

The



Principles  
of the



Doctrine  
of



Christ

Lesson 1:

The Doctrine of Christ

If a building is going to be strong, it must be built on a solid foundation.  
In order to grow spiritually, we also need to a solid doctrinal foundation.



Without a structure to build on,  
all the teachings we hear are like an  
assortment of puzzle pieces.

How do they fit together?  
What picture do they form?  
Do all these pieces even belong?

This is the purpose of this class – to learn the foundational truths that true Christian doctrine is built on.

This first lesson is presented in four parts:



Ye Shall Know Them  
By Their Fruits



The Wise Man's  
House



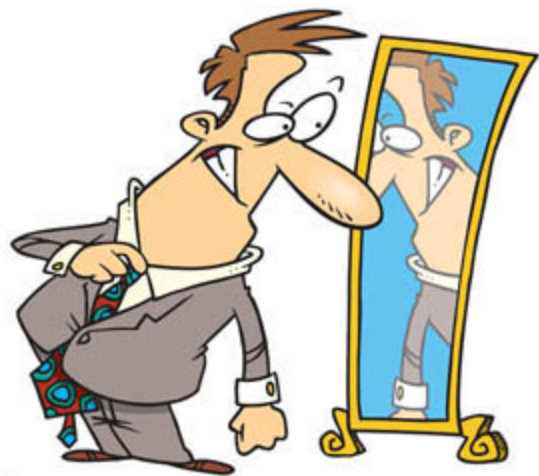
THE DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL JUDGMENT  
THE DOCTRINE OF RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD  
THE DOCTRINE OF THE LAYING ON OF HANDS  
THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS  
FAITH TOWARD GOD  
REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

## The Principles of The Doctrine



**The Milk and  
The Meat**





Every Christian should want to know that his life is pleasing to God. That is why the Bible tells us to examine the quality of our faith.

**2 Corinthians 13:5a**

<sup>5</sup> **Examine yourselves**, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves ...



But how can we know if we are “in the faith”?  
What kind of proof should we see?

Should it be a trouble-free life?  
A life of perfect health?  
A life of financial abundance?

Perhaps you think it is a life entirely void of sin?



Ye Shall Know Them  
By Their Fruits

Jesus said that people are like trees – you know them by their fruits. You know what is INSIDE a person by what comes OUT of him.

### **Matthew 7:15-17**

- <sup>15</sup> Beware of false prophets,  
which come to you in sheep's clothing,  
but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
- <sup>16</sup> **Ye shall know them by their fruits.**  
Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
- <sup>17</sup> Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit;  
but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.



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but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Good or bad, your fruit is on display for everyone to see.



Man's fallen nature is a corrupt tree.  
This corrupt tree bears evil fruit.

### **Galatians 5:19-21a**

- <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
- <sup>20</sup> Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
- <sup>21</sup> Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like:





The new nature of Christ is a good tree.  
A good tree bears good fruit.

### Galatians 5:22-23

- <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
- <sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.





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against such there is no law.

God never forbids or limits these attributes.





When your life is filled with the fruit of the Spirit, you bring glory to God and show the world you are a disciple of Christ.

**John 15:8**

<sup>8</sup> Herein is my Father glorified,  
that ye bear much fruit;  
so shall ye be my disciples.







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If you want your life to be pleasing to God, your life must be filled with the good fruit of the Spirit.

**Colossians 1:10**

<sup>10</sup> That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, **being fruitful in every good work,** and increasing in the knowledge of God;





Ye Shall Know Them  
By Their Fruits

So how do we get this fruit?

It is evident in our lives when we abide in Christ.

**John 15:4**

<sup>4</sup> **Abide in me**, and I in you.

As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself,  
except it abide in the vine;  
no more can ye **abide in me**.



Ye Shall Know Them  
By Their Fruits

To *abide* somewhere is to make it your home.  
This is much more than being an occasional visitor.

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Ye Shall Know Them  
By Their Fruits

Christ abides in you by his Spirit.

We abide in Christ when his WORDS abide in us and govern our behavior.

**John 15:7**

- <sup>7</sup> If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.



