

**KNOW THE TRUTH**  
**Lesson 1 - Authority & Revelation**

Outline is drawn from pages 13-15 & 21-33 of *Know the Truth - A Handbook of Christian Belief* by Bruce Milne.

**KEY CONCEPTS FROM THE INTRODUCTION**

I. Introduction

A. Why is the study of doctrine so vital?

1. "Every Christian is a theologian!  
a) "Theology literally means 'the science of God', or... 'thought and speech which issue from a knowledge of God' (1 Cor. 1:5)." (p. 13)
2. "Getting doctrine right is the key to getting everything else right."  
a) "Of course correct doctrine in itself is not enough; it is tragically possible to fail to work God's truth out in practical obedience." (p. 14)
3. "Study of doctrine is an expression of loving the Lord with our minds. (Matt.22:37)." (p. 14)
4. "Doctrine is vital because it is impossible finally to separate Christ from the truth which Scripture reveals concerning him." (p. 14)

- B. "Doctrine matters. 'Do your best to present yourself to God as one who approved, a workmen... who correctly handles the word of truth. '" (p. 14)

**KEY CONCEPTS CONCERNING AUTHORITY**

I. Authority

- A. "The diverse viewpoints adopted about religious matters can be seen to be largely determined by a prior decision, taken consciously or unconsciously, about the seat of religious authority." (p. 21)

II. The Meaning of Authority

- A. "Authority is the right or power to require obedience." (p. 22)
- B. "From the perspective of Christian faith, God has the supreme right and power to require obedience because he is the Creator and Lord of everyone." (p. 22)

III. The Source of Authority

- A. List the five inadequate sources of authority to which people often appeal (pg. 22-23):

1. The creeds
2. The confessions
3. Christian experience
4. Christian reason
5. The inner voice

- B. "The ultimate source of authority, however, is the Triune God himself, as he is made known to us through the words of the Bible." (p. 24)

- C. The previous statement is based upon three essential truths (p. 24):

1. God has taken the initiative.
2. God has come to us himself, in person, in Jesus Christ, the God-man.
3. Our knowledge of God comes through the Bible.

## KEY CONCEPTS CONCERNING REVELATION (pg. 25-33)

### I. The Significance of Revelation

- A. "Revelation means unveiling something hidden, so that it may be seen and known for what it is." (p. 25)
- B. "Biblical religion is a religion of revelation, a faith based on the claim that God has come to us and has disclosed himself." (p. 25)
- C. "If we are to know God, revelation is indispensable for two reasons":
  1. "We are creatures." (p. 25)
    - a) "The distinction is not absolute." (p. 26)
    - b) "The distinction in being involves a distinction in knowing." (p. 26)
  2. We are sinners." (p. 26)
    - a) "Our need of revelation is immeasurably increased by our sinfulness." (p. 26)
    - b) "The fall has affected every aspect of our being, not least our perception of moral and spiritual reality." (p. 26)

### II. The Likelihood of Revelation

- A. "If God is our Creator, revelation in some form is overwhelmingly probable since we may confidently assume that God made us for a purpose..." (p. 26)
- B. "If we suppose further, as many do, even vaguely, that the Creator God is loving, the likelihood of revelation becomes overwhelming..." (p. 27)

### III. General Revelation

- A. "General revelation is the revelation of God made to all people everywhere." (p. 27)
- B. Forms of general revelation:
  1. Creation (p. 27)
  2. Moral Experience (p. 28)
  3. Universal religious sense (p. 29)
- C. "God's revelation is, however, is not detached and objective like a museum exhibit. Rather it is a dynamic and ongoing reality; God repeatedly reveals himself, humankind repeatedly resists, obscuring and misusing the revelation (Rom. 1:21-28)." (p. 29)
- D. The effects of general revelation:
  1. "It reflects the goodness of God." (p. 29)
  2. It "renders us guilty before God." (p. 30)
    - a) "Everyone is confronted by God and therefore carries responsibility for the lack of a true relationship with him." (p. 30)
    - b) "People will be judged at the end by the light and opportunity which they had; clearly that is not the same for everyone (Matt. 13:11, Luke 10:13)." (p. 30)
    - c) "The Bible, however, teaches that clearly that light is brought in some measure to all, and all therefore incur guilt for their ignorance of God."
- E. "To summarize, the Bible teaches clearly that God has not left himself without a testimony." (p. 30)

