

KNOWING GOD'S WORD

Core Doctrines of the Christian Faith (Titus 2:9-15)

- **Britt**- The Word of God is like a mirror that shows us ourselves, and a sword that carves us in the image of Christ
- **Lomas**- Our entire lives should be spent responding to the Word of God's sharpening of our lives
- **Lazo**- Knowing God's Word (Core Doctrines of the Christian Faith)

If the Word is really as powerful as the author of Hebrews points out, And if it's that important to respond to, as Daniel thought it was, Than we should know it well, as Paul is about to point out to Titus.

The Purpose of the Letter:

1. For the faith of Christians (1:1)
2. For the knowledge of the truth (1:1)

The Situation: Families were being upset by false doctrine (vs. 11)

- Paul had left Titus in Crete to set things in order and to build a leadership team (vs. 5)
- There was a strict list of eldership qualifications (vs. 6-16):
 - i. Being above reproach
 - ii. Not fleshly
 - iii. Being godly
 - iv. Holding fast to the Word (Because of the problems that were arising do to its neglect).

Paul's Command to Titus (Chp. 2):

- "Speak things which are fitting for sound doctrine" (2:1).
- To instruct men and women of various ages, as well as bondslaves, how to live godly
- All of them have this in common:
 - Show themselves to be examples of good deeds (vs. 7)
 - And examples of purity in doctrine (vs. 7) not just Titus, or the elders...
- HE EVEN ADDRESSES SLAVES...
 - Because they are in the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13)
- To bondslaves he instructs them to "ADORN THE DOCTRINE OF GOD OUR SAVIOR IN EVERY RESPECT" (vs. 9-15).

This is interesting...

- Verses later, Paul is against arguing over *foolish* controversies
- But in this passage, he is adamant about these beliefs...
 - “I want you to speak confidently” (vs. 8)
 - “These things are good and profitable for men” (vs. 8)
- Paul was differentiating between essentials and non-essentials

The (Core) Doctrines of God:

- Those things which are salvific in nature
 - Grace of God
 - Salvation to all men
 - Denying ungodliness and worldly desires
 - Looking forward to the coming of Jesus
 - Knowing that He gave Himself to redeem us
 - Knowing that He purified us
 - THESE THINGS SPEAK!!!!

A good litmus test: if you remove a particular doctrine, is the entire process of salvation still possible? If it is not, then that was an essential doctrine.

Deception is coming our way. Oprah/Chopra/Pagitt/Bell...

- They sound good, but they teach deception.
- That’s why we need to know doctrine!
- If we know the essentials, we won’t get deceived☺

This instruction to cling to doctrine is not just for the congregation in Crete.

Eph. 4:11-16

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

- Virgin Birth
 - “What if tomorrow someone digs up definitive proof that Jesus had a real, earthly, biological father named Larry, and archaeologists find Larry’s tomb and do DNA samples and prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the virgin birth was really just a bit of mythologizing the Gospel writers threw in...”¹
- Opposing views of theology = Trampoline or “Brickianity”²
 - “Trampoline theology” stretches and flexes. The doctrines are like springs that bend and move, and can even be removed. This is an unbiblical view of God’s Word.
 - “Brickianity” as Rob Bell labels it, is the way evangelical Christians tend to view theology. The essentials are like bricks in a wall; they do not move, and can not be removed. For example, the doctrine of the deity of Christ.
- When people are in despair, I want a brick wall

Salvation it laid out in Romans 1-8...read it! Memorize it even!

Our situation:

- A lost and dying world
- We may be the only Bible they get to read
- We need to fill ourselves with the Word.

¹ Bell, Rob. *Velvet Elvis*. 26.

² Ibid. 22, 26.