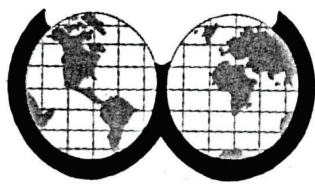


STEP 1

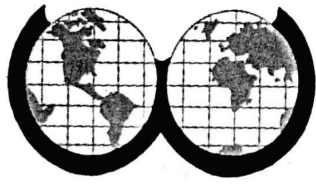
# DOCTRINE I



**World  
Wide Bible Institutes**

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STUDENT'S NAME



# World Wide Bible Institutes

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**DOCTRINE I STEP 1**  
**INSPIRATION - PART I**

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***Study to show thyself approved unto God,  
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,  
rightly dividing the word of truth.  
(2 Timothy 2:15)***

*Teaching every man in all wisdom; that we  
may present every man perfect in Christ  
Jesus. (Colossians 1:28)*



**PLAN YOUR WEEK** in such a way that will lend itself to faithful, punctual attendance at the Bible Institute. Consistent attendance will produce maximum results. You will attain the goals you have set for yourself in terms of the completion of each STEP by consistent attendance.

**PRAY** over your study of the Word. Human ability is not enough; the energies of the human mind are not sufficient in themselves. The Christian student requires the ministry of the Holy Spirit in order to understand the sense of the Word, and whereby proper application can be made to one's personal life. Pray that God will translate your studies into life and activity for Christ.

**BE PATIENT AND PERSISTENT.** You will not learn it all at once. You will learn truth by truth, lesson by lesson. Do not be discouraged if a portion of the study seems to be more difficult than another. Be patient and stick to it. You will master the lesson in due time, and as you progress in the Word, you will be happy that you persisted in your program of study. Study pays rich dividends in terms of knowledge, personal experience and usefulness to God.

### **OBJECTIVES FOR THIS STEP**

The completion of this STEP should enable you to:

- \* Explain the function of doctrine.
- \* Name our two sources of knowledge.
- \* Give scriptural support for the fact that the Bible is declared to be the Word of God.
- \* Define "inspiration," "revelation," and "illumination."
- \* Write Philippians 1:9 from memory.
- \* Define "verbal" and "plenary" as they relate to the Doctrine of Inspiration.

## **GLOSSARY FOR THIS STEP**

<b>Doctrine</b>	A collection of teachings. Its purpose is to define and systematize the truth in such a way as to make it easy to understand.
<b>Illumination</b>	The process by which the Holy Spirit makes clear to man the writings which He (the Holy Spirit) inspired to the writer.
<b>Inductive leap</b>	A leap into the dark to the unobserved cases of the present, future, and past. The observed cases are regarded as a sample of all the cases. Therefore the entire value of the induction is based upon the reliability of the sample.
<b>Inspiration</b>	Means "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). Refers to the process by which God superintended the writing of the Scriptures without destroying the individual styles and personalities of the writers. God produced an authoritative revelation of Himself and His will, the same being errorless and authoritative.
<b>Revelation</b>	The process by which God imparts or makes known certain knowledge to man which would be completely unknown to him by any other means.
<b>Theology</b>	The science that treats the subject of God, His attributes and perfections.

## **REQUIRED SCRIPTURE READINGS**

The following Scripture passages should be read by the student in preparation for the lessons in this STEP. More class time can be devoted to the completion of the material in the STEP if these passages are read outside of class.

Section I - Psalm 19

Section II - Exodus 20; Exodus 24; Numbers 22-24; Luke 24; Ephesians 3;  
1 Corinthians 2:9-13

