

DOCTRINE FOR THE REAL WORLD

HOW SPIRITUAL REALITY AFFECTS YOUR LIFE

“For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?”

~ Luke 9:25

1. Introduction

- a. The question raised is how does right doctrine help us in the real world?
- b. What use is the spiritual truth of the Bible in a physical world that rejects it?
- c. Most people think spiritual things, they think: be nice, grandma, ghosts, heaven.
- d. We are going to learn what spiritual things are and their profit to us in the here and now.

2. What is the Real World

- a. Real ~ *def.* – Actually being/existing; not fictitious or imaginary; describes real life; true.
- b. Do you think real life is physical and natural, and spiritual is only in our mind?
- c. We have all *spiritual* blessings - Eph 1:3, but don't we all want physical ones?
- d. You are something more than this physical world - Luk 9:25, 12:15; 1Ti 4:8, 1Co 2:11-14
- e. Without spiritual understanding God seems cruel, absent, distant, cold, uninvolved
- f. People think Bible doctrine is not relevant in the real world, b/c: 1) they live life for themselves; 2) they speak a different language; 3) They have not seen it work.

3. What is Doctrine

- a. This is only found in church, right? The Bible is profitable for doctrine – 2 Tim 3:16
- b. Doctrine ~*def.* instruction, knowledge, a teaching. Prov 4:1-2
- c. Doctrine (teaching, ideas, principles) form how people think and act.
- d. Teaching is meaningless except it be true – Rom 3:1-4
- e. Do you have these questions: who am I, how do I know, what is most important, what should I do, what will happen? ← Every person supplies answers to these from doctrine.
- f. What is real life? Sleep, eat/drink, work, clean, earn money, children, play games; watch things, listen to music, travel places; health, wealth, pleasure, right? ←driven by doctrine
- g. The prevailing cultural doctrine=“follow your heart”,“do what you feel”,“be/love yourself”
- h. The world's doctrine is you before God, your interests before his, your will not his.

4. The Need for Spiritual Truth

- a. How to apply doctrine to your real life:
 - i. 1) Let God be true; 2) learn the language; 3) put it to practice – own it.
- b. Teach no other doctrine, but sound doctrine - 1 Tim 1:3, Titus 1:9
- c. Wrong doctrine can carry us away from truth - Eph 4:14
- d. People think truth is limiting and their doctrine is freeing – but it is a lie.
- e. You need spiritual truth to resolve life's biggest problems – Rom 8:6
- f. Life is spiritual, not only natural. You need to learn true doctrine to live in the real world.