

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 _____!
a) "Theology literally means 'the _____ of God', or... 'thought and speech which issue from a _____ of God' (1 Cor. 1:5)." (p. 13)
2. "Getting _____ 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 _____ obedience." (p. 14)
3. "Study of doctrine is an expression of _____ the Lord with our minds. (Matt.22:37)." (p. 14)
4. "Doctrine is vital because it is impossible finally to _____ Christ from the truth which Scripture reveals concerning him." (p. 14)

- B. "Doctrine _____. '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 _____ by a prior decision, taken consciously or unconsciously, about the seat of religious _____." (p. 21)

II. The Meaning of Authority

- A. "Authority is the right or power to require _____." (p. 22)
- B. "From the perspective of Christian faith, God has the _____ 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. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

- B. "The ultimate source of authority, however, is the _____ 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 _____.
2. God has come to us himself, in person, in _____, the God-man.
3. Our knowledge of God comes through the _____.

KEY CONCEPTS CONCERNING REVELATION (pg. 25-33)

I. The Significance of Revelation

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

II. The Likelihood of Revelation

- A. "If God is our Creator, revelation in some form is overwhelmingly _____ 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 _____ becomes overwhelming..." (p. 27)

III. General Revelation

- A. "_____ revelation is the revelation of God made to all people everywhere." (p. 27)
- B. Forms of general revelation:
 1. _____ (p. 27)
 2. _____ (p. 28)
 3. _____ (p. 29)
- C. "God's revelation is, however, is not detached and objective like a museum exhibit. Rather it is a _____ and ongoing reality; God _____ reveals himself, humankind repeatedly _____, obscuring and misusing the revelation (Rom. 1:21-28)." (p. 29)
- D. The effects of general revelation:
 1. "It _____ the goodness of God." (p. 29)
 2. It "renders us _____ before God." (p. 30)
 - a) "Everyone is _____ 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 _____ 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 _____ 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 _____." (p. 30)

