

CHOSE TODAY WHO'S DOCTRINE YOU WILL FOLLOW!"
1 Ki. 22.5-18

INTRODUCTION:

Josh. charged the people of Israel, "Choose Ye This Day." From the beginning of time until now, mankind has always had to make certain choices--whether to obey God or not, whether to follow God's standard of morals or not, whether to believe what God has said or not. You and I make these kinds of choices every day.

One story which illustrates the choice between believing the true doctrine of God as revealed by His inspired messengers or the false doctrines of men is found in TEXT. Jehoshaphat, a good of Judah, had unwisely entered an alliance with Ahab, the most evil king of Israel, to go into battle against the Syrians at Ramoth-Gilead.

Note the following verses of the text--5-6 (Jehoshaphat must have suspected something), 7-8, 11-15 (not what Ahab expected), 16-18.

Zedekiah and the 400 prophets of Ahab told the king whatever he wanted to hear. However, Micaiah was determined to speak only the word of the Lord. Jehoshaphat and Ahab each chose what to believe.

And we also have to make a choice concerning "Doctrine."

I. We must determine the meaning of "doctrine"

A. Two related words in the original language of the NT:

i. "Teachings" and "doctrine;"

1. Both carry the idea of "that which is taught" or "instruction":

Matthew 7:28 NASB 28 The result was that when Jesus had finished these words, the multitudes were amazed at His teaching;

B. Therefore, whatever a person teaches is his "doctrine;" just read about Christ's sermon on the mount being called "his doctrine," so what others teach would be their doctrine: **Matt. 16.12**

C. Some want to make a distinction between the gospel, their doctrine

- i. Which they say is to be preached to the lost.
- ii. And the doctrine which they say is to be taught to those who're already saved and therefore isn't as important;

- iii. The Bible makes no such distinction: Rom. 1.7 & 15; 6.17-18
- iv. (desired to preach "gospel" to saints, but before they were saints they obeyed doctrine to be freed from sin).

D. So, again, whatever one teaches is his doctrine.

- i. he can either teach the truth of the gospel, which includes all of what God has revealed, or he can teach something else.
- ii. Hence, it's wrong to say that "doctrine" is unimportant--which brings us to our next point.

II. We must understand the importance of "doctrine"

A. Doctrine is important because it's by obeying the doctrine that we can be made free from sin; but there are some other reasons too.

i. Came from the apostles

Acts 2:42 NASB 42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Ephesians 3:3-5 NASB 3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. 4 And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

ii. True doctrine is found in the scriptures.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

B. doctrine is important because we must abide in the doctrine of Christ to be in fellowship with God:

- i. 2 Jn. vs. 9-11.

C. Some say "teaching about Christ," so only thing needed to be in fellowship with God is believing what the Bible says about Jesus.

- i. But what does "doctrine of Pharisees and Saducees" mean?

- ii. Teaching about Pharisees and Saducees, or teaching that came from Pharisees and Saducees?
- iii. Obviously, latter. It's quite reasonable to conclude same thing about "doctrine of Christ."
- iv. In fact, there's nothing either in the context of this passage or in any other passage which would lead to any other conclusion than that Jn. Is talking about the doctrine coming from Christ, referring to His entire revelation of God's will.
- v. We must abide in this doctrine to have fellowship with God, and that make's doctrine important.

III. We must realize that there are false doctrines

A. Sometimes people talk about the "doctrines" of the scriptures.

- i. Every time the New Testament uses the word doctrine in the plural, it refers to false doctrines:
 1. **Matthew 15:9** NASB 9 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'
 2. **Colossians 2:22** NASB 22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with the using) --in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?
 3. **1 Timothy 4:1 NASB** 1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

B. These false doctrines are taught by false teachers.

2 Peter 2:1-3 NASB 1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

C. A couple of false doctrines common in the first century are specifically mentioned in scripture: **Rev. 2.14-15, 20-24**

Revelation 2:14-15 NASB 14 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit acts of immorality. 15 'Thus you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

- i. The Bible indicates that the origin of false doctrines is men.
 1. Ultimately Satan (doctrines of demons).

IV. However, we must recognize that there is sound doctrine

A. The word "sound" means healthy or whole.

- i. Some doctrine is not healthy or whole because it is contrary to the doctrine which is from Christ.

Romans 16:17-18 NASB 17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. 18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

B. **This word "sound" is used in scripture to identify that doctrine is** healthy or whole because it does come from God:

1 Timothy 1:10 NASB 10 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,

C. This is the doctrine that God's wants to be taught:

- i. **1 Timothy 4:6-7** NASB 6 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. 7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;
- ii. **2 Timothy 3:10** NASB 10 But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,
- iii. **2 Timothy 4:1-3** NASB 1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season;

reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires;

- iv. **Titus 1:9 NASB** 9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

- v. "We don't want preaching that's doctrinal but preaching that's practical."

- vi. This kind of statement mistakenly leaves the impression that the preaching of sound doctrine somehow isn't practical.

- vii. The truth is, if we want to be spiritually healthy or whole before God, we must make sure that we follow only sound doctrine as revealed in the word of God.

CONCL.:

There are serious consequences to rejecting sound doctrine and receiving false doctrine:

Matthew 15:13-14 NASB 13 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be rooted up. 14 "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

Thus, we have a choice to make concerning what doctrine or teaching we're going to believe.

Consider what the apostle Paul told the Corinthian brethren:

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NASB 1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. 4 And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

We can either accept the doctrine that comes from the power of God through Christ by means of inspired messengers in the scriptures, or we can accept that doctrine that's based on the wisdom of men.

And therefore we're warned:

Ephesians 4:14-15 NASB 14 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; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,

If you're not a Christian but wish to be characterized by sound doctrine, then the first step is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and obey from the heart that form of doctrine unto which we've been delivered, that you might be made free from sin and become the servant of righteousness--how do you do that? Rom. 6.3-4....