Jude 3 Missions Bible Study—Bible #1 How to Understand and Interpret the Bible

- Why do we need to study our Bible?
 - A. Our doctrines have a divine origin (John 7:16).
 - B. Our doctrines are outlined in Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16).
- I. Devotion to sound doctrine is vital to our faith.
 - A. We must continue in sound doctrine (1 Timothy 4:16).
 - We guard doctrine by the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 1:13-14).
 - C. We hold sound doctrine (Titus 1:9).
- II. The doctrines that affect salvation are what we call essential doctrine.
 - A. It directly affects our relationship to God (1 John 2:23-24).
 - B. It must center on the true Jesus, the true Holy Spirit, and the true Gospel (2 Corinthians 11:4; Galatians 1:6-9).
- IV. Bible teachers bear a heavy responsibility to teach doctrine correctly.
 - A. We will be judged by our teaching (James 3:1).
 - B. Our words should emulate the words of Jesus (1Timothy 6:1-5).
- V. However, some variation on "non-essential" doctrines (doctrines other than salvation matters) is permissible between Christian believers without affecting our standing with God (Romans 14:1-5; Colossians 2:16; 1 Corinthians 13:9-10 – we know in part).
- VI. Is sound doctrine a matter of interpretation?
 - A. There are proper and improper ways to approach Scripture. As evangelical Christians we stand for the literal interpretation in contrast to liberal and allegorical interpretations.
 - 1. The Bible is God's infallible word (Hebrews 6:18).
 - 2. We must use proper rules for interpretation, which are exemplified by Jesus and the Apostles. We take the Bible literally in its historicalgrammatical sense.

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