## I. AN INTRODUCTION TO DOCTRINE

One day in 1665, a young man, home from college during an epidemic which had closed the school, was walking in an apple orchard. The time was late fall and the apples were falling from the trees. Suddenly the young man thought of the answer to a problem that had confronted him. If gravity pulled the apple toward the earth, could it not be that the same force tended to attract the heavenly bodies toward each other? After years of study Sir Isaac Newton wrote, "every particle of matter attracts every other particle of matter with a force proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of their distances." Thus was born the doctrine of gravitation. No, you do not have to remember it to make it work. In fact, it worked long before men understood it. But understanding it, and putting it down as a law or formula or doctrine, will help others to grasp it more easily and appreciate it more fully. This is the function of doctrine, to define and systematize truth so that it may be more easily understood and more readily learned. Newton wrote something else in his later years. He said, "I seem to have been only a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me." Whatever Newton meant, it is a fact that even the greatest of the laws of science are merely "pretty shells" compared to the ocean of truth concerning God, the universe, man, sin, and redemption found in the Bible. It is to define and systematize this "ocean of truth" that we now direct ourselves.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Response**

- (1) The function of doctrine is \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ so that it may  
 be more easily understood and more readily learned.
- (2) The greatest laws of science are only shells compared to the ocean of truth in  
 God's Word. (True or False) \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

### A. Our Two Sources of Knowledge

Doctrine then is simply a tenet of teaching. But in order to teach, there must be knowledge, and knowledge demands a source of information. God has given us two sources of information about everything, and all knowledge must come from one or the other of these sources. Before you go on, turn in your Bible to Psalm 19

and read it thoughtfully. You will see that it divides itself very naturally into three divisions - verses 1-6, verses 7-11, and verses 12-14. The subject of the first division is found in verse 1. This is man's first source of knowledge. The second source of knowledge is found in verses 7-9 and is called by a number of names.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Response**

(3) The first source of knowledge as seen in Psalm 19:1-6 is \_\_\_\_\_.

(4) The second source of knowledge as seen in Psalm 19:7-11 is \_\_\_\_\_.

\* \* \* \* \*

You have probably figured out by now that the first source is creation, that is, the universe around us from whence we can learn many things. The second source is the Word of God (called God's "law," "testimony," "statutes," "commandments," and "judgments"). These then are our only two sources of knowledge and all that is knowable to man must be known through one or both of these sources.

### 1. Natural Theology

Of these two sources, it must be immediately apparent that nature's revelation of God is very limited. Paul described it in Romans 1:18-20 as capable of telling man that there is a God and that this God is omnipotent. David seems to intimate in Psalm 19 that reasoning from the fact that nothing is hid from the sun, a created thing, man should deduce that nothing therefore can be hidden from God - the Creator. Therefore, at best, Natural Theology (i.e., that which nature teaches about God) can teach man (1) that there is a God, (2) that this God is all powerful, (3) that this God is all knowing and (4) that He is therefore likely to require an accounting from man of his actions. Therefore, the apostle reasons, *they are without excuse*. In other words, even those who have never heard one word of the Bible know these things and are therefore accountable to live in the light of that knowledge.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Response**

(5) Name four things that Natural Theology can teach man about God.

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) \_\_\_\_\_



(d) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

## 2. Revealed Theology

Revealed Theology (that which God has revealed of Himself to man that would be otherwise unknowable) is of course quite another matter. Since man can learn so little about God from nature and since God wants us to know what He is like and to know Him, He has been pleased to reveal Himself to holy men down through the ages who have recorded what God has told them about Himself in books. These books form our present Bible. This, then, is our primary source of knowledge about God; nature supplying a very elementary and secondary source of minor importance.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Response**

(6) Define "Revealed Theology." \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(7) Revealed Theology is not our primary source of knowledge about God because we cannot see God's power as we can in creation. (True or False)

\_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

## B. Progressive Revelation

It must be perfectly obvious by now that God does not teach us everything about a given subject at one time. The principle of God's teaching method (progressive revelation) is outlined by Isaiah; *For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little* (Isaiah 28:10). Let us take for example the matter of salvation. Adam's original disobedience led to the cutting off of his relationship with God. God took the first step in re-establishing that relationship when he clothed Adam in coats of skins (Genesis 3:21). Now this was a very elementary lesson but it laid the foundation for additional truth. By it Adam learned about the shedding of blood for sin. The fact that as a result of that first sacrifice God clothed the guilty pair in a garment acceptable to Himself was the germ of truth which would later form the basis of the teaching that the believer is, because of the sacrifice of Christ, and his part by faith in that sacrifice, clothed in the garment of Christ's own righteousness (Ephesians 1:6; Revelation 19:8). The simple truth of blood atonement was repeated in the case of Cain and Abel,

then again to Noah. Like a scarlet cord, the truth of the shedding of blood for the cleansing of sin winds its way through the pages of Scripture. Here a little and there a little, line upon line, line upon line until the full blazing light of truth is revealed in the epistles of the New Testament. And every other doctrine of Scripture is handled in the same way.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Response**

