 12:2-3

Romans 12:2-3: “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” Vs.3: For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

3. **Impersonal love**. Composure marked by self-assurance with impersonal love (PSD #8) for all mankind causing the believer’s “tolerance level” to increase so that he is less threatened by exigencies of life.

4. **Good decisions**. Making good decisions from a position of strength while maintaining personal control of the life apart from the negative influence of others. Proverbs 3:4-7; Philippians 4:11

Philippians 4:11: “Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”

5. **Possessing a grace orientation to life**. Romans 14:10

Romans 14:10: “But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.”

A live and let live attitude that does not “sit in judgment” of others.

6. **Doctrinal Orientation**. Having Bible doctrine-based orientation to reality with a sense of humor that is coupled with inner happiness.
7. **Instant Reaction Force (IRF)**. Anticipating sudden/surprise testing in life, keeping an **(IRF)** of Problem-Solving Devices at the ready, spearheaded by impersonal love.
8. Beginning to fully use the Problem-Solving Devices.
9. Making good decisions from a position of strength – Proverbs 3:4-7
10. **Sense of Destiny**. Enjoying a personal sense of destiny with a complete understanding of the ramifications of the Plan of God.
11. **Scale of Values**. A new scale of values which puts Bible doctrine first. 1 Corinthians 2:16; Luke 12:16-21

1 Corinthians 2:16: “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

12. **Testing**. Standing ready for increased tests of undeserved suffering for blessing. 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Peter 1:7

1 Corinthians 10:13: “No temptation has overtaken you, but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

13. At the status of Spiritual Maturity (SM) the believer is said to be a “friend” of God. James 2:23; 1 John 4:16

James 2:23: “And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” and he was called the friend of God.”

14. The believer is called a “friend” of Jesus Christ in John 15:12-15.

John 15:15: “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

God loves all believers with a perfect love, but unless the believer is mature, he cannot love God.

PRINCIPLE: You cannot love who you do not know.”

Thus, faithfulness and perseverance to Bible doctrine are key to acquiring rewards and glorifying God. 2 Timothy 1:7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Corinthians 3:1-2

PRINCIPLE: All Christian production is merely the privilege of reflecting God’s truth.

Why must it be your number one priority? You need Bible doctrine in your soul if you’re going to please God and have an impact in this world.

Here are a few synonyms for spiritual maturity (SM).

1. ἐπίγνωσις – “*epignōsis*” (Full knowledge) – Developing a high spiritual IQ Ephesians 1:17, 4:13

Ephesians 1:17: “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge (*epignōsis*) of Him.”

2. Priestly – an altar of the soul and spirit. Hebrews 13:10
3. Edification – Hebrews 4:12, 16
4. εὐσέβεια – “*eusebeia*” (godliness) 1 Timothy 6:3-4; 2 Peter 1:8

1 Timothy 6:3: “If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness (*eusebeia*).”

5. Crucifixion – Matthew 10:38; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23 (Take up your cross and follow me to spiritual maturity)

Note: Also see salt, military (advance in spite of opposition), put on the “full armor from God”, volition (“inner rule”). Eph. 6:10, 17; Phil 3:1-16; Ephesians 6:22-28;

Spiritual maturity is the objective of phase two. Logistical grace is designed to keep the believer alive in the devil's world so that he can attain the tactical objectives of spiritual maturity.

NOTE: It's easy to forget Bible doctrine if you don't keep up the intake.

The Christian Way of Life requires the believer to glorify God by advancing to spiritual maturity and receiving rewards at the Judgement Seat of Christ, by means of learning and applying Bible doctrine, the mind of Jesus Christ through the teaching of a prepared Pastor/Teacher. 2 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 2:16, 3:10-15, 5:12

The primary issue in the Christian Way of Life is growth: to grow to be a spiritually mature believer who God can use.

As part of blessings for the mature believer in time, God promotes the believer. If God doesn't promote you, you aren't promoted.

PRINCIPLE: This relaxes the believer and insulates him against arrogant ambition.

Here's a warning about failing to reach spiritual maturity. Hebrews 10:35-36

Hebrews 10:35-36: "Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. Vs.36: or you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised."

The means of reaching Spiritual Maturity is through metabolized doctrine in the soul and through suffering for blessing.

There are people tests, disaster tests, authority tests, money tests, marriage tests, friends tests, tests with co-workers, and tests with strangers.

