

## 2021 Men's Training Camp - Mr. Ciesielka - "Doctrinal Accuracy — A Key to Followership"

Is doctrinal accuracy important? Of course. John 4:21-24 - We must worship in Spirit and in Truth. There's zeal and the effect of the holy Spirit, but truth is the accuracy aspect of the Gospel. We can't just go our own way. "We MUST worship..." It's a requirement. II Thessalonians 2:15 - Stand fast and uphold the traditions we've been taught [by the Church]. The Church knows how to interpret prophecy. These come from Christ and the Bible and are upheld through the Church. We're certainly not saying that Mr. Armstrong, Dr. Meredith or Mr. Weston are somehow infallible. The ministry certainly isn't perfect.

The Statement of Fundamental Beliefs tells us that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and is the basis of all Church doctrine. It's the authoritative source for all true knowledge. Is reading the Bible enough? A lot of people read it and come up with their own theologies. How can we stay doctrinally accurate?

But before this: "Have I proven that the Bible is the infallible word of God?" Islamic argument: The Torah was given to the Jews, who allowed it to be corrupted. Then God gave the New Testament and then finally the Koran. This is similar to the Mormon argument. And have I proven that Christ has established His Church and that He rules His Church? Matthew 16:18 shows that God's Church must be around somewhere. None of the other spiritual books out there have predictive prophecy (*Evidence that Demands a Verdict*). There are hundreds of prophecies about Christ, but there are scores that were given in the Old Testament that were later fulfilled in the Old Testament.

In 1400 BC, it's pretty provable that Moses wrote Scripture, which preceded the *Iliad* and other ancient texts. Exodus 24:4 - It was shown that he was recording what he saw. Malachi was written around the 5th century BC, and the Old Testament canon was fixed by them, especially the Pentateuch.

What is humility? Isaiah 66:2; Proverbs 9:9; 3:34; James 4:6 – It can also mean *patience*. Moses was very patient. Can we be patient, even when there was something we don't understand? Saying you're dumb is false humility. Instead, be patient with your understanding as God reveals His Truth to you. There were men who knew that Pentecost was on Sunday but preached in such a way that avoided being in conflict with Mr. Armstrong. Don't have the wrong attitude of, "Oh, I've read this before." Instead, approach these things with an attitude of humility and patience. It's Christ speaking through His servants. Isaiah 66:2 - Do we tremble at Christ's Word? God calls the weak of the world, but we're supposed to be wise, too. If you give instruction to a wise man, he'll be wiser still. We must grow in wisdom and justice, which happens through Bible study and attending and listening in services. If you receive correction, you will also be wiser.

Proverbs 3:34 - God scorns the scornful.

Don't isolate yourself. Avoid evil company. A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire AND he rages against wise judgment (Proverbs 18:1). This happens all the time when people leave the Church. They begin to isolate themselves from the ministry and wise counsel. They get angry against wise judgment. It's okay to talk about doctrine and talk with your minister about your questions. Seek counsel from longtime members. Iron sharpens iron. Listen to the evangelists. I Corinthians 15:33 - Evil company corrupts good habits.

Understand where God's true Church is and respect what Christ is leading it to teach. Heb. 3:1 - Where is the Truth being preached most fully? (Not perfectly, of course.) Jesus Christ is our Apostle and leads the Church. When Worldwide broke up, it was a transfer from the Philadelphia era to the Laodicean era. I Timothy 3:2 - A bishop must be able to teach. Teach what? Accurate doctrine! II Timothy 2:24-26 - We're here to learn sound doctrine. II Peter 1:19 - Prophecy is of no private interpretation. Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the holy Spirit.

The Church specifically does NOT write about certain topics to deemphasize wrongheaded topics. AND there are some topics that God wants His Church to focus on at the time.

Fear God and keep His commandments. God gives His holy Spirit to those who obey. Rebels do not have the holy Spirit. Satan rebelled and tried to take over God's throne. Keep the Law and traditions that were given by the Church. Isaiah 8:20 - "To the law and to the testimony! If they don't speak according to this word, it's because there's no light in them!" Who's the light? Christ. The Protestants and Evangelists have some truth, but how much poison is mixed in? Be very careful when you're using those resources because a little poison can get you off track. *Expositor's Bible Commentary* is a wonderful resource, but you can't trust it fully.

Deuteronomy 6:2 - Fear the Lord your God always and keep His statutes and judgments. He really wants us to follow Him (8:6). The Ruler and Creator of the universe took time to give us instruction. Do I want to understand deeper in Truth? Put aside the outside resources and begin fasting, praying, deeply studying, meditating, asking questions within the Church, etc. Eventually, God will reveal the answer to you. Ecclesiastes 12:13 - "Fear God and keep His commandments." Acts 13:16, 26.

Be careful not to take for granted the preciousness of our calling. Don't become comfortable in what we teach doctrinally and get bored with what we teach. Dr. Meredith would look through the old Envoys and see many of the old evangelists who were gone. What happened? It's generally terrible to contemplate. Most of them fell away in various ways and left all they stood for when they were appointed. They had good Bible knowledge and talents, but they lacked the fear of the Eternal. Because of this, they were carnal in their approach and were more trying to work up the corporate ladder.

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor isn't in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58). The Kingdom will be our reward!