**Abide in the Doctrine of Christ by Paul Sain Spiritual Sword**

 **April 2013 pages 37-40**

**Stories: Being lost and needing directions**

 **Car being diagnosed by the mechanic**

**Question: If we blindly accept what someone of this world tells us about things here on earth, then why do we not accept what the Bible tells us to do spiritually to save us a spot in Heaven?**

**Possible Answers:**

**Feelings,**

**What we have always believed,**

 **The way we were brought up,**

 **Don’t like some people in a particular church,**

 **Accept a teaching that will allow you to continue living the way you want to,**

**Don’t want to be tied down,**

 **When you read a translation you read it because (it’s easier to read—when it is a translation by man and may leave out many sound verses that God requires for us today)**

**Why Must We Abide in the Doctrine of Christ?**

**Why Not?**

**II John 9: “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”**

**John 8:44**

**False teachers of the day in the first century were teaching that Christ did not come in the flesh to this earth. This very teaching comes from the father of lies, Satan himself. Some today have the same mindset.**

**Gnostics in the first century claimed that they had a superior way of thinking which gave them a superior knowledge far above the teachings of the gospel.**

**When John used the Greek term translated as transgresseth, he spoke of one who has**

**Gone too far**

**Goes onward**

**Advances beyond the doctrine of Christ**

**When one does this they go too far and places their hearers in danger of being deceived and believing a lie. One who does this creates a heresy.**

**Abide Means What?**

**A dictionary definition might say:**

**Accept or act in accordance with a rule, decision, or recommendation**

**Bear patiently**

**Remain stable or fixed in a state**

**Endure, dwell or sojourn.**

**Sometimes it has the definition or idea of “Holding on to, and not leaving a realm, sphere, or custom which one had previously adhered.**

**In our text however it means: “To remain, exist with, accept as authority the doctrine of Christ.**

**Doctrine Means What?**

**In I, II, and III John there are distinct key words that have commonality.**

 **The Truth-- I John 3:19; 4:6; II John 1-4; III John 1, 3-4, 8, 12**

**The Commandments—I John 2: 7-8; 3:11, 23; 4:21; 5:2-3; II John 4-6;**

**The Doctrine of Christ: II John 9-10;**

**The Doctrine of Christ can refer both to the teaching and the doctrine. John 7:16-17**

**Jesus taught his disciples the truth while here on earth: John 16:13**

**Acts 2:42 After Pentecost the disciples devoted themselves to the apostle’s teachings.**

**That teaching of Christ came from the Holy Spirit, the same doctrine we are to teach and adhere to today.**

**Christ’s teaching is alive today; Romans 1:16; and Hebrews 4:12;**

**Christ’s teaching has been providentially preserved and must not be contaminated by synods, presbyteries, councils, or conventions.**

**The same word translated doctrine in II John is found in Paul’s charge in Romans 16:17.**

**John 14: 25-26**

**We are blessed to have the complete inspired word of God today.**

**II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:3**

**Jesus does not change.**

**Hebrews 13:8**

**Jesus’s word does not change.**

**John 12:48; Matthew 24:35**

**Of Christ Means What?**

**Subjectively it means—the doctrine Christ taught.**

**Objectively it means—the doctrine about Christ**

**Most respected scholars conclude that “Of Christ” is subjective in nature and refers to the doctrine that Christ taught and authorized.**

**When considering this one must understand in Acts 2:42 where it speaks of “they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine,” to mean the doctrine about the apostles, yet it may be properly rendered, “The doctrine of the apostles.”**

**The apostles were ambassadors for Christ to whom God committed the word of reconciliation (II Corinthians 15:1-4).**

**The word or reconciliation was the gospel. It involved more than the coming of Christ in the flesh. (I Corinthians 15:1-4).**

**Acts 5:28 The Jewish Council understood that the doctrine the apostles were teaching was by Christ’s authority.**

**If one transgresseth the doctrine of Christ they cannot be saved.**

**As Christians we must:**

**Walk in the light, the truth**

**Have love for our brethren**

**Refrain from the love of the world**

**Not live in sin, avoid it**

**Live righteously**

**Keep the commandments of God**

**Maintain a fellowship with the Father and the Son**

**The Doctrine of Christ=The One Faith**

**Ephesians 4:4-6**

**There is ONE body**

**There is ONE spirit**

**There is ONE hope**

**There is ONE lord**

**There is ONE faith**

**There is ONE baptism**

**There is ONE God and Father of all**

**Having the right doctrine is soul determining, eternally important.**

**The early church understood the Lord’s doctrine was the standard. (I Cor 2:12-13; I Thess: 2:13; Gal. 1:6-8)**

**Paul Charged Timothy to preach the Word and cautioned him from straying from the truth. (II Tim 4:1-4; 3:13).**

**Any man or woman who teaches the Word of God to anyone must be careful because they will give an account to God for what they teach. (I Tim. 4:13-16)**

**Anyone who preaches can be free from man’s blood only if he tells the whole truth. (Acts 20:26)**

**Apollos taught about Jesus but did not teach sound doctrine. (Acts 18:25-26)**

**The Doctrine of Christ is:**

**Having both the Father and the Son**

**Being familiar with the Word**

**Is one who continually dwells and abides in the Word**

**Is a means of testing others of their spiritual identity**

**POINT: To condone or fellowship one not bringing the “doctrine of Christ,” results in that person being a partaker of his evil deeds.**

 **(II John 10-11)**

**Transgresseth Means What?**

**A violation of a command or law; go beyond a boundary or limit. The doctrine of Christ is the established limit or authority.**

**Hath Not God Means What?**

**If we have not God we are not in a covenant relationship and thus not in fellowship with God. If we advocate false doctrine, transgress (sin) condone false doctrines or practices of others, then we do not have God!**

**Today Christians sin because of their failure to stand for the doctrine of Christ and against doctrines of men. Too many times we have an attitude of “let’s just leave them alone and let them do whatever they want.”**

**This is the wrong attitude about this and we will burn for our lack of stand for the truth.**