

Finding Light in the Darkness

Session 16: Major Doctrines, part 1 Introduction, Scripture, God, & Jesus Slide Notes

Once Burned, Twice Cautious

- Counterfeit \$20? \$100?
- Recognize one?
- Learn the real!

If ever cheated by someone giving you a counterfeit \$20, probably spend a little time to be sure you know what the real looks like!

Bank tellers are trained to spot counterfeits by studying ONLY the real. Let's spend time learning what the real looks like so not deceived by one of the many counterfeits out there.

Doctrine! A Dirty Word?

•Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. — 1 Ti 4:13-16

Doctrine: “something that is taught”, “a principle or position or the body of principles in a branch of knowledge or system of belief.”

Why Learn Doctrine?

- So won't create a false God – idol
- To keep us on track as disciples
- To provide foundation for understanding Scripture
- To help others know God

When we build an image of God in our mind that is wrong, we end up serving and worshiping a false god, an idol.

Lies are designed to divert us from the path of following God. When we believe and follow a lie, we walk in a direction that is in opposition to God's will. Doctrine helps us evaluate the things we hear and think to be sure that they line up with the basic foundational truths of Scripture.

When reading the Bible, Scripture must be interpreted in the context of all of Scripture. Doctrinal studies help us get a handle on the basic issues of Christianity so we can test our interpretation of

Scripture. If it violates the foundational teachings, then it cannot be a correct interpretation and further research is required.

Example: Poles along roads in Idaho/Colorado. Seemed strange on a summer day driving along when first saw them. Didn't seem to be much use for them. However, they become essential when it snows on some of those mountain roads. The poles show the edge of the road so you would know where you can drive safely.

Which Doctrines?

- **Scripture – Bibliology**
- **God – Theology**
- **Jesus – Christology**
- **Man – Anthropology**
- **Sin – Hamartiology**
- **Salvation – Soteriology**
- **Holy Spirit – Pneumatology**
- **Healing –**
- **The Church – Ecclesiology**
- **Spirit Realm – Angelology, etc.**
- **Last Things – Eschatology**

Theology in the broader sense is the study of religious faith, practice, and experience; but it especially applies to the study of God and His relation to the world.

Finding Light in the Darkness

- **Entire LiD course is built on the value and authority of the Bible**
- **If missed earlier sessions, go get them!**
- **Additional info on www.life4square.com**
 - ♦ **Building Blocks of Life Course**
 - ♦ **Finding Light in Darkness Course**
 - ♦ **Resources tab**
 - Bible Verses**
 - Studies/Courses**
 - White Papers**
 - End Times**
 - Message Notes and Audio**

Scripture

What About Scripture?

Since the Bible is the source of most of our knowledge about God, Jesus, and Christianity, it is critical that we know whether or not we can trust it

Lies About Scripture

- Written by men (not inspired by God)
- Full of errors & contradictions
- Can't trust it
- Subject to interpretation
- Just myths and moral stories
- Just a book of "thou shall nots"

Will not list all of the lies associated with each Christian doctrine. There are just way too many of them. Will list some major ones, but focus will be on God's truth about the issues. Be aware of the lies, but study the truth!

Covered in LiD #2 & #3

- What the Bible claims about itself
- Jesus believed and quoted the Bible
- How we got the Bible
- Not full of changes and contradictions
- The Bible can be trusted
 - ♦ It is accurate geographically, historically, archeologically, prophetically, and scientifically
- Organization of the Bible
- How to find stuff in the Bible

LiD = *Finding Light in the Darkness* series, the one we are in now.

God's Word for Us

- God inspired people to write specific things
- Men wrote under inspiration of Holy Spirit
- Not like a secretary taking dictation

Divine Inspiration

- All is God's Word – intended by Him to be included

- **But not all is God's truth**
 - ♦ "There is no god." – Ps 14:1
- **Must consider context to distinguish**
 - ♦ Eternal truth from God
 - ♦ Record of historical events
 - ♦ Record of words or opinions of men

The fool has said in his heart, "*There is no God.*" — *Ps 14:1*

Must consider context. See LiD #3 *How to Understand Stuff in the Bible* for help.

