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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..” Acts 16:31a* And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Romans 10:9,10* *“For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13. “Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1*

Sons of Bible Doctrine

“Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.” Proverbs 8:32

It has been said that doctrine divides. It does! It divides the sheep from the goats; the saved from the unsaved; the true believer in Christ from the false Christian. This should be a cause for rejoicing for all true Christians and a warning to those who think they're Christians, but show disdain, even contempt for Bible doctrine. If someone says that they are a believer in Christ, who is the incarnate Word, incarnate Bible Doctrine, and that the God of Bible Doctrine is their God, and that the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of Bible Doctrine, indwells them, how is it that they do not love Bible Doctrine? It does not follow. How do they explain John 16:13 where it talks about the Holy Spirit's ministry of leading God's people into **all** the truth? *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”*

No more should we be influenced by the “siren call” for unity, no more should we fear being labeled “divisive” because we love Bible doctrine, no more think there is something wrong with us because we love Bible Doctrine, for it demonstrates our position in Christ and that we belong to him! The question is not why **we** love Bible Doctrine, why **we** must have it, why **our** souls hunger and thirst for it. The question is why don't those others, who claim to be Christians, love Bible Doctrine? Why is it that they go **away from** Bible Doctrine to follow after religious gimmickry in churches?

Christianity in America is so apostate today, (definitely the Laodicean church is here), it is so full of human good and works of the flesh, and so negative to Bible teaching, that it has an attitude toward those believers who love the Word of God. Not man made religious structures, denominations and activities, but because they love the simple and accurate teaching of God's Word. But the Lord knows those who belong to him, *“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” 2 Timothy 2:19*

Christianity is so caught up in its religiosity, self righteousness and smugness that it has never considered the concept that, if God the Father is the God of Bible Doctrine, and if Jesus Christ is incarnate Doctrine, and if the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Doctrine, and if the Holy Spirit leads all true believers in Christ into the knowledge of Doctrine, then why isn't there a love for Bible doctrine in their souls? The issue in life has always been faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and faith in Bible Doctrine after salvation. The issue has always been the Word of God. What will you do with it?

Let's go back into the Old Testament and see how important this matter of Bible doctrine

is. In Proverbs 8:32 it says, “Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children (**sons**): for blessed are they that keep my ways.” ועתה בנים שמעו לי ואשרי דרכי ישמרו: Listen to me my sons, Wisdom says. This passage defines who we are! It says that **we are sons of wisdom**, or sons of Bible doctrine!

“Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?” Proverbs 8:1 הלא־חכמה

:תתן קולה: the word for wisdom is *chaqmah*, חכמה, which is Bible Doctrine that we have learned, understood, believed and applied to life. The OT Hebrew believer's concept of wisdom was not the philosophical idea that we see today, but one who knew what God wanted us to do, believed it, and then applied to their various situations in life. It was metabolized doctrine applied to life

Wisdom, metabolized Bible doctrine, is speaking to us throughout all of Proverbs chapter eight, and we need to read and understand what it has to say. And then it goes on and specifies who it is talking to and gives us a name. It calls us "Sons of Wisdom", or "Sons of Doctrine", showing that **we belong to Bible Doctrine!** Deep in the souls of all of us is the seeking for identity and the need to have some kind of identity, and here we now have our identity; we are sons of Bible Doctrine. The true believer in Christ identifies with the doctrinal teaching of the Word of God!

The word sons, בנים, *benim*, has several meaning:

1. A literal son.
2. An heir.
3. A grandson.
4. A descendent.
5. A son or daughter.
6. Other relationships.
7. Belonging to a tribe.
8. Belonging to a people.
9. Belonging to a place or land.
10. A figurative expression.
11. Membership in certain social or professional groups.
12. Classifying men in different ethical or moral groups.
13. A person's age, or a period of time.
14. An affectionate address of younger students. In the realm of creation or reproduction, the son was the reproduction of another man.

So what is this telling us? It tells us that we, the true believers in Jesus Christ, are the creation of Bible Doctrine. That we have been brought forth as a new species of human beings by Jesus Christ the Incarnate Truth! James 1:18, “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.” Our very essences is spirit and truth; it is therefore no wonder that truth, Bible Doctrine, is at the very core of our existence.

In Proverbs 8:32 it says to hearken unto me, to listen to me, but what is that saying to us? It is saying that wisdom, or **Bible Doctrine is talking to us and that we are to listen**

intently to what it has to say and apply it to our lives. Every believer in Christ is to be under the sound teaching of the word of God as being taught by a Pastor-Teacher out of a doctrinal local church. He is not to be in a program church, or an emotional based church, or in one of these phony “spiritual” churches, or in some legalistic church, but in a church that accurately teaches the Word of God so that he can get Bible Doctrine!

