

## Does Doctrine Matter?

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***Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. (Heb. 8:1-5)***

God commanded Moses to construct the tabernacle exactly as shown to him by the Lord. This was essential because even though God does not dwell in a house made with hands, and even though the tabernacle was a SHADOW of spiritual reality – and not the reality itself – it nevertheless represented the Truth.

In this there is a principle pertaining to true Christian doctrine. Truth is a Person. Jesus Christ does not dwell in doctrines. In and of itself, doctrine is not alive – for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life. (II Cor. 3:6) But nevertheless, my doctrine represents Jesus Christ. Therefore, true doctrine is essential. It rightly represents God and His Son Jesus Christ.

In the NT, doctrine means TRUTH. And there is only ONE Truth. The Bible is the written Truth. Jesus Christ is the Living Truth. Therefore, how I interpret the written Truth is what I believe about the Living Truth. This means that true doctrine states the Truth about God. False doctrine lies about Him. This issue is just that important.

Those who say that doctrine doesn't matter are actually stating, "their doctrine." And it is nonsense, for it is not possible for a human being to believe NOTHING. No. If I say that doctrine does not matter then my doctrine is that doctrine does not matter. I am saying that God does not care about doctrine and therefore we need not care about it. Nothing could be more contrary to the NT – and such thinking is usually the result of some point of unbelief.

The fact is, if we are coming into a knowledge and realization of Jesus Christ, and having our minds renewed accordingly, we will more and more express the Truth. We will express it through our living and in our relationships. But this is not going to be mindless. We will THINK the Truth. We will SPEAK the Truth. We will SHARE the Truth. This will not be merely the letter. It will be an expression of Jesus Christ through an earthen vessel. We will live what we believe – and we will communicate what we believe – for what we believe IS our doctrine.

It is certainly possible to hold to true doctrine as to the letter, but to have little or no faith in the Living Jesus Christ. But if we are in Christ, and experiencing Him, our minds will be renewed according to Christ – and what will emerge is true doctrine. We will either newly discover the Truth or be corrected by the Truth. In the end, what we believe as to doctrine will rightly represent God and His plan and purpose in Christ.

