

LIFE & DOCTRINE

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Paul reminded Timothy to watch both his life and doctrine (1 Tim.4:16). Isolating Scriptural doctrine from Christian life is a dangerous trend. This cannot be sustained biblically. Sound doctrine is to be learned, understood, appreciated and applied into godly living. Christian doctrine serves as the constitution of godly living. The two Greek words *didache* and *didaskalia* (“doctrine”, “teaching” or “instruction”) in their fifty-one appearances in the New Testament affirm the importance of sound Scriptural truth. This is the foundation and basis for Christian living – “so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior (Titus 2:10). We are called to live out the faith that is committed to us in Scriptural doctrine; to adorn and beautify our Christian life.

Previous generations have labored faithfully and sacrificially to enlighten us and to pass on sound biblical teaching to us. Doctrine is God’s truth and it equips us to fulfill the primary purpose of our life – to glorify and delight in God through personal knowledge and fellowship with Him. Let us not ignore God’s laws and substitute our own traditions in its place (Mark 7:8). It is the solemn and sacred duty of the elders of every church to reinstate the place of solid and systematic presentation of God’s Word from our pulpits week after week. Let us not take the ministry of the Word lightly and carelessly as it is frequently done in many assemblies. Let us fight against the dangerous trend of what J. Gresham Machen called “the modern hostility to doctrine.”