

In a lot of local churches, it's a pastor problem because they have become performers instead of teachers. That's not the case at this church! No excuse!!

Do you cherish your time here in this auditorium taking in doctrine and I include our Dorito's who are a part of this church? Because it may not always be an option for us. It may not.

You don't know where we'll be in 6 months, a year, 5 years from now. Do you appreciate the time you can spend here concentrating on Bible Doctrine? To prepare you for whatever is coming up.

We need to appreciate every day what we have in the way of Bible Doctrine. We need to be here to study and grow.

Let me ask you a question. How much do you invest in your spiritual life?

PRINCIPLE: You trust God with your life, but do you trust Him with the little things in your life?

You need to be a "Truth Seekers". Those that are interested in "truth". Those who have not left their "first love".

Revelation 2:4: "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

Or those who have become "dull of hearing".

Hebrews 5:11-12: "Concerning Him [Christ Jesus] we have much to say and it is hard to explain (difficult to teach) we have many doctrines to communicate and hard to explain because you have become dull of hearing.

Vs.12: For though by this time you ought to be teachers, but you have need again for someone to teach you the

elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”

The writer of Hebrews is describing believers who at one point were anxious to hear the Word of God, but over time they faded away.

Positive believers who keep growing spiritually get some phenomenal assets:

James 3:2 – They are the ones who control their tongue.

Ephesians 4:13 – They are the ones who grow and mature in knowledge.

Hebrews 6:1 – They are the ones who go on to advance doctrinally.

2 Corinthians 12:9 – They are the ones whose strength is matured in weakness.

Philippians 3:15 – They are the ones who do not quit.

James 1:4 – They are the ones who are patient during times of trouble.

1 John 2:5 – They are the ones who keep Bible Doctrine in their soul.

There are many others I could share and I'm sure you have some you could add to this list as well.

You've got to have positive volition and that is a consistent attitude wherein believers make clear cut and confident decisions to study, learn and apply doctrine without allowing obstacles to get in the way.

The word positive means: 1) to express clearly and confidently a certain action. 2) A motion or decision that is definite, unyielding, constant or certain in its action.

There is a deep desire or a yearning in all believers, especially those new to the faith. Just as the physical body needs food and the soul desires stimulation, the human spirit which has been created within the believer at the moment of salvation by God the Holy Spirit, also hungers to be filled.

This desire has been placed within the believer by God. It is a very delicate and sensitive desire that can be hindered by arrogance or emotionalism, and it can ultimately be extinguished by hardness of the heart, scar tissue of the soul and an inordinate occupation with the details of life.

Unfortunately, not every believer does what is required to have this desire fulfilled. Consistent growth in the spiritual life allows the believer to become stronger and stronger with the capacity to handle the most difficult situations in life. The writer of Psalm 119 had this compelling desire even as he was being dragged into slavery.

Psalm 119:16: “I shall delight in Thy statutes; I shall not forget Thy word.”

In verse 24 he again reveals his positive volition by stating, **“Thy testimonies also are my delight; They (doctrine and testimonies) are my counselors.”**

Positive volition toward Bible Doctrine is the driving desire which motivates believers to overcome all obstacles and center their life in Doctrine. It causes the believer to stay occupied with the Word of God in time of disaster. It gives him spiritual energy in time of pressure. Often the different trials and tests of life become a source of frustration for

believers, and they just want to run for cover. However, the believer with positive volition can take comfort in doctrine.

The words of Jeremiah shed light on this burning desire, **Jeremiah 20:9**: “**But if I say, I will not mention Him or speak anymore in His name, His word is in my heart like a burning fire, shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.**”

Positive volition toward Bible doctrine is manifested by a burning fire within that cannot be quenched.

Psalm 42:1: says, “**As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God.**”

The question is: Why does this desire reside in some but not in others? Well, new believers are in a state of ignorance regarding the thoughts of God; if one is receptive to doctrine, they will grow in grace and knowledge, but if indifferent and distracted, ignorance will continue because of this negative volition.

However, once the believer has had a taste of Bible doctrine, he is not satisfied with a little, he must have more.

Psalm 63:1: “**O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**”

Because positive volition toward Doctrine is so important and determines the believer's status with God experientially, the Lord has provided everything needed to fulfill this desire:

God provides the local church as the classroom for the royal family to learn His Word.

God provides human volition as the means of integrating Doctrine into the life of the believer.

These are the provisions that God provides so that Christians may exercise their positive volition and grow in grace and knowledge. Remember, doctrine loves those who diligently seek wisdom, Proverbs 8:17: “I [doctrine] love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me, will find me.”

Loving the Lord Jesus Christ motivates us, and it compels a person to go forward in the plan of God in spite of the pressure and distractions that he faces.

All Christians have a destiny, and they learn about this destiny through the knowledge gained from the study of the Word of God.

The more you learn Bible Doctrine, the stronger your motivation to learn Bible Doctrine becomes, resulting in greater positive volition. The greater the positive volition, the more you learn about God’s plan, purpose and will for your life. Positive volition toward Bible Doctrine is an active desire to know God.

Remember human solutions are no solutions. Divine solutions are the only solutions. And here’s the principle, the overruling will of God combined with the directive will of God provides numerous deliverances from adverse circumstances in your life.

Psalm 68:19-20: “Blessed be the God who daily bears our burdens, the God who is our deliverance. God is to us a God of deliverance and to God belongs escape from death.”