(8) The principle of God's teaching method is known as

*p* \_\_\_\_\_ *r* \_\_\_\_\_.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 1. Our job: to summarize the Bible's teaching

What then is our job if we are to know the tenets, teachings, doctrines of the Bible? Is it not to survey the entire field of revealed truth, and then to summarize the basic teaching in a concise and accurate manner? It is obvious that the Bible itself does not do this for us. That is, its teachings do not follow a systematic procedure of development. Therefore if we are to be able to summarize the teaching of the Bible on any given subject we must follow this method of study. The whole field of revealed truth is surveyed, then a summary of its teaching is made - this becomes our doctrine.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Response**

(9) The task of the Bible student is to (a) \_\_\_\_\_

the complete field of revealed truth and then (b) \_\_\_\_\_

the basic teaching.

\* \* \* \* \*

It might be well at this point to remark that there are some who claim to have no doctrinal statement of beliefs. They often say, "we believe all that the Bible teaches, that is enough. Doctrinal statements are the works of men." But there are many who claim to "believe all the Bible teaches" who believe some very old things. Suppose we ask this individual, "You say you believe all the Bible teaches. What do you believe it teaches about salvation?" As soon as he answers, he has defined for you his doctrinal belief or creed. So the objection to doctrinal summarization is groundless. One may just as well object to the law of gravity. But were anyone so foolish, I wonder, that he would demonstrate his avowed disapproval by walking off the Empire State Building?

## 2. Our method of inquiry

It may be objected that we cannot possibly survey every single Scripture on a certain subject, much less the many passages that infer various doctrines. How can we be sure that the summary we make is correct? Let's go back to the orchard and Sir Isaac Newton. From seeing an apple fall to the ground, Newton reasoned out the law of gravitation in the universe. The actual observable phenomena was quite small - the force that pulled an apple toward the center of the earth. From falling apples, he reasoned to orbiting planets. The fact is that Newton had not even observed every falling apple! Although he had never seen an apple "fall" away from the earth, he could not prove positively that none ever had. He was forced to reason from some to all and from apples to planets. Logically speaking, this is known as "taking the inductive leap." The **inductive leap** is a leap into the dark to the unobserved cases of the present, future, and past. The observed cases are regarded as a sample of all the cases. Therefore, the entire value of the induction is based upon the reliability of the sample.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Response**

(10) To arrive at a conclusion after reasoning from a few known cases (samples) is known as the \_\_\_\_\_ method.

\* \* \* \* \*

Now apply this to Scripture and it at once becomes clear that if the inductive method be fairly and honestly applied, it can be regarded as absolutely accurate and reliable. The reason is as simple as A,B,C. Nowhere does the Bible contradict itself. Therefore, a fair sampling of its teaching on any subject will make possible the establishment of a perfectly valid inductive leap which will formulate a true doctrine or law.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Response**

(11) What truth about the Bible makes certain the fact that a fair sampling of its teaching in any area will form a true law or doctrine? \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

## C. The Prerequisites to Doctrinal Study

That brings us then to our final problem. How can we be sure that we are applying this method fairly and honestly? Dr. L.S. Chafer lists several things that are abso-

lutely necessary to successfully perform our task.

