****Jan 22, 2017**

**Forward Focus 2017: God’s Blueprint – Part 4**

*(The Message & the Mission)*

**Acts 2:42**

**Question?**

How can you bond together around the common cause of Christ if there is no solid enduring truth of who Jesus is and what He taught?

**Presence is Paramount**

*Jesus personal presence manifest through His people*

**Acts 4:33**

**Questions:**

If presence is paramount, why an emphasis on **doctrine** or teaching”?

Surely it is simply **that** you believe more important than **what** youbelieve?

Doesn’t an **emphasis on doctrine** divide people into camps?

**Non … sense.**

Why do we have a Bible, the letters to the churches (mostly corrective in doctrine & practice) and the injunction to:

Jesus - *“ take heed what you hear’* **Mark 4:24**

“Doctrine of demons”: **1 Timothy 4:1**

“Doctrine of men’s commandments”: **Matthew 15:9**

“Various and strange doctrines”: **Hebrews 13:9**

Peter & Paul both warn of false teachers, prophets & ‘unsound’ doctrine. **Titus 2:1**

**Examples:**

* **Corinthians** - to correct all sorts of error: sexual impurity / divisions.
* **Colossians** - to correct heretical teaching about the divine nature of Jesus.
* **Galatians** - to refocus wavering Christians on Jesus and not the Law.

*“Scripture when approached and read with a humble & teachable heart, can be understood, interpreted and applied in the way Jesus intended it to be.”*

***One interpretive key:***

*“Why something is said and why”*

**Jesus uses doctrine in His ministry & thus establishes it!**

**John 7:16**

Jesus taught doctrine & acknowledged God as His source.

He even used OT Scripture to underscore His doctrine:

**Luke 24:27**

Sound doctrine will focus on Jesus as God’s answer to man’s need.

**So then, what is sound, wholesome, safe and true doctrine?**

**Titus 2:1, 7**

**Integrity:** incorruptible, pure, whole counsel (all of it), not partial, consistent with the rest of scripture.

Paul gave his hearers the ‘whole counsel of God’

**Acts 20:27***.*

It will acknowledge Jesus in His full humanity & deity in the flesh.

It will show man’s need of Jesus the savior from sin.

It will show God’s solution through Jesus’ blood on the cross.

It’s counsel will be timeless and culture free…

It will underscore God’s grace & peace: true heart of the Gospel.

**Book of Acts Exercise**

As you read the Book of Acts…

…See what Peter, Paul & others highlighted in their preaching.

**What about *this* ‘fellowship**

God has a vision & purpose for us:

Individually & ‘Corporately’ (mission together)

Do you see what I see? (God)

He shows us enough to keep us moving forward.

When we encounter Him, we ‘take on’ His heart.

He imparts vision – a reason to keep on going.

It’s future focused & involves hope (Bible hope) – not just wishful thinking but an expectation based on His promises.

**Looking Forward:**

Looking forward entices us into God possibilities… **Philippians 3:13b**

‘Desire’, ‘delight’, ‘dreams’ are the stuff of the future!

**Psalm 37:3-4 Mark 11:24 Acts 2:17**

**Vision cards:**  ‘Forward Focus’.