As we get ready to wrap up today a few final points:

1. Everyone wants to do something to make their adversity, misfortune, crisis or tragedy go away except get to Bible Class.
2. Every time you have adversity or a crisis, a misfortune, a tragedy your spiritual life is what overcomes that problem, that crisis. That's what it's designed to do. So, you have to use it.
3. You must learn to apply the doctrine in your soul to bad circumstances. To relax and have confidence in God's plan.
4. Whatever happens in both life and death is for the glory of God.
5. You must learn the Faith Rest Drill if you're going to live the Christian life to its fullest because this is where you pick up a relaxed mental attitude and you do not have to worry. (Problem Solving Device #3).

Exodus 14:13: "Moses told the people, Fear not; stand still (firm, confident, undismayed) and see the salvation of the Lord which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians you have seen today you shall never see again."

6. Adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. Adversity is what someone or something does to you, stress is what you do to yourself. Adversity is an outside pressure in life; stress is an inside pressure of the soul.

6. There are over 7,000 promises in the Bible for you to use.
7. Remember afflictions are an opportunity to exercise your faith. It's an opportunity to demonstrate your confidence in God's plan for your life.

Psalm 34:19: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of all of them (All of them, not some of them, all of them)."

8. Trials, afflictions, misfortunes, crisis are going to come along in your life. They have to come along, this is how we grow.

1 Corinthians 10:13: “Think it not strange, these trials that you face are common to man.”

9. You cannot be fearful and scared. Not you, because God’s peace is expressed in confident expectation of God’s plan for your life. This is what the Lord Jesus Christ said in John 14:27: “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, and do not be afraid.”

10. The Colonel wrote this in lesson #125, Series 201 on 02/02/1966:

You have forgotten the essence box! From the essence box we have the structure of all of God's promises. God is sovereign, righteous, love, eternal life, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, immutability and veracity. Most of the promises come from love, immutability and veracity. The structure of every promise that we have for time as well as eternity can be taken from some of the characteristics of the essence box “you forget the Lord thy maker”. They have forgotten what God is really like. When you forget what God is really like, you become frightened. If you remember what God is really like, you can never be frightened. He is in you, he protects you he cares for you and the Jews had it in Isaiah 41:10: “Fear thou not for I am with thee be not dismayed for I am thank God I will strengthen thee yay I will help thee yay I will uphold thee with the right hand of mine righteousness.” When you know what God is really like you're never afraid, you know that he cannot change and that he has loved you with an infinite love and that because of his character he cannot change. You know since the day you accepted Christ

as savior, he does not bless you on the basis of what you do or what you do not do, he blesses you on the basis of his character, who and what he is, grace always depends on who and what God is and never who and what we are. We are not blessed because we are so lovely or we are so wonderful or so sweet and so on, we are blessed because of what he is always! No one ever earns or deserves anything from God! None of us! And we never will, that is great! This is where we get the basis for the third encouragement, the essence box. You forget, **“the Lord God thy maker”** **The Lord THY maker is Jesus Christ, Colossians 1:16: “For by him were all things created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible or invisible whether they be Thrones or dominions or principalities or powers all things were created by him and for him”** Jesus Christ is the maker. And if he has the power to stretch out the heavens, billions and billions of light years in space, and if he can make the universe including the earth which is mentioned here, he has the ability to handle our problems. **“Casting all your cares upon him he cared for you”** leave it there and you are all set. If he can make the universe, he is not going to stumble over some problem that you had!

11. You will live like a slave unless you learn to become stabilized under pressure. When you're in a hopeless situation that's when you need to think doctrinally and use the Word of God in your soul.

12. When you have the Word of God in your soul and you are growing spiritually, you can say as David did when facing Goliath, “The battle is the Lord's.”

Romans 8:31: “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?”

13. Remember we are to do our duty until we die, or the rapture occurs and apply what we know without fear and grow in grace!!

14. You must have a personal sense of destiny (PSD #6).

15. No matter what is going on in this our personal lives or our country we must have confidence that God is always working behind the scenes on our behalf so we will fulfill our mission, complete our duty and that means blessings for us and glory to God.

16. Remember when you focus on the problem there is fear. When you focus on the solution which is the Lord Jesus Christ there is courage.

PRINCIPLE: Remember that God's grace and plan are greater than any circumstance you'll ever face.

Psalm 31:24: "Be strong and let your heart take courage, All you who wait for the Lord."

Psalm 91:4: "He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may take refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and wall."

Psalm 27:13-14: "I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. Vs. 14: Wait (Imperative) for the Lord; Be strong (Imperative) and let your heart (Keep on letting) take courage; Yes, wait (Imperative) for the Lord."

17. The confidence we have is in the Word of God we know. The more Bible Doctrine you have in your soul that you can

use is what allows you and me to face the world copesetic no matter what the circumstances.

18. Listen to what the Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:11-13:

“Not that I speak from need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. Vs. 12: I know how to get along with little, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. Vs. 13: I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

One final note of encouragement:

Never quit in your spiritual life: Nothing can be more truly blessed than the position of hanging in childlike dependence upon God and being entirely content to wait for His time. True it will involve trial; but the renewed mind learns some of its deepest lessons, and enjoys some of its sweetest experiences, while waiting on the Lord; and the more pressing the temptation to take ourselves out of His hands, the richer will be the blessing by leaving ourselves there. It is so exceedingly sweet to find ourselves wholly dependent upon one who finds infinite joy in blessing us. It is only those who have tasted, in any little measure, the reality of this wondrous position that can at all appreciate it. The only one who occupied it perfectly and uninterruptedly was the Lord Jesus Himself. He was ever dependent on God, and utterly rejected every proposal of the enemy to be anything else.