### 1. Inspiration - authority assumed

First, the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures must be assumed. We have already assumed this in a sense when we said that there are no contradictions in the Bible. We will go on to establish this point in our opening lesson by amassing considerable evidence that the Bible is the very Word of God. This is the first essential to "fairly and honestly" summarizing the teaching or doctrine of the Bible.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Response**

(12) The first prerequisite for doctrinal study is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 2. Need for the illumination of the Holy Spirit

Secondly, spiritual illumination is required. This necessitates immediately that the student be a true Christian (1 Corinthians 2:14). Since the natural, unregenerate or unsaved person cannot receive the things of the Spirit, it is foolish to think that just because a person is intellectually superior or scholastically equipped, he can necessarily understand and know the Scriptures. The heart that has received Christ by faith and the mind that has been subjected to Christ by the Spirit's renewal (Romans 12:2) is the only one really ready to discern the true doctrine of the Scriptures. This implies not only saving faith but a faith which is willing to accept the testimony of the Scripture on any subject without reservation. This is what is described in Scripture as *casting down imaginations, and every high thing [i.e., every proud thought] that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*. This done, we have only one further qualification.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Response**

(13) The second prerequisite for doctrinal study is that the student

be \_\_\_\_\_.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 3. Patient and tireless study

"The message of the Bible is complete. It incorporates its every chapter and verse into its perfect unity, and all its parts are interdependent" (L.S. Chafer).

How clearly this truth came home to me when I began a study of the Book of Revelation. I found that the first "must" in understanding Revelation was a good knowledge of Genesis for many of the symbols employed in the closing book of the Bible are taken from the first book of the Bible. Furthermore, a good working knowledge of the Old Testament prophets was vital. The Book of Daniel could not be ignored for several keys to Revelation are found in it and a thorough knowledge of the dispensations was essential. The same is true in doctrine. A thorough understanding of the inspiration of the Word of God, the person and work of Jesus Christ and the Doctrine of Grace will provide the only safeguard against error in other doctrines, while a good grasp of the other doctrines will bring further light on these. When you have studied this course on doctrine, you have only laid the foundation. Foundations are essential and we expect that it will be well laid on the Rock Himself and His precious Word. But ahead is a lifetime of learning; building upon the foundation laid here.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Response**

(14) The third prerequisite for doctrinal study is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

(15) A complete understanding of (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_,  
and (c) \_\_\_\_\_ provides the only defense against the error in other doctrines.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **D. The Doctrines Covered**

We intend to cover the following doctrines in this course:

1. Bibliology - Why we know the Bible is the Word of God.
2. Theology Proper - The Doctrine of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. Anthropology - The Doctrine of Man.
4. Hamartiology - The Doctrine of Sin.
5. Soteriology - The Doctrine of Salvation.
6. Ecclesiology - The Doctrine of the Church.
7. Angelology - The Doctrine of Angels and Satan.

The Doctrine of Eschatology or the study of last things will be covered in the course on prophecy.

## E. Conclusion

You have just launched out upon the most exciting and rewarding study that any person can undertake. To know what God has said is to know the truth, and to know the truth is to have certainty in a world of perplexity. Man's knowledge is ever changing. The findings of this generation have made foolishness of the most profound reasonings of its predecessors, but God's truth is absolute and therefore it never changes. It is complete and therefore it never needs revision or "up dating." Study it with confidence, rest in it with assurance and pursue it with the desire to know the One who has revealed it all to lead us to Himself. Commit to memory Philippians 1:9 and make it your prayer as you begin this course.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Response**

(16) God's Word is absolute, therefore, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

(17) God's Word never needs revision. Why is this so? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(18) Write Philippians 1:9 from memory. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*



The review questions should be answered with care. They are supplied for the purpose of testing your understanding of the section just studied. Restudy the section if your score is under 90%. If your score is 90% or above, restudy all that you did not understand.

**Each answer is worth 7.7 points.**

(1) List the three requirements for doctrinal study.

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) The function of doctrine is \_\_\_\_\_

so that it may be more easily understood and more readily learned.

(3) Natural Theology can teach man four things about God. Name them.

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

(c) \_\_\_\_\_

(d) \_\_\_\_\_

(4) What is the principle of God's teaching method? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

(5) Write Philippians 1:9 from memory. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(6) Name the two sources of knowledge as seen in Psalm 19:1-11.

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

(7) The task of the doctrine student is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and summarize the basic  
teaching.

**Possible score 100%**

**My score \_\_\_\_\_%**

**Have your supervisor initial here \_\_\_\_\_ before advancing to the next section.**