And why is that? Why is it so important for him to get Bible doctrine? Because he or she are Sons of Doctrine! Just as our physical bodies need material air, food and water to survive and grow, our human spirits need Bible Doctrine and true spiritual concepts to grow. It is who we are! It is what we are! We have a relationship to the truth because we were brought into new existence by the truth! Let's see what the New Testament has to say about this.

John 10 tells us about the Shepherd and his sheep, but there is something very special about these sheep that is mentioned here and that is **their relationship to the voice of their Shepherd**. There is a unique and distinct relationship between the sheep and the voice of their Shepherd. *“But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and **the sheep hear his voice**: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for **they know his voice**. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for **they know not the voice of strangers**.”* John 10:2-4

And what is the voice of the Shepherd? The Word of God! Bible Doctrine! When Christ opens his mouth to speak he is giving us Bible Doctrine! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus Christ is Bible Doctrine incarnate. And to reject Bible Doctrine is to reject Jesus Christ! As the drawing of certain metals to a magnet, so is the drawing of certain people to Bible Doctrine. **We are constantly being drawn by our new natures and the Holy spirit living inside of us back to the source of our existence. We were created by Bible Doctrine and to Bible Doctrine we must return!**

In verse three it says that *the sheep hear his voice*, τα προβατα της φωνης αυτου ακουει. The word to hear, *akouo*, in the present active indicative means that they are listening to his voice. And what is his voice? Bible Doctrine! It tells us that they are under the teaching of the Word of God, **that the sheep are listening to Bible Doctrine**. It is an action that is presently going on; it tells us that it is a reality to them, and it tells us that they are doing it of their own volition. We notice the direct relationship that exists between the sheep and Bible doctrine.

And why wouldn't they? The living, incarnate Word, Jesus Christ created them! The Word in us is drawn to the Word that created us. And not only that, the Holy Spirit who indwells us, is drawing us to Bible Doctrine. He drew us to Jesus Christ, the living Word, before we were saved, and he is still drawing us to his Word after we were saved. The true believer in Christ **must** have the Word of God.

There are many sons, (and daughters), of Doctrine out there in the world, some are under the teaching of Bible Doctrine, and some aren't. To those who are under Doctrine, we find that, for some reason, we can't get away from it. And to those who are not under Doctrine, we also find that the Holy Spirit is there always, **always**, drawing them back to

Bible Doctrine. That is his ministry, that is what he does. His ministry is always connected directly to Bible Doctrine. And why wouldn't it be? He is the Spirit of Bible Doctrine!

And the verse goes on to say that the sheep hear **his** voice! And what is his voice again? It is Bible Doctrine. That is the voice of Jesus Christ. That is how we know instinctively inside that we are listening to Jesus Christ; we know it when we hear the teaching of the Truth, when we hear the teaching of the Word of God, when we hear Bible doctrine. The issue for us is not the men that God uses to teach us Bible doctrine but the doctrine itself! Churches today are utilizing every gimmick in the world to attract people to their ministries: programs, lonely hearts clubs, entertainment, prosperity goals, financial rewards, emotional gratification, recognition and the like, but the true sheep are attracted to Bible doctrine. **It is their Master's voice!**

It also says that they *know his voice*, *οτι οιδασιν την φωνην αυτου*. As the mother knows the sound of her baby, as a child knows the sound of its parents, as a dog knows the sound of its master, so does the sheep know the sound of its shepherd. True believers in Christ know the voice of their master, the Lord Jesus Christ. What is his voice? Truth! Bible Doctrine!

The word for know is *oida* and it means to have a full and complete knowledge on the subject. We don't need instruction in this matter; we don't need some church or religious figure to tell us what to look for. We instinctively know deep down inside the sound of our Savior's voice and it is the teaching of the Word of God. And why do we know this? Because the God of Truth and the Son of Truth and the Spirit of Truth live inside us! We were created by the Truth and to the doctrinal teaching of the Truth we respond!

And **they do not know the voice of strangers**, *οτι ουκ οιδασιν των αλλοτριων την φωνην*. Once again *oida* is used, along with *ouk*, emphatic negation, to drive home the point that there is no recognition on the part of the believer in Christ of non-doctrinal concepts. Strangers, *allos*, is someone who does not belong to you. He is not of your family, your people, your nation, etc.. A stranger here refers to those who are unsaved who teach false doctrine. The sheep know that these people are not one of them and they do not listen to their teachings. They want Bible Doctrine!

The sheep have a more difficult time in apostasy because they go from church to church seeking, hoping that they will find something that their souls need, but don't find it. They don't always know what it is that they are looking for, only that they have a deep unfulfilled need that is not satisfied by the normal religious institutions find in society. They find legalism, formalism, ritualism, emotionalism, entertainment, social activism and many other things, but the one thing they don't find is the Bible Doctrine that their souls need! Why? Because most churches don't teach Bible Doctrine! How many believers wander from church to church to find the Word of God but don't?

