

The Quarterly Journal



THE NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OF PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH

VOL. 40, NO. 3

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020

EDITOR: KEITH A. MORSE

Holding to a Pattern of Sound Doctrine What It Is and Why We Need It

by J. Greg Sheryl

Government agents learning to detect counterfeit money, the well-traveled story goes, do not examine counterfeit bills, but instead study the genuine article.

Although the Secret Service trains their agents using both counterfeit and genuine currency,¹ the rationale behind the incorrect but oft-reported story makes a valid point: To detect a counterfeit, one must be truly familiar with the genuine article.

The same can be said for detecting false or unsound doctrine.

WHAT IS SOUND DOCTRINE?

Doctrine is “teaching.” The word “sound” can be understood as “free from error.” Therefore sound doctrine is teaching that is free from error.

In the three pastoral epistles — 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus — the need for pastors to teach sound doctrine is emphasized (1 Timothy 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1).

Although the four references above use the phrase “sound doctrine,” there are other verses that use the word “doctrine” which also indicate the importance of good teaching: Proverbs 4:2; Acts 2:42; Romans 6:17; 16:17; 1 Timothy 1:3; 4:6, 13, 16; 5:17; 6:3; 2 Timothy 3:10, 16; Titus 2:7, 10; and 2 John 1:9, 10. While 2 Timothy 1:13 does not use the word “doctrine,” it appears to be speaking about sound doctrine.

Scripture mentions things that can be opposed to sound doctrine, such as “the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9; Mark 7:7; cf. Colossians 2:22); “the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees” (Matthew 16:12); contrary doctrine, which causes divisions

(continues on page 12)



Inside this Issue:

THE END OF AN ERA.....	PAGE 2
WATCHTOWER RETURNS TO A FAMILIAR THEME	PAGE 3
BETH MOORE'S SPIRITUAL LESSONS FROM VITICULTURE	PAGE 4