



Titus Ten – Chapter 7

Doctrine

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Lead Opening Prayer

Introduction: Good morning. Thanks for being here. Today, we'll be covering Chapter 7 of *The Titus Ten: Foundations for Godly Manhood* study. The subject of the chapter is DOCTRINE.

- Many of the previous sessions focused on who we are in Christ and what we are to be like. This morning's session is focused on what we are to believe. Titus 1:9 says we are to hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught so that we can encourage others by sound DOCTRINE.
- Doctrine may sound like an intimidating word. It makes it seem like I must be some kind of theological expert.
- For many years I worked for a Japanese oil company. During a discussion on a particular project one of the ex-patriates said to me "you are not expert, we pay you to be expert, but you are not expert."
- Well, that is true. When it comes to doctrine, I am not an expert. But that is not the expectation of us as we shall see during our session.

Group Discussion – Reflection Questions

- What challenged or encourage you from last week's personal study on character?
- How important is it for you to have firm convictions about what you believe?

Summary of Doctrine

- We are not asked to be theological experts. We may not be Bible scholars. We are expected to be people who know God's word, so we can do what it says. In Matthew 7:24-25 Jesus said "therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rains came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against the house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock".
- To build strong, stable, lasting, impactful lives we must hear and then do. While listening to a sermon is one important way of hearing sound doctrine or teaching, thirty minutes a week is not enough. It is crucial that we read God's Word during our week. Study it as best we can. Pray over it. Ask God for wisdom to understand it. Meditate on what it means. Think about how it applies. Consider what to do about it.
- I don't have to be a Bible expert to do that. I just need to put in some time and effort. I know we are busy. We have many demands on our time. I must carve out some time. Can we find 5, 10, 15, 20 minutes to read God's Word each day (or at least most days) so we can hear? If I don't hear then how can I possibly do?

- There is a clear connection between thinking right and doing right. The same linkage Jesus made in Matthew 7 is found in many verses in Titus. For example, Titus 1:1 speaks about how knowledge of the truth leads to godliness. First, we know the truth and then we can by the power of the Holy Spirit become who God wants us to be and do the things God desires us to do. Simply put – behavior follows belief. This applies to all areas of our lives.
- An example from my life has to do with finances. Many years ago, I learned the truth that everything belongs to God. Psalm 24:1 says, “the earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it”. So that means I own nothing, but all I have belongs to God. The issue is not what I want to do with my money, but what God says I am responsible to do with His money. As Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, “he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the kingdom of God your primary concern”. It was not just about what I choose to give, but the surrender of 100% of my finances to God’s ways. In fact, I discovered that there is an economy of God. I saw that in Luke 6:38, if I was generous God would enable me to be more generous. “Give and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.” As I learned and lived this “sound teaching”, I was given not only God’s blessing on my personal finances, but the privilege of sharing that with others individually and in group settings. As Titus 1:9 says, “He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine.”
- Sound doctrine simply means safe, healthy teaching or instruction. While we should be grateful for a pastor who weekly provides this, it is important we accept responsibility for pursuing sound doctrine individually during the week by reading God’s Word.
- Charles Stanley said it this way. “So, if you have any desire for God; any yearning for healing; any longing for a life of meaning, hope, and joy – then open Scripture, drink in its life-giving words, and do as it says.”

Closing Challenge:

As men of God, the challenge is that we must be men of God’s Word. I can’t speak for you, but I know that I need to be more faithful to open the Bible and listen to God’s voice. I must desire to do it and then I must discipline myself to actually do so.

Questions or Comments?

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