

# Introduction

## KEY POINTS AND VERSES

---

**Summary:** Doctrine is teaching. Everyone has an idea or teaching about Christianity, God and Religion—even if no one taught them. Christian Doctrine is teaching what the Church has believed and taught for 2,000 years: not the made up stuff but what God has taught the Church from the beginning in his Word (2 Tim 3:15-17). Remember, not all doctrines/teachings are equally critical. Some are central to salvation (like the teaching that God exists) while others are honestly held by many Christians.

**Lesson:** We study doctrine so that:

1. We KNOW what we believe:
  - Ephesians 4:14 to not get carried away with wild Doctrines
  - Jeremiah 9:24; 1 Cor 1:31 Know the Lord
2. We can be NOURISHED
  - 1 Timothy 4:6
3. We can BE READY to answer
  - 1 Peter 3:15
4. We can SAVE HEARERS
  - 1 Timothy 4:16
5. We PROPERLY REPRESENT God
  - 2 Cor 5:20 Ambassadors of Christ
  - Exodus 17 vs Num 20:10-13 Meribah
6. We can FUTURE-PROOF
  - 2 Timothy 4:3 Some will come not able to endure Sound Doctrine
  - Titus 1:9 Able to give instruction in Sound Doctrine and refute those who contradict it.

## GO DEEPER

---

**Question:** 1. Parts of Christianity have come up with all sorts of new beliefs over these last two-thousand years—some helpful, some not. Why do you think some doctrine isn't actually helpful? Read 2 Tim 3:15-17 and Romans 16:17-20

2. Are there things you believe about God that no one taught you? Like what?