

THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

The word, “doctrine,” is translated from two Greek root words: one meaning “words” and the other defined as “teachings”. Jesus, Himself, is the pure embodiment of the Word. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:1-3, 14). Jesus is also the fulfillment of the words of the Old Law. “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (Mat. 5:17-18).

The question then, is, what words did Jesus teach? Jesus said, “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching** them to observe **all things whatsoever I have commanded** you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Mat. 28:18-20). The inspired men who penned the books of the New Testament only had authority to teach that which Jesus taught them. These men were also commanded to teach **ALL THINGS** that Christ commanded them to teach. Therefore, the only logical conclusion that can be made is that all New Testament words, which were penned by inspired men, were by the authority and command of the Christ and therefore all New Testament words are Christ’s teachings. “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us **by His Son**, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds” (Heb. 1:1-2, emphasis B.G.).

There are several false views promoted in regards to the Doctrine of Christ. Perhaps the most prominent is the teaching that the Doctrine of Christ is actually the doctrine **ABOUT** Christ. This view is an attempt to eliminate works of obedience in relationship to salvation. If abiding in the Doctrine of Christ only means faith in the incarnated Christ and His ministry on Earth, then all those who believe in Jesus and His ministry are in fellowship with God (2 John 9). Inspiration defines the Doctrine of Christ as much more than just the life of Christ and His works. The record of Acts 8:35-38 dictates that confessing “that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37), and water baptism (Acts 8:38) are included in preaching Jesus (Acts 8:35).

Another false view is that the Doctrine of Christ only consists of the words which are printed in red. Friends, the color of the type nor the font of the print were inspired by God. The words themselves are God’s, the art of printing belongs to men. The first “red letter” edition of the Bible was not printed until 1900 and was the product of a magazine editor, Louis Klopsch.

A third false teaching in regards to the Doctrine of Christ is that the Four Gospels, (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), are not a part of the New Testament. They assert that since the context and events recorded in these books occurred during the Mosaic Law, that the books should be considered a part of the Old Testament. The proponents of this view are, primarily, attempting to dismiss Jesus’ teachings about Marriage, Divorce, and Re-Marriage (Mat. 5:32; 19:9). There are many flaws to this false doctrine. One, the Gospels were all written between 60-65 AD. Jesus nailed the Old Testament to the cross (Col. 2:14) some 30 years earlier. What

sense does it make to think that 30 years after nailing an old system of law to the cross, that Jesus would add four more books? Second, all of the books of the New Testament were either written around the same time or before the four Gospels. Common sense demands that we acknowledge the Gospels as “the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1).

Let us accept the entirety of the New Testament as the Doctrine of Christ, rightly divide the word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:15), and abide therein, so that we may have fellowship with God (2 John 9).

- *Brad Green*