We are tested by God so we can use the doctrine in our souls. He is faithful to train us to use the spiritual skills found in His word: **Grace Orientation, Rebound, the Faith-Rest Drill, Unconditional/Impersonal Love, and a Personal Sense of Destiny.**

When we use these spiritual skills, we find that they work, and that God is Faithful. James 1:2-4

Testing humbles us and teaches us that God's grace is always sufficient. No matter how big the crisis, no matter how much goes wrong, no matter how difficult the ordeal, no matter the level of pain and suffering, we can rejoice because God's grace is always greater than our problems.

You may have never thought about this, but a test may not be a difficult situation; it may be just an opportunity to encourage, to witness, to serve the Lord in some way, and the test is how we respond to that opportunity.

Thus, the battle for control of the believer's soul is constantly between the temptation of the sin nature vs. the filling of the Holy Spirit and daily spiritual growth.

The "loser believer" uses everything imaginable to handle adversity which might get them through life, but it does nothing to advance them spiritually.

The goal of the "winner believer" is to glorify God by utilizing the spiritual assets He has given us.

Inevitably, without a steady concentration on Bible doctrine, the believer will be sucked in the "cosmic system". 2 Corinthians 11:3

Believers are stabilized by remembering the Bible doctrine they possess. Lamentations 3:21-23

Lamentations 3:21-23: "This I recall to my mind; Therefore I have hope. Vs.22: The Lord's loving kindnesses indeed never ceases, For His compassions never fail. Vs.23: They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."

Our goal should be to glorify God by utilizing the spiritual assets He has given us.

As we advance in our knowledge of Christ, we come to know Who, and what, He is and how He thinks.

As we acquire His thoughts, we accumulate divine truth within our souls. The more we rely on this inventory of ideas, the more we function on principles of His integrity.

If we continue this advance it will lead us to spiritual maturity where we glorify God to the maximum while exhibiting to the world the virtues of divine integrity.

We are promised that if we accomplish this objective, we will be given great blessings and rewards in both time and eternity. 1 Corinthians 3:11-14; Ephesians 1:3-4; Revelation 2:7, 10, 17, 26-28 3:5, 12:21)

These blessings, which exceed all we could ever imagine, are available to all but only granted if we fulfill God's plan for our lives. Hebrews 10:35-36

So, the mature believer has a maximum personal sense of destiny. No matter what happens in his life, he relates all the good and the bad to the fact that God has a purpose for his life. He understands that purpose, applies it to situations, maintains his happiness and passes evidence testing, the greatest challenge in the spiritual life.

The believer in spiritual maturity has consolidated and increased his personal love for God. He has become aware that, in fulfilling the plan of God for his life, he is fulfilling his own destiny to God.

Spiritual maturity results in maximum poise, self-control, self-restrain, and self-regulation. As a result, he has a life of maximum production.

Maximum production means maximum exploitation of your spiritual gift, whatever it is. It means maximum effectiveness in Christian service so that you will have gold, silver, and precious stones at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Spiritual maturity is characterized by “Christ being glorified in your body”. Philippians 1:20

The greatest decisions in life are made in spiritual maturity. Every decision becomes a great decision, due to your total understanding of the mechanics of God’s plan. You relate your every decision in life to what God has provided for you.

When you die and are face-to-face with our Lord and He asks, “What did you do with the greatest spiritual life ever offered? Will you be able to say, “I did my duty.” That you fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith? 2 Timothy 4:7

Will Jesus Christ say to you, “Well done my good and faithful servant”?

This is my goal and I hope you will make it yours to continue the advance and grow and grace every day, even if for only 10 minutes a day.

Whether you fail or succeed with regard to God’s plan for your life is strictly up to you. Your loyalty to God’s word determines whether you will be a winner or a loser believer in the Plan of God

I know this: there will be a distribution of some fantastic escrow blessings for the mature believer in the eternal state.

