

1. This morning we will continue the study of Second Timothy where Paul from prison writes to Timothy in Ephesus. When the clock tolled 11:30 A.M last week, we had just begun the *Doctrine of the Importance of Bible Doctrine*.
2. For an audio presentation of this lesson go to *westbankbiblechurch.com* and click-on streaming audio of services.
3. Before we continue, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.
4. Paul was well aware that many in Asia had turned away from him. This sad desertion of friends and congregates was well known. Instead of being dispirited Paul is urging Timothy to be stimulated, refreshed and renewed by God's grace.
5. Now we are ready to see what we can learn from 2Ti 2:14-15.

KJV

2Ti 2:14 Of **these things** put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

5.1 These things from last week were: eternal security doctrine, as a believer we shall live with Him, rule with Him and even if we believe not He abideth faithful.

5.2 These are just some of the things Timothy is to “put them in remembrance.”

NIV

2Ti 2:14 Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.

2Ti 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

6. The best way to study verses 14 and 15 is to review the *Doctrine of the Importance of Doctrine*.

The Importance of Doctrine

Introduction

1. As used in this categorical study, doctrine is the content of Scripture exegeted and taught categorically by a pastor-teacher in a local church. Paul and Timothy have been doing the job that pastor-teachers are supposed to do today.

2Ti 3:16: All scripture is God breathed and is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

2Ti 3:17: In order that the man of God might be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Background

1. Scripture must be interpreted based on a complete and thorough exegesis.

2. 2Pe 1:2-8 summarizes the process for acquiring doctrine. In an earlier study of Peter's second epistle, I exegeted and analyzed verses 2 through 8.

3. Rather than an extensive review, I want to simply present an expanded translation.

Expanded Translation

2Pe 1:2 God's wonderful plan for your life and the peace and stability that comes from that plan, I want it for each of you. However, you must realize it can only come from Bible doctrine metabolized in your soul, where the full knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ becomes more real than reality.

2Pe 1:3 For you see, God's divine power has provided everything that pertains to your life in time. Your spiritual life is a product of the doctrine you have in your soul. God called you for the solitary purpose of glorifying Him.

2Pe 1:4 To facilitate our progress in the Christian life, God has provided in Scripture many great and precious promises; by the inculcation of these marvelous promises, you might become partakers of a divine nature, having escaped the control and domination of your old sin nature.

2Pe 1:5 And because of God's grace, there are several protocols which must be added to your faith in Christ; for example, to your faith you must add the consistent intake of the Word of God and to this virtue you have to keep on adding more doctrine. The transforming of the mind is a never-ending task.

2Pe 1:6 And to your newly acquired doctrine you must add self-control, organized thinking and patience as you continue metabolizing the Word of God, even when it is inconvenient, consistently making application of that which you have learned.

2Pe 1:7 And to that application you must learn to appreciate your very own spiritual life, even while living right smack in the middle of the devil's world. And to this appreciation you must acquire a thorough understanding of God's protocols, some of which are very difficult and illogical. For example, you are to pray for your enemies; you are to do good to those who abuse you; you are to give thanks in all things and you are to pray regularly. You are to use your freedom in Christ as a liberty, not a license.

2Pe 1:8 Now if the protocols listed in verses two through seven are resident in your soul, you will not be devoid of divine good; for these precious promises will make you a living testimony of Him who called you, as His ambassador for time.

4. Now let's study 2Pe 1:9 where the plight of the negative believer is set forth. In verse nine, we find a description of the poor Christian who has not added to his faith i.e. the cast of characters demanded in the first eight verses of 2nd Peter chapter two. Characters such as self-control, organized thinking, patience, gratitude, being a prayer warriors etc.

2Pe 1:9 but he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

4.1 This verse suffers from a translation problem.

4.1.1 "But" is actually a poor translation of **Gar**. **Gar** is better translated "for you see."

4.1.2 The phrase "he that lacketh these things" is better translated "to whom these things are not present." Instead of speaking of the "assembled characters" belonging to the Christian, the verse indicates they may be present, but not his or her settled possession. The play is in progress but there are many characters watching from the wings observing but not participating in the broad-way play.

4.1.3 Because many believers have not followed the protocol plan of God, they wake up in a new world each morning, unaware of their very own spiritual life and oblivious to the fact they have a spiritual sense of destiny.

4.1.4 These negative believers are everywhere today. Our churches are full of them, and, perhaps worse, there are many born-again people who have rejected the church altogether.

4.1.5 The protocol plan of God is perhaps best summarized in our Edification Complex of The Soul chart.

Edification Complex of the Soul Chart

Occupation With Christ

Plus Happiness

Impersonal Love

Love of God

Sense of Destiny

Doctrinal Orientation

Grace Orientation

Faith Rest

Filling of the Spirit

Rebound

Footnote: Remember you start at the bottom with Rebound and you built ultimately attaining the Penthouse call by Col. Theime “the Penthouse-Occupation With Christ.”

4.1.6 The phrase "cannot see afar off" is a translation of **Muopazo**, a word used by Aristotle of a near-sighted man. It was also used by Ecclesiasticus of a man who has seen the light, but blinking he turns away from the light.

4.1.7 Here the word **Muopazo** modifies the word **Tuflos**, translated "blind." The word blind is better "he screws up his eyes because of the light, seeing only things present and not the heavenly things.”

4.1.8 Negative people can't see spiritual things because doctrine is spiritually discerned.

4.1.9 Vincent has written of the blind soul "he cannot see the things of heaven, though he may be quick enough in regard to worldly matters."

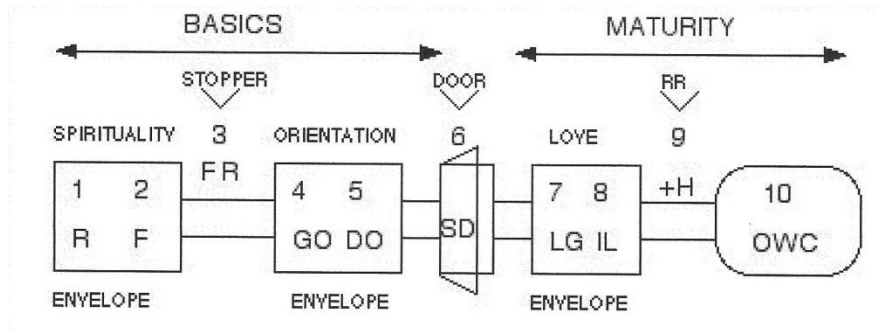
4.1.10 "Hath forgotten" in the Greek text is literally "having taken forgetfulness." The phrase comes from **Lambano Lethe**, which is better translated "having seized a state of forgetfulness, a state of oblivion."

4.1.11 "Purged" is **Katharizo** and means "to be cleansed." This is an apt description of the saint who will not use the two power options.

4.1.12 Continued refusal to take in the Word may result in a believer forgetting he was ever saved.

4.1.13 This Christian is not stone-blind but simply lacks even the basics--a sad situation indeed.

5. The basics are summarized in the *Problem-Solving Device* chart:



6. Now let's leave Second Peter and develop further our subject, "The Importance of Doctrine."

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