

# *Biblical Christianity*

What Do You Believe?

# Christian Belief

- **What do you believe about God?**
- **What do you believe about Jesus?**
- **What do you believe about the Scripture?**
- **What do you believe about the Virgin Birth?**
- **What do you believe about Original Sin?**
- **What do you believe about Salvation?**
- **What do you believe about the Church?**
- **What do you believe about Doctrine?**
- **What do you believe about Man?**

# Belief's Foundation

## II Peter 1:16

**16** For we did not follow cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

**19** And we have the word of prophecy *made* more sure; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts: **20** knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation. **21** For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

# Why Do You Believe What You Believe?

- What do you believe?
- Is what you believe objectively verifiable?
- Are your biblical beliefs grounded on a solid foundation?
  - Is there evidence in the bible for what you believe?
  - Does the bible support it consistently? (*Systematic Theology*)
  - Is there historical support? (*Historical Theology*) Is the support universal, binding, or hortatory (encouraged by strong urging but not binding)?
  - Is your belief consistent?/Is it flawed? Is it biblical and objective/is it sentimental and subjective? (*Hermeneutics*=study of correct methods of interpretation; *Exegesis*=the process of interpreting of a text).

**Historical theology:** is a branch of theological studies that investigates the socio-historical and cultural mechanisms that give rise to theological ideas, systems, and statements.

**Systematic Theology:** any study that ans. The question, ‘What does the whole Bible teach us today?’ about any given topic (if on a particular topic = doctrine).

# Inspired teaching

## II Tim 2:14-15

**14** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, **15** and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

# Inspired Study

## I Tim 2:14-18

**14** Of these things put *them* in remembrance, charging *them* before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, *but* to the subverting of the hearers. **15** Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**16** But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

**Dogmatic Theology:** The official theology of an organized church body. The term "dogmatic theology" became more widely used following the Protestant Reformation and was used to designate the articles of faith that the Church had officially formulated. A good example of dogmatic theology is the doctrinal statements or dogmas that were formulated by the early church councils who sought to resolve theological problems and to take a stance against a heretical teaching, The Apostles Doctrine which Paul made clear by the distribution of letters called Epistles.

# Historic Faith

## Jude 3

3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

- What did the Prophets teach about God and His Kingdom?
- What did the Apostles teach concerning Jesus and doctrine?
- What has the church in it's tradition universally confirmed?
- What beliefs are binding in order to be a Christian?
- Is the church a God established community or is it a preference?
- Has God invested authority , appointed leaders, established law and church government, and separated His people from the world for establishment and accomplishment of divine purposes?

# Is there Criteria and Accountability

## I Cor 5:6, 12

**6** Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? **7** Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are.

**12** What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? **13** God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."<sup>[</sup>

Difficult and Thorny issues: W. Grudem, (ME) **“The role of teachers/scholars”**: 1. They can teach scripture clearly and systematically, 2. They can explore new areas of understanding while remaining biblically sound, 3. They can defend the teachings of the Bible against specially trained false teachers, 4. They can supplement and undergird the study of Scripture for the benefit of the church.

# Christian Community-A Standard & Example

## I Thess 2: 13, 14

**13** And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. **14** For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus.

Issues in **Ecclesiology**: Jerry Solomon

The universal church (Eph. 1:22-23)

The local church (Rev. 2:1; 3:1,7,14)

Church government (I Tim. 3:1-7)

Sacraments/ordinances (Rom. 6:1-5, 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

Challenge to Ecclesiology: *Privatization*

There is no such thing as religion, there's only God, which is truth. Organized religion is a lie ... particularly the Christian church.

# Be Diligent & Steadfast

## II Peter 3:14-18

**14** Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for these things, give diligence that ye may be found in peace, without spot and blameless in his sight. **15** And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote unto you; **16** as also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; wherein are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unstedfast wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. **17** Ye therefore, beloved, knowing *these things* beforehand, beware lest, being carried away with the error of the wicked, ye fall from your own steadfastness. **18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

- **Biblical Theology**-seeks to analyse and synthesize the Bible's teaching about God and his relations to the world based on its own terms definitions, maintaining sight of the Bible's overarching history and narrative with Christ centered focus. Paraphrase Morgan (Brian Rosner, 'Biblical Theology,' in *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*)
- *It* studies the Bible from the perspective of understanding the *progressive history* of God revealing Himself to humanity following the Fall and throughout the OT and NT.
- **Dogmatic Theology**The official theology of an organized church body. The term "dogmatic theology" became more widely used following the Protestant Reformation and was used to designate the articles of faith that the Church had officially formulated. A good example of dogmatic theology is the doctrinal statements or dogmas that were formulated by the early church councils who sought to resolve theological problems and to take a stance against a heretical teaching