

Why do we need doctrine?

1. Doctrine is the backbone of any group

Even in the secular world, we see that for any group to be successful, they need a doctrine. Christian doctrine is the backbone of Christianity. It is established on sound doctrine. The church should not be swayed by wrong teachings that are against the word of God. 2 Tim 4:3 says, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they draw to themselves teachers, having itching ears." Again in Col 2:4, we read, "I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments." Today, people are more interested in hearing things that they want to hear rather than follow the true teaching. We need to be established on sound doctrine to keep ourselves from being deceived by false doctrine or fine sounding arguments.

2. Christian doctrine leads to freedom

We read in 2 Corinthians 4:4 that Satan has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. Obedience to the doctrine can set us free from sins. In Rom 6:17, we read, "But God be thanked, that you were the servants of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you." In John 8:31, 32, Jesus said to His followers, "If you continue in My word, then are you My disciples indeed, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." When we fully obey the sound teachings from the Scriptures, we become free and we are no longer slaves to sin.

3. Christian doctrine leads to destiny

Being a believer, our destiny is to spend eternity in heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the ultimate reward for the faithful and the goal for which we should all strive. Those who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior can possess life here and now as well as in eternity. Choosing to follow Christ and walking the path to eternal life through faith and obedience is a lifelong commitment. If our desire is eternal life, then we should base our lives on sound Christian doctrine.

In a day where erroneous philosophical and theological theories are confusing the Christian community, it is important that the believer is founded upon sound Biblical doctrine. In the New Testament, we see seven apostolic doctrines upon which the church is based:

1. Repentance
2. Baptism in water
3. Baptism of the Holy Spirit
4. The doctrine of the apostles
5. Fellowship
6. Breaking of bread
7. Prayer

While the first three are done only once in a believer's life, the rest are to be done continuously throughout our lives.

It is important to know and practice sound doctrine. It is the very heart of Christian faith. The believer who is well founded in sound doctrine will not be confused by erroneous doctrine and false theories. May God help us to stand firm in the true teachings of the Word of God! ★

editor's desk



"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'" - 2 Cor 12:9

Have you said "No" or came up with excuses when God called you for a specific purpose because you thought you were not ready? Well, you are not alone. Many mighty men in the Scriptures did the same. Saul did so when he was called to be the first king, Gideon did the same, when he was called to take down the idols in his nation. Even Moses was no exception when he was called to deliver his people from Egypt. In fact, Moses was so persistent in his "No" and so confident that he was not the right man for the job, that God finally had to get him Aaron to speak on his behalf.

Are you ready?

If there is one thing that is consistent throughout the Scriptures, it is that God calls people when they are not ready. And, you can be sure when God calls you, you will have similar responses as Saul answered, "But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?" (1 Sam 9:21).

"But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family" (Judg 6:15).

And Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" (Ex 3:11).

When God calls, you will most likely be in the most unlikely circumstances to receive that call. You will be in the midst of a crisis, you will lack resources, you will not have the skills you think you need. This too is the way of God. But like these men in the Scriptures, when you finally decide to answer and obey the call, you achieve great things for the Lord. Because, ultimately your call is based on His ability and not yours!

Welcome to the MFGC family!

We believe that you came here neither by chance nor by yourself, but God has brought you here with a great purpose. We are glad to see you today and we thank you for joining us for worship. Please join us in the coming days, as we commit our lives in prayer, lift our hearts in worship, and extend our hands to serve in His name.

First Time visitor?



Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee, in northeast Israel, is also known as Lake of Gennasaret, Lake Tiberias and Lake Kinneret (owing to its harp-like shape). It is one of the lowest freshwater lakes on earth. The Jordan River flows through it and today this lake is the primary source of water for the nation of Israel. It is well known for its sudden and violent storms caused by its location below the mountains. The Biblical towns and villages of Tiberias, Capernaum, Korazin, Bethsaida and Magdala are all scattered around the Sea of Galilee.

It was on the beautiful shores of the Sea of Galilee that Jesus delivered many of His sermons and performed most of His miracles. It was on this very waters that Jesus walked, it was the storms in this Sea that Jesus calmed. It was here that Jesus called His first disciples, Peter, Andrew, James and John with a promise to make them fishers of men. After His resurrection, it was on the shores of Galilee that Jesus waited for His disciples.

The rabbis of ancient times said of it, "Although God has created seven seas, yet He has chosen this one as His special delight."

Mark Twain who visited here in 1867 wrote of it: "In the starlight, Galilee has no boundaries but the broad compass of the heavens, and is a theatre meet for great events; meet for the birth of a religion able to save the world; and meet for the stately Figure appointed to stand upon its stage and proclaim its high decrees. But in the



Sea of Galilee

sunlight, one says: Is it for the deeds which were done and the words which were spoken in this little acre of rocks and sand eighteen centuries gone, that the bells are ringing to-day in the remote islands of the sea and far and wide over continents that clasp the circumference of the huge globe?" ★