Inerrancy

- **In the original autographs the Bible contains no mistakes. It was exactly what God wanted.**
- **Textual Criticism helps us know precisely what was written in original**
 - ♦ Scribes were fanatically careful in copying
 - ♦ Not full of errors as many claim
 - ♦ The few questionable areas that remain affect no major doctrine
- **Translations (Jesus probably used Septuagint)**

"In the original autographs..." *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology*, Duffield and Van Cleave, pg 15.

See LiD #2 – Why Trust the Bible

Authority

- **As Creator and God, He has ultimate authority**
- **The Bible, as His Word, carries His authority**
- **"knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." — 2 Pe 1:20-21**

Purpose – Why Given

- **God revealing Himself, His ways, His will, His plans/purposes, and His love to man**
- **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." — 2 Ti 3:16-17**

God Revealed

- **So we can know God (have relationship with)**
 - ♦ **And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding,**

that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. — 1 Jn 5:20

•So we can have life

- ♦ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. — Jn 20:31

•So we will be transformed

- ♦ And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. — Ro 12:2

The Word of God is Eternal

•“The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”
— Is 40:8

•“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”
— Mk 13:31

Summary – The Bible...

- Is God’s Word to Us
- Is inspired by God without error
- Carries God’s authority
- Reveals God and His ways to us
- Is eternal

For More Information

- BB #1 – The Authority of the Word
- LiD #1 – Introduction – The Word of God
- LiD #2 – Why Trust the Bible
- LiD #3 – How to Understand Stuff in the Bible
- www.life4square.com

BB = *Building Blocks of Life*

LiD = *Finding Light in the Darkness*

God

Why Study God?

- Everything God says and does flows from who He is!
- If your view of God is wrong, then everything else is messed up!

So won't create/serve a false God. So know God intimately. So know God's ways. So know how to live.

Lies About God

- Doesn't exist
- Jesus and Holy Spirit are not God
- There are many gods
- We are gods
- Like Santa Claus or grandfather
- Wouldn't send anyone to hell
- Father of everyone
- His purpose is to make us happy
- Out to get us
- Impossible to please
- Spoil sport, against fun
- Can't or won't stop evil
- Capricious
- Vindictive
- Uninvolved

Santa Claus—jolly giver of gifts with little required in return

Grandfather—no discipline, fun loving

“... we have one Father—God.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, You are of *your* father the devil,” — Jn 8:41-44

capricious — apt to change suddenly; freakish; whimsical; changeable

“Just don't know what God will do.” – Because we don't know God, not because He is capricious.

vindictive— Disposed to revenge; prompted or characterized by revenge; revengeful

I Like God...Made Him Myself!

- We tend to imagine God as someone we want Him to be

- Grandpa; Sugar Daddy; so loving He won't say "no;" gives gifts like Santa Claus
- Too nice to punish anyone or send to hell
- Mean, will get my enemies
- Unconcerned about how I live, has more important things to do

Wrong God is an Idol

- When we envision any God who is not the God of the Bible, we are serving an idol
- “For My people are foolish, They have not known Me. They are silly children, And they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge.” — Je 4:22
- Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame. — 1 Co 15:34

Idol – a false God

Must know the One, True God as He has revealed Himself to us in the Scripture, not as people have imagined Him to be. (See lies earlier)

We Are Fortunate

- God is worthy of worship for who He is
- Would still be worthy of worship and right to demand it as God and Creator, even if He were not so good
- Fortunately for us, He is good

“I wouldn't serve a God like that!” So, will you only serve a God who acts the way you think best? Do you really know what's best? We think we do, but we don't. Our perspective is limited and cloudy. Our knowledge is woefully limited. Yet we dare to sit in judgment of God to determine if He is worthy of worship? We really are silly children!

Two Things Need to Know...

