

Fundamentals of the Christian Doctrine

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INTRODUCTION

Objective: To lay a foundation of study on which to build the faith of God's people. My objective is to lay the groundwork of doctrine as presented in the New Testament. We will be using 'The 18 Articles of Faith' as a guide to understanding the Faith of Jesus Christ, the New Testament Church, and our Forefathers.

Foundational Verse: Col 2:1-8

Suggested Reading: I will pull extensively from the following:

1. Christian Doctrines by Dr. J. M. Pendleton. Copyright 1878/ 1906
2. Confessions of Faith by William Lumpkin.
3. The Trail of Blood by Dr. J. M. Carroll (see me for a copy).
4. Foxe's Book of Martyrs by John Foxe (Edited by Gringo Berry) Revised 1998.
5. Cold Water to a Thirsty Soul By Long View Baptist Church Copyright 1968

The 18 Articles of the Baptist Faith

1. Concerning the Scriptures
2. Concerning the True God
3. Concerning the Fall of Man
4. Concerning the Way of Salvation
5. Concerning Justification
6. Concerning the Freeness of Salvation
7. Concerning Grace in Regeneration
8. Concerning Repentance and Faith
9. Concerning God's Purpose of Grace
10. Concerning Sanctification
11. Concerning the Perseverance of Saints
12. Concerning the Harmony of Law and Gospel
13. Concerning the Gospel Church
14. Concerning the Church Ordinances
15. Concerning the Christian Sabbath
16. Concerning Civil Government
17. Concerning the Righteous and the Wicked
18. Concerning the World to Come

The Importance of Doctrine: 2 Tim 4:1-4 * 'I CHARGE THEE*' - To testify: to solemnly affirm.-

- Why did Paul *charge* Timothy? For his & the Church's well being.

- Gal 1:8-9- (accursed)- Greek: *anathema* – Thayer says: ‘a thing devoted to God WITHOUT HOPE of being redeemed... therefore a person... doomed for destruction. Used in it’s original form in 1 Cor 16:22 – ‘Anathema Maranatha’ – (the Lord cometh or will come) (Thayer).
- Eph 4: 13-14- (Context is Key!)- Chapter 4- Paul speaks to the edifying of the Church!
- How is the Church edified? TEXT. Ephesians is uniquely divided. The first verse in the chapter usually tells us the main idea of that chapter. What is Eph 4:1? How are we to walk worthy of our vocation? BE SETTLED ON WHAT WE BELIEVE.
- 2 John 1:9-11- We are to ‘abide in the doctrine (instructions) of Christ.’
- John 7:16-17- Who’s doctrine are we keeping?

Admonitions against False Teachers: Deu 13:1-3, Matt 5:19, Matt 7:15, Matt 15:2-20, Matt 23:2-33, Luke 11:38-52.

Doctrine is Truth: Proverbs 23:23 (instruction)- ‘moosawr’- translated doctrine in Jeremiah 10:8- In other words, * DOCTRINE AND TRUTH ARE INSEPERABLE.

- Rom 1:16- ‘For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also unto the Greek.’
- So, We cannot preach the ‘TRUTH OF JESUS CHRIST’, UNLESS WE ALSO PREACH DOCTRINE (INSTRUCTION) OF JESUS CHRIST!

The New Testament Church:

- This is why we are to mold ourselves after the New Testament Church. We are to mimic their actions, doctrines, teachings, ordinances, etc. (As commanded by Jesus Christ.)
- THE APOSTLES CREED: 1 Cor 15:1-7- this is known by theologians as ‘The Apostles’ Creed.’ This is a basic declaration of Faith. The current ‘Articles of Faith’ have been adapted overtime to war against the heresies of False Teachers. For example, there are many different types of Baptist, but Missionary Baptist people believe in these articles of Faith, whereas, the Primitive Baptist or Southern Baptist believe in a different set all together. Though they are not scripture (and should be never treated as such) they reflect what we believe to be the truth and distinguishes ‘us from them.’

The History of our Forefathers: Though this is not a study on ecclesiastical Church History, I have attached a brief letter given to me by a Deacon of my former church. It briefly explains the History our current confessions.

Dear Brother (Name omitted),

In reply to your questions concerning the Articles of Faith I now write.

Our eighteen articles of faith were originally called the 'New Hampshire Declaration of Faith' as adopted by a group of Baptist churches in New Hampshire. They were written by J. Newtown Brown in 1830 and adopted in 1833. They only contained sixteen articles at first with the other two being added in 1853. Brown was also the author of these and they were 'Repentance and Faith' and 'Sanctification.'

You asked why these were written. Why should any Baptist have any other declaration than the Bible? For clarification of those points which are so vital and controversial. Though our declaration is not Scripture it is scriptural and concise enough for anyone to read.

The oldest confession of faith was written in England in 1640. Then, in 1689, the London Confession was written. This confession was strong in Calvinism (hyper-Calvinism is the hardshell Baptist doctrine that some were elected for heaven and they were the only ones who would go). In 1707, the first Baptist association formed in this country giving itself the name 'Philadelphia Baptist Association.' This group of Baptist Churches adopted the London Confession of Faith. In 1742, the Philadelphia Assoc. added two more articles to their confession- 'ruling elders' and 'laying on of hands of all baptized believers before admitting them to the Lord's Table.'

Almost all Missionary Baptists in this country today embrace the New Hampshire Confession or Declaration. The strong words of Calvinism were omitted from this...

In Christ,
(Name omitted).