

# DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

## LESSON 50

## WHAT ARE DOCTRINES FOR?

*“... from infancy you have known the holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”*

*2 Timothy 3:15-17*

1. The Bible lets us know salvation comes from Jesus
2. All of the Bible is inspired by God
3. What does salvation mean to you?

*“Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

*1 Timothy 4:16*

1. Timothy has a letter written to him. He is a young Pastor
2. Paul advises him to watch his life and doctrine closely
3. The effect of being watchful is personal salvation for Timothy—and those who hear him

*“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”*

*John 20:31*

1. The purpose behind writing the Bible is to create belief in Jesus so we can have eternal life

2. Is eternal life important to you?

*"If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching,*

*1 Timothy 6:3*

1. We should teach sound doctrines
2. Sound doctrine is the teaching of Jesus. It is godly teaching
3. Can you think of any teaching that Jesus gives?

*"As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work--which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm."*

*1 Timothy 1:3-7*

1. Timothy again is to command people not to teach false doctrines
2. False doctrines create controversy—not God's work
3. God's work is to create love—which is generated by a pure heart and a sincere faith
4. Does this suggest that doctrines are there to change our lives for the better?

*"They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he*

*has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him. To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

*John 8:27-32*

1. The text relates to teaching about Jesus. A key focus is 'knowing Jesus'
2. Jesus is teaching that he will be 'lifted up' - crucified
3. People will know from this event who Jesus really is—and that he speaks what his Father teaches

*"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep."*

*John 10:14,15*

1. Jesus is describing his followers as sheep
2. Jesus knows his sheep—us
3. When Jesus says he knows the Father he is using the word know in a Biblical sense. He has a personal relationship with his Father
4. Jesus knows his sheep. He is prepared to lay his life down for his sheep
5. Do you think that doctrines could be there to help us develop a relationship with God and Jesus?
6. How would a teaching about the death of Jesus help you get to know about him—and God?