- There is a God
- You are not Him

Sounds funny, we laugh. But in truth, our greatest struggle in life is the one that determines who will be Lord/God in our lives. It is an on-going battle. I turn all over to God, then turn around and find that I have seated myself back on the throne of my life. The major work in a Christian's growth is learning to truly let God be God in your life.

God Insists: Only One God!

- I am the Lord, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. ... That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That there is none besides Me. I

am the Lord, and there is no other; — Is 45:5-6

**•Also: Isa 46:6-9, 45:21-23, 44:6-8,24,
Deu 32:39**

•God is adamant about this point!

Sounds like God is making an important point! You don't like God the way He is? Sorry, He's your only real choice—the only real deal!

Three Persons

•Trinity is not a Bible word, concept is there

•Not three gods

•Not one God and one Person

•Bible teaches...

- ♦ **There is one God – previous slide**
- ♦ **Father is God – Phil 2:11, Gal 1:1, Eph 5:20**
- ♦ **Jesus is God – next section**
- ♦ **Holy Spirit is God – later section**

Trinity: Compare H₂O, three states, but all water. Compare egg: yolk, white, and shell. Compare human: spirit, soul, body. etc. All these ideas are helpful, but none fit perfectly.

When someone tries to go beyond the basics about God as described in the Bible, they start getting into trouble. No illustration can adequately express the Trinity. Don't try to explain what God has not explained.

The Nature of God

•All knowing: omniscient – Ps 147:5, Heb 4:13

•All powerful: omnipotent – Lk 1:37, Rev 19:6

**•Present everywhere: omnipresent –
Ps 139:7-10, Jer 23:24**

•Holy/Pure – 1 Pet 1:15-16, Ps 92:15, 99:9

•Eternal – Ps 90:2, 92:8, Mic 5:2

•Unchanging: Immutable – Mal 3:6, Heb 13:8

•True – Jn 17:3, 14:6, Rev 3:7,14

“Everything God says and does flows from who He is!” (earlier slide) That includes His nature (what is inherently true about Him) and His character (His ways, how He thinks, why He does what He does).

“Can God make a rock that is too big for Him to pick up?” No! There are several things that God cannot do: lie, sin, change, be unfaithful, violate His nature (deny Himself), etc. The things that God cannot do are just as important and beneficial as the things He can do.

The Character of God

- Righteous – Ps 97:2, Jer 9:24, Rom 9:14
- Just – Rom 2:11, Ps 7:11, Ps 89:14
- Faithful – 1 Thes 5:24, Deu 7:8-9, 2 Tim 2:13
- Good – Ps 52:1, 145:9, Mat 19:17
- Loving, Caring – Jn 3:16, 1 Jn 4:7-19, Rom 5:8
- Patient – Ps 103:8-10, 2 Pet 3:9,15
- Forgiving – Col 2:13-14, Isa 43:25-26
- Others

God – defines good and evil

We are called to be like Him. How can we do that if we don't know Him?

Worship God Only!

•“You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image ... you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. ... “
— Ex 20:3-5

•Then Jesus said to him, “...‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” — Mt 4:10

The Work of God

- Creator – Rev 4:11, Heb 3:4, Is 44:24
- Lord – Neh 9:6, Ps 118:27, Deu 10:17
- Reveal Himself – 1 Sam 2:27, Ps 103:7, Amos 3:7
- Savior – Isa 43:11, 60:16, Hos 13:4
- Redeem Man – Deu 15:15, Isa 48:7, 54:5, Lk 1:68
- Punish Evil – Isa 13:11, 26:21, Rom 1:18-19

Summary - God

- Everything God says and does flows from who He is
- A false image of God is an idol
- There is only one God
- Yet Father, Son, and Spirit are God
- God's nature & character define right & good
- Worship God only
- God works among mankind

- God loves man, desires relationship

For More Information

- BB #7 – Worship that Moves Father’s Heart
- www.life4square.com

Christ

Lies About Jesus Christ

- Not God
- Never claimed to be God
- A created being
- Less than God (God’s son)
- Just a good teacher (man)
- Was not resurrected

What About Christ?