- 1. The **Crown of Righteousness** for the believer who attains spiritual maturity.**
- 2. The **Crown of Life** is for the spiritually matured believer who passes evidence testing. There’s also double escrow blessing in time for the spiritually mature believer who passes evidence testing.**
- 3. The **Crown of Glory** is given to the pastor who is faithful in teaching the Word of God and bringing believers to maturity.**
- 4. Other eternal decorations for the spiritually mature believer include the “**Order of the Morning Star**”, being a part of the new order of chivalry, wearing the uniform of glory, being recorded on the honor’s List, presented in the Court of Heaven, awarded a new order of knighthood mentioned with his name in the Lamb’s Book of Life, ruling with Jesus Christ in the Millennium, receiving his own coat of arms, and becoming a member of the **Paradise Club** forever.**

Nike Award #1:

“To him who overcomes (*tōi nikōntī*), I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.” Revelation 2:7b

Our original parents were permitted to eat from this tree in the pristine perfection of the Garden of Eden. Winners will be permitted to partake of its fruit in the heavenly Garden of God in eternity.

Nike Award #2:

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.” Revelation 2:10c; 2:11b

This is granted to the mature believer whose loyalty to truth under pressure has such great impact on history that it benefits family, community, state, and nation. This crown is testimony to the fact that no believer will be called before the Great White Throne judgment at the end of human history where all who rejected Jesus Christ as Savior will be sentenced forever to the lake of fire, known as the “second death” in Revelation 20:11-15.

Nike Award #3:

“To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.” Revelation 2:17

Manna is the heavenly food that sustained the Israelites’ physical life as they wandered in the Jornada of the Sinai Peninsula following their Exodus from Egypt. Manna in Revelation 2:17 refers to the winner-believer’s maximum knowledge of biblical principles hidden in his soul which becomes the target for the Lord’s imputation of the Third Nike. The white stone refers to his perfect resurrection body to which a new title of aristocracy is assigned.

Nike Award #4:

“He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.” Revelation 2:26-28

Here the winner-believer is delegated rulership authority over a nation in the divine theocracy of Jesus Christ in which he will administer the Lord’s policies. In addition, he will be awarded the “Medal of Honor” for service reflecting loyalty, steadfastness, and intrepidity in the conflict between good and evil, or as referenced in Scripture, the Order of the Morning Star, a title given to our Lord in Numbers 24:17, 2 Peter 1:16- 19, and Revelation 22:16.

Nike Award #5:

“He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” Revelation 3:5

Just as the glory of the Lord was revealed on the mount of transfiguration (Matthew 17:2), likewise the winner will also be clothed in glory as an eternal blessing. This uniform of glory will adorn his resurrection body forever. As with all those who have believed in Christ for salvation, the winner’s name will never be blotted out of the book of life since he possesses eternal life. Further, he will have the honor of being presented to the Father in the throne room of heaven and before His angels.

Nike Award #6:

“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.” Revelation 3:12

The “pillar in the temple” refers to the eternal library that maintains the history of winner-believers’ exploits in the spiritual battles on earth. This record will never vanish but be on file forever. In addition, winner-believers will be presented an eternal coat-of-arms blazoned with three devices of heavenly heraldry: (1) the name of God: Elohim, (2) the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2), and (3) the new name for Christ in the eternal state: King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16)

Nike Award #7:

“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” Revelation 3:21

The last award mentioned has to do with the privileges associated with the Fourth Nike which gives winner-believers authority to rule nations in the Lord’s kingdom. The Seventh Nike grants these leaders the privilege to assemble with Christ as part of His administration that oversees a global government of peace and prosperity for all.

These seven Nike Awards belong to those who stay the course, plug away, and throughout life’s journey consistently make themselves available to the teaching of the Word of God. All believers have these options. But, few will take advantage of them.

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.” Revelation 22:12

Never forget that Bible doctrine is truth! It gives you the guidance to navigate your time on earth and how to live through the chaos we currently face in this country today.

1 John 4:4-5: “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. **Vs.5:** Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

John 16:33: “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Bible doctrine provides the peace and joy that surpasses all the other adversities of life.

Never forget, no matter what spiritual condition a believer may be in, your soul can be restored through the consistent intake of Bible doctrine under a qualified pastor/teacher.

All of us have or will face trials and challenges in life that will test our mettle. It is at this point that winner-believers come to realize and appreciate that they could never bear up under the pressure without divine viewpoint in their souls.

You can choose to live life apart from God’s Word as a loser-believer, but there is no happiness in this. The only way to live this life, the only way to die, the only way to enter into the eternal state is as a winner-believer. I implore you to be a winner. Study the Bible each day of your life. Grow in God’s grace and in the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And if you do, when you arrive at the judgment seat of Christ, you will be among those to whom the Lord will say, “*Tōi nikōnti*”—“To the winner.” Joe Hunt – “Who Loves You”