Many are deceived by all this; they are deceived by the friendly people, the cordial pastor, the pleasant surroundings, the appealing to their egos, etc. and end up in a life of works and human good, but never have the spiritual growth that God intended for them. And there is always that emptiness of soul because their needs are not being met by the

teaching of Bible Doctrine. A word to the wise, if you are under a ministry that teaches Bible Doctrine, then you better not allow yourself to get caught up in the things of the world and drift away from it. And, if you are not under the doctrinal teaching of God's Word, then you need to find it and stay under it the rest of your life..

You see the Sons of Doctrine need Bible Doctrine because they were born again to a new life by the God of Doctrine. Our very essence is Bible Doctrine and the Spirit of the living God. **Religion may please the flesh and tickle our fancies**, but it will never supply what we need on the inside, only God's Word will provide that.

And God in his grace has already supplied everything that his Sons of Doctrine need. He has given us his infallible Word, the indwelling Holy Spirit, the local church, whose purpose is to teach Bible doctrine to God's people, the spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher who teaches Bible Doctrine and so many other things.

The spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher has two functions; he teaches Bible Doctrine and he shepherds God's sheep. They are the individual Pastors that God puts over his various flocks and they are all under the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. They love Christ; they love the flock given to them; and they love Bible Doctrine.

But not so the *hireling*. *“But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.”* ο μισθωτος δε και ουκ ων ποιμην ου ουκ εισιν τα προβατα ιδια θεωρει τον λυκον ερχομενον και αφησιν τα προβατα και φευγει και ο λυκος αρπαζει αυτα και σκορπιζει τα προβατα John 10:12 *“The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.”* ο δε μισθωτος φευγει οτι μισθωτος εστιν και ου μελει αυτω περι των προβατων John 10:13

The word *hireling* is an Old English word and its modern day meaning is an **employee, one who works for a corporation**. Now being an employee isn't necessarily a bad thing; most people are employees working for one company or another. They work for companies or corporations and trade their time and skills for money. **But when it comes to Christ's Church there is no place for employees!** Yet Christianity in America today is full of men, and sometimes women, who are employees for religious corporations.

In verse thirteen it says that the employee does not *care, melo*, for the sheep, which means to care about someone or to be concerned them, their health, well being, etc.. So what does the hireling care about? Well it's obviously not the sheep, so it's something else: money, fame, recognition, power, human good, emotional concepts, or many other things.

If they really did care about the sheep they would be doing for the sheep what the sheep need more than anything...**they would feed their souls with Bible Doctrine!** But they don't do that; they don't even know how to do it, and what's more they could care less in most instances. So they keep the sheep busy, they entertain them, and a variety of many other things that religious people posing as Christians do to keep the appearances of Christianity. They do just about everything under the sun except the one thing shepherds are supposed to do and that is teach Bible Doctrine to God's flock!

And when the employee sees the wolf coming he runs! He's not going to get chewed up in defending some church; he's a paid employee and he'll just go on to some other "franchise" set up and work there! And in some cases the employees are the wolves! But the true shepherds will fight for their flocks and their churches. When the wolves come into these churches the true Pastor Teachers see these types skulking around and deal with them. Why? Because they are not paid employees for some religious corporation. These men, and there are many of them, love Jesus Christ; they love Bible Doctrine and they love and will fight for the flocks entrusted into their care.

There is an expression that has been around for years, and that is "to beware of wolves in sheep's clothing". A wolf in sheep's clothes refers to unsaved people posing as Christians. They come into and join the churches; they get on church deacon boards; they teach in their Sunday Schools; they even take over the pulpits. They pose as believers in Christ, but have never been born again! And the one visible thing they all have in common is that they are negative to Bible Doctrine!

During the Last Days, when the Beast and False Prophet take over the entire world, we will see that the False Prophet will pass himself off as a Christian! *"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had **two horns like a lamb**, and he spake as a dragon."* Revelation 13:11 This is not a rare occurrence for ever since the beginning of the Church Age the penetration by unbelievers into the local church passing themselves off as Christians has been a major problem. All the Apostles had to deal with it and it is still going on today. What drives them out of the local church is the day in day out teaching of Bible doctrine. The sheep love it, but the wolves despise it.

As always, forgiveness of sins, salvation and the guarantee of resurrection to eternal life is given as a gift to all those who believe on Jesus Christ as their Savior. You must believe that Jesus is the son of God, that he died on the cross for your sins and was raised again from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of God in heaven. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* John 3:16 *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."* Romans 10:9 *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* Romans 10:13

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