

# What Did the Apostles Teach?

Today, our subject is a very basic question that we all should be asking ourselves today: what exactly did the Apostles teach? The Scriptures plainly state that there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. (Ephesians 4:5)

In **1 Corinthians 1:10**, Paul admonishes the church in Corinth to all speak the same thing. This statement still rings in our ears today. If we are all to do what the Scripture tells us to do, we must get back to the basics of exactly what it is that the Apostles taught in the Bible.

Jesus spent 3 ½ years preparing His disciples to carry this Gospel message to their generation. The Holy Ghost also moved on these same holy men to write His inspired Word for future generations. (**2 Peter 1:20-21**)

The Bible has been preserved for us today. The Bible is our source for doctrine and for instruction in salvation and righteous living. (**2 Timothy 3:16**)

Let's take a closer look at the word "**doctrine**". Doctrine means teaching or instruction. Doctrine is the specifics, or the specifications required in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is something that we all should be very interested in understanding.

We all need to get back to the basics and comply to the Word of God. To get the results that I read about in the Bible, I must conform to the specifications clearly demonstrated in the Bible.

If I change the message, I change the results of the message. I must make sure that I do everything the Bible way. If it is not the Bible way, it is the wrong way. It is as simple as that.

Jesus told the Apostles in **Matthew 28:18-20** to teach all nations how to be saved, and then how to stay saved. Spiritual life begins at spiritual birth. Jesus said this in **John 3:3, 5-7**.

After birth, one is required to grow. Spiritual growth requires knowledge. **(2 Peter 3:18)** Not just any knowledge will do; only adding Biblical knowledge, not man-made traditional knowledge.

Knowledge is knowing the facts and facts are statements of Truth in Scripture in the book called the Bible. Learning requires a yoke of commitment. **(Matthew 11:29)**

**There are two kinds of church people in our world today:**

**There are searchers and then there are shoppers.**

- 1) **Searchers** - Searchers are people who are searching for Truth and a real relationship with God.
- 2) **Shoppers** - Shoppers are people who are shopping around for a religion that fits their lifestyle.

We know that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. **(Hebrews 11:6, Jeremiah 29:13)**

After 3 1/2 years of preparation and another 40 days after His resurrection **(Acts 1:3)**, Jesus had entrusted this Gospel message of salvation, this message of how to get saved and how to stay saved, to His disciples.

When the Holy Spirit first came on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples were more than ready to answer the question asked of them on that day: **“What shall we do?”**.

Peter, to whom Jesus had given the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven (**Matthew 16:18-19**), lifted up his voice and told them the words that answered their question: **“What shall we do?”**

**Here is Peter’s answer: “Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children and to all that are a far off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call”. (Acts 2:37-39)**

This is the same message that was preached throughout the Book of Acts. This is a vital part of the Apostles’ doctrine. This is what Jesus had prepared them to do, to deliver this life-changing Gospel message which is an everlasting message that is still in effect today. (**Revelation 14:6**)

To tell someone that they can be born again any other way is to depart from the Apostles’ doctrine. Man’s way will not get us to heaven; only God’s way will make heaven our home.

Those, that chose to obey that day, were also instructed to continue steadfastly in following the Apostles’ doctrine. (**Acts 2:41-42**) The Apostle Paul also told Timothy to take heed unto the doctrine and to continue in this doctrine. For in doing this, he would save himself and all of them which heard him. (**1 Timothy 4:16**)

Paul also admonishes Timothy to instruct, wherever he goes, that they