- What/Who is Christ?
 - ♦ A title rather than a name
 - ♦ The Messiah – Jn 4:25-26
 - ♦ Promised Savior – Ps 132:11, Act 13:23
 - ♦ Creator – Col 1:16-17, Eph 3:9, Jn 1:1-4
 - ♦ God – Jn 1:1-4, Col 2:9-10
- Jesus is the Christ
 - ♦ Jesus is His name, not a title
 - ♦ Jesus is the promised Messiah

Jesus is God

- Eternal, Not Created
 - ♦ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. — John 1:1-4
- God and Savior
 - ♦ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, — Titus 2:13

Titles Shared with God

- God – Isa 44:6 / Jn 1:1, Tit 2:13
- I AM – Ex 3:13-15 / Jn 8:56-59, 18:5-6
- Savior – Isa 43:3,11 / Lk 2:11, Tit 1:4, 2:13
- Creator – Gen 1:1, Rev 4:11 / Col 1:16-17, Jn 1:3
- First & Last – Isa 44:6 / Rev 1:17-18 , 2:8
- Alpha & Omega – Rev 1:8 / Rev 22:13, 16
- Unchanging – Mal 3:6 / Heb 13:8
- King of Kings – 1 Tim 6:15-16 / Rev 17:14
- Lord of Lords – Deu 10:17 / Rev 19:16

Jesus Claimed to be God

- Equal with God – Jn 5:18
- Took God’s Name: I AM – Jn 8:56-59, Ex 3:14-15
- Acknowledge self as Christ – Mk 14:61-64, Jn 4:25-26
- Acknowledge self as Son of God – Lk 22:70-71
- Acknowledge Glory of God was His – Jn 17:5

Jesus Worshipped

- By Angels - Heb 1:6
- By Men – Mat 14:33, 28:17
- He is worthy – Rev 5:5-14
- He accepted worship – Jn 9:38-39
- We are expected to worship Him – Jn 5:23
- Only God to be worshipped (earlier)

“Son of God” is God

- Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.” — Mt 14:33
- Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. — Jn 5:18
- but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. — Jn 20:31

Jesus Took on a Body

- ...Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be

equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. — Philipians 2:5-11

Jesus' Work

- Glorifies the Father – Jn 14:13, 17:4-5
- Became a servant – Phil 2:5-11
- Love motivated to die in our place – 1 Cor 15:3, Jn 3:16
- Reconciles us to God – Col 1:20, 1 Tim 2:5
- Head of the Church, His Body – Col 1:18
- Baptizes w/ Holy Spirit – Mk 1:8, Mat 3:11
- Never leave or forsake us – Hb 13:5, Mt 28:20
- Our Brother, joint heirs – Mat 12:50, Gal 3:29
- Only way for salvation – Jn 14:6, Act 4:12

Jesus' Resurrection

- Was Prophesied – Jn 20:9, Act 13:34-37
- Our debt was paid – 1 Cor 15:3-4
- Proof of His claims – Rom 1:4
- Witnessed by many – Mat 28:5-7, Act 1:3, 1 Cor 15:4-8
- Essential – 1 Cor 15:12-17

Jesus' Return

- He will come back – Act 1:9-11
- For deliverance and judgment – 2 Thes 1:6-8
- Together for eternity – 1 Thes 4:16-17
- More later in this series

Summary – Jesus the Christ

- Christ is His title, Jesus is His Name
- Jesus is God
- Same titles apply to Jesus & God
- Jesus claimed to be God

- Jesus was worshipped, and He accepted it
- The “Son of God” is God
- Jesus took on a body and died the death we deserved to reconcile us to God
- Jesus was resurrected
- Jesus is coming back

For More Information

- BB #2 – The Lordship of Jesus Christ
- “End Times: Putting the Pieces in Place”
- www.life4square.com