

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:4 – 4:5

Belgic Confession Intro

Singing: 242:1-4 – 213:1-4 – 379:1-3 – 428:3-4

Intro: Teaching doctrines: A time-honored tradition or a divine direction?

TEACHING DOCTRINES

I. The Biblical basis for teaching doctrine II. The Practical method of teaching doctrine III. The Divine promise upon teaching doctrine

I. The Biblical basis for teaching doctrine

A. The Biblical basis as set out in the *pastoral epistles*

1. Teaching sound doctrines is God's will: 1 Tim. 1:3, 10; 1 Tim. 4:6, 13, 16; 1 Tim. 5:17; 6:3; 2 Tim. 3:16; 4:2-3; Titus 1:9; 2:1, 7, 10

2. This instruction is founded on Lord Jesus' example and command

a. His example: Matt. 7:28 - Mark 1:27-28 – John 7:16

b. His command: Matt. 28:20

B. The importance emphasized as in Titus 1:9-10; 13

1. The cultural context is *opposition with false doctrines* (2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3)

2. The three-fold purpose of teaching doctrine

a. 9a: exhort believers

b. 9b: convince opposers (vs. 10: unruly and vain talkers)

c. 11: silence false teachers

3. The method of teaching: *sharply* (vs. 13)

C. God's call to teach 'doctrine' is a timeless charge: 2 Tim. 4:1-4

1. Solid doctrines are the bedrock of a Christian church facing waves of cultural forces seeking to flood away God's church

a. We must not bow to our culture. Culture must bow to Scripture.

2. God's call is to *preach in season and out of season*

3. Any church abandoning Jesus' charge to preach doctrine is doomed to die

II. The Practical Manner of teaching doctrine

A. Our Lord's command: *teach all that I have commanded* (Matt. 28:20)

1. That includes all of inspired Scriptures in OT and NT

2. How to do this most effectively?

B. Paul referred to an elementary form of truths: 2 Tim. 1:13

1. God gracious guided His Church by the Holy Spirit to give us 'deepened and expanded' forms of His truths in creeds, confessions and catechisms.

a. the main Reformed ones:

b. their nature is not *new* revelation but the *echo* of God's revelation

C. God's call in 1 Thess. 5:20-21: *hold fast what is good*

III. God's promise upon teaching doctrine

A. God's promises in Deut. 32:1-2: *faithful teaching doctrine will saturate*

B. God's promise in Is. 55:10-13: *faithful teaching doctrine will transform*

Gems about Doctrine

If you believe what you like in Scripture, and reject you don't like, it is the Scriptures your belief by yourself. (Augustine)

Doctrine without duty is a tree without fruits. Duty without doctrine is a tree without roots. (Chambers)

The end for which God instructs the mind is that he might transform your life. (A. Martin)

Weak doctrines will not be a match for powerful temptations. (W. Plumer)

Men to be truly won must be won by truth. (Spurgeon)