Ye Shall Know Them  
By Their Fruits

Christ abides in you by his Spirit.  
We abide in Christ when his WORDS abide in us and govern our behavior.

**John 15:7**

- <sup>7</sup> If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,  
ye shall ask what ye will,  
and it shall be done unto you.

Your requests will be granted because they are in harmony with the will of God.



Ye Shall Know Them  
By Their Fruits

We abide in Christ when we abide in his love.  
We abide in his love when we keep his commandments.

**John 15:10**

<sup>10</sup> If ye keep my commandments,  
ye shall abide in my love;  
even as I have kept my Father's commandments,  
and abide in his love.





Ye Shall Know Them  
By Their Fruits

These truths come together in John 14:

**John 14:23-24a**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him,

**If a man love me, he will keep my words:**

and my Father will love him,

and we will come unto him,

and make our abode with him.

<sup>24</sup> **He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings...**





The Wise Man's  
House

Jesus said that obeying his word was like building a house on a solid foundation.

**Luke 6:47-49**

47 Whosoever cometh to me,  
and heareth my sayings,  
and doeth them,  
I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which built an  
house, and digged deep,  
and laid the foundation on a rock:  
and when the flood arose,  
the stream beat vehemently upon  
that house, and could not shake it:  
for it was founded upon a rock.

49 But he that heareth, and doeth not,  
is like a man that without a  
foundation built an house upon the  
earth;  
against which the stream did beat  
vehemently, and immediately it fell;  
and the ruin of that house was  
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<sup>49</sup> But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

We must 1) come to Jesus, 2) hear his sayings, and 3) do them.



Jesus said that obeying his word was like building a house on a solid foundation.

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great.

Both men heard. Only one obeyed.



The wise man dug down until he reached the rock.

A wooden door is set within a stone archway. The arch is constructed from large, dark grey, roughly-hewn stones. The door itself is made of wood and features a decorative, arched panel with a central vertical groove. Above the door, a wooden lintel is inscribed with the words "MINE SHAFT" in a simple, hand-carved font. The background consists of a steep, layered rock face with horizontal strata in shades of brown and orange.

MINE SHAFT

You only find the  
DEEP things of God  
by digging!



The man built his foundation on that rock.



Then he built his house on that foundation.





The foolish man built his house directly on the sand.



From the outside, both houses looked the same.



A terrible storm hit both houses.



The rain washed away the ground.



Only the house built on the rock remained standing!

In this parable told by Jesus, the **ROCK** is THE LORD.



**2 Samuel 22:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> ... **The LORD is my rock**, and my fortress, and my deliverer;

<sup>3</sup> **The God of my rock**; in him will I trust...

Jesus is the **FOUNDATION** of all that is true.

**1 Corinthians 3:11**

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid,  
which is Jesus Christ.



The troubles of life will come against us,  
but when our life is built on Jesus Christ, we will stand!





THE DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL JUDGMENT  
THE DOCTRINE OF RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD  
THE DOCTRINE OF THE LAYING ON OF HANDS  
THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS  
FAITH TOWARD GOD  
REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

## The Principles of The Doctrine

We build a good foundation in our lives when we come to the Lord and hear and obey “his sayings.”  
The sayings of the Son is the word of the Father.

### John 14:24

<sup>24</sup> He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings:  
and the word which ye hear is not mine,  
but the Father's which sent me.

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The Principles of  
The Doctrine

If we want a fruitful relationship with the Son and his Father, we must know and abide in the doctrine of Christ.

## 2 John 1:9

- 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.

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Christians should not listen to or encourage anyone who preaches a different doctrine:

## 2 John 1:10-11

- <sup>10</sup> If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed:
- <sup>11</sup> For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

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To bid him “God speed” is to wish him success.

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When Paul wrote about people who preach a different gospel, he did not speak kindly of them. He said, “Let him be accursed!”

### Galatians 1:8-9

- <sup>8</sup> But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed.**
- <sup>9</sup> As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

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We cannot recognize FALSE doctrine until we know what is TRUE. **The principles** or fundamental truths **of the doctrine of Christ** are listed in the book of Hebrews.

### Hebrews 6:1-2

- 1 Therefore leaving **the principles of the doctrine of Christ**, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,
- 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

The Principles of  
The Doctrine



If you want to learn to read, you must first learn the alphabet. If you want to learn about God, you must begin with the principles of the doctrine of Christ.

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**The Principles of  
The Doctrine**



AFTER we learn these principles, we are ready to leave them behind and grow into spiritual maturity.

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You don't need to build the foundation twice.

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**The Milk and  
The Meat**



The Bible speaks of two kinds of spiritual food: the milk and the strong meat. The milk is for new Christians. The meat is for Christians who have grown up spiritually.

### **Hebrews 5:13-14**

- <sup>13</sup> For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.
- <sup>14</sup> But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.



**The Milk and  
The Meat**





The *milk* of Christianity are the basic truths, things that are easy to understand. God is light. God is love. Jesus is Lord.



The deep things of God – the things that take more time to understand – are the *meat*. You must chew on meat before you can swallow it.



There are many Christians who have been following Christ long enough to be teaching others, but they are still feeding from the breast.

### **Hebrews 5:12**

<sup>12</sup> For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.



**The Milk and  
The Meat**



This is something beautiful.





This is something beautiful.



THIS IS NOT!



**The Milk and  
The Meat**

If we want to understand the deep things of God,  
we must advance beyond a diet of spiritual milk.

**Isaiah 28:9-10**

- <sup>9</sup> Whom shall he teach knowledge?  
and whom shall he make to understand doctrine?  
*them that are weaned from the milk,  
and drawn from the breasts.*
- <sup>10</sup> For precept *must be* upon precept,  
precept upon precept;  
line upon line, line upon line;  
here a little, *and* there a little:



**The Milk and  
The Meat**

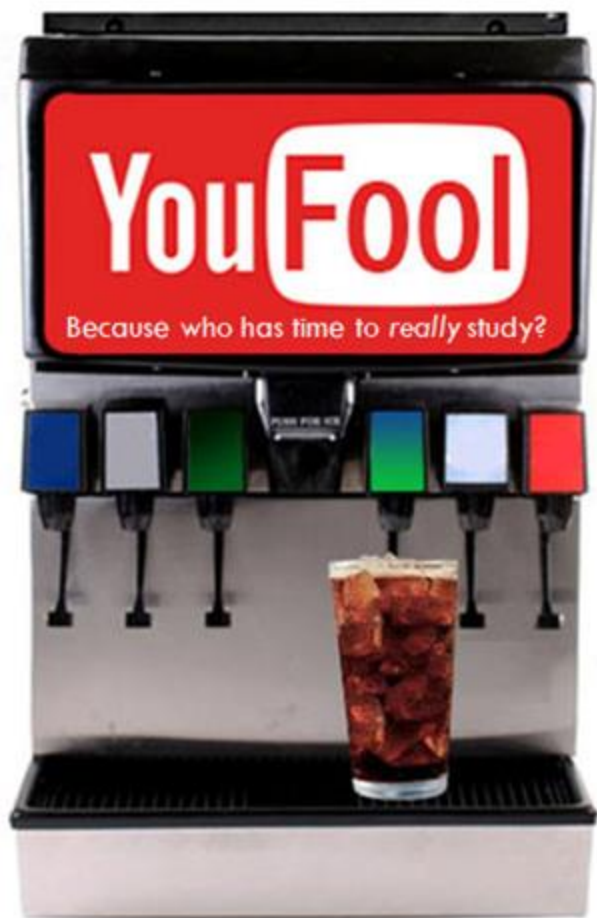
True Christian doctrine is built in layers, truth joined to truth, verse compared to verse, some from the Old Testament and some from the New.

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line upon line, line upon line;  
here a little, *and* there a little:



Don't settle for food that has already been chewed by someone else!



Avoid soda pop teachings that fill you up with useless information and spoil your appetite for real food.



If we want our lives to be built upon an unshakable foundation, we must be sure our beliefs are based on the Principles of the Doctrine of Christ.



We begin by digging deep into the Scriptures  
to find the Rock.



REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

Then we start to build our foundation with the **FIRST** principle of the doctrine of Christ – **REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS.**





FAITH TOWARD GOD  
REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

After that, we will learn how to live a life of faith.



THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS  
FAITH TOWARD GOD  
REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

We will learn how we are baptized into  
the complete work of Christ.



THE DOCTRINE OF THE LAYING ON OF HANDS  
THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS  
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We will learn how God guides us through this life.



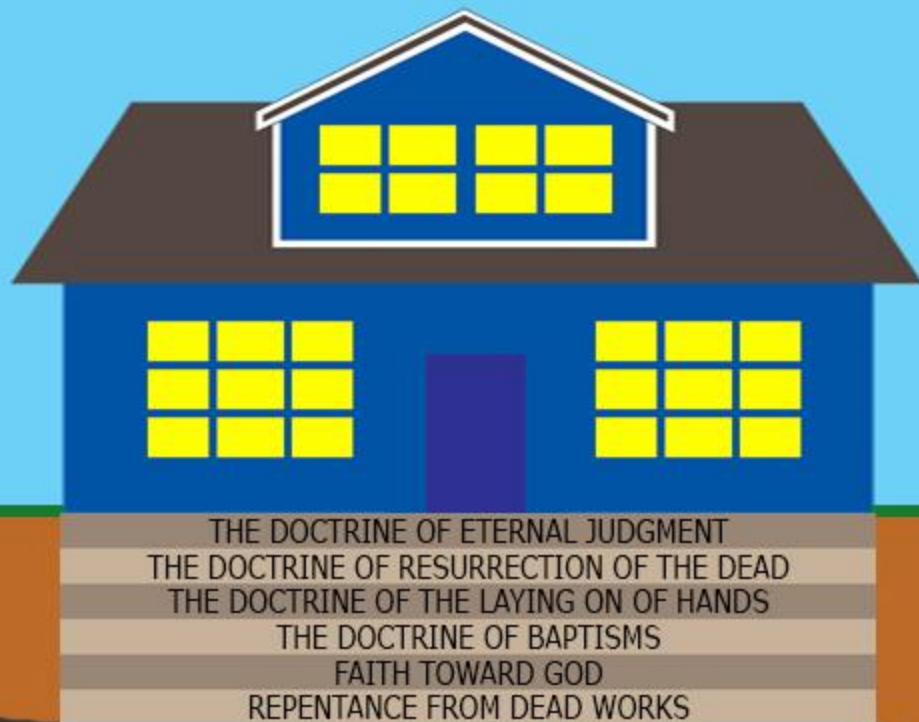
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We will learn what happens to people after they die.



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We will learn the basis of God's judgment of man.



Now we can build our house (our life, our church, our ministry) in a good way. Every new truth we learn will rest on the foundation of Christ and the Rock of God.

Test your understanding of this lesson:

1. According to John 15:8, how do we glorify the Father and prove we are the disciples of Christ?

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*Our lives should be filled with good fruit, the fruit of the Spirit.*

Herein is my Father glorified,  
THAT YE BEAR MUCH FRUIT;  
so shall ye be my disciples.



Test your understanding of this lesson:

2. According to John 15:10, what do we need to do to abide in Christ's love?

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2. According to John 15:10, what do we need to do to abide in Christ's love?

*We need to obey his word, and keep his commandments.*

If ye KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, ye shall abide in my love...

Test your understanding of this lesson:

3. According to Luke 6:47-48, what are the three things we must do to build our lives on the foundation of Christ?

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We must 1) come to Jesus, 2) hear his sayings, and 3) do them.

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Test your understanding of this lesson:

4. Where in the Bible do we find the principles of the doctrine of Christ, and what are they?

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4. Where in the Bible do we find the principles of the doctrine of Christ, and what are they?

They are found in Hebrews 6:1-2:

1. repentance from dead works
2. faith toward God
3. the doctrine of baptisms
4. the doctrine of laying on of hands
5. the doctrine of resurrection of the dead
6. the doctrine of eternal judgment

Test your understanding of this lesson:

5. In Hebrews 5:12, what are the two kinds of spiritual food?

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*MILK for babies and MEAT for those who are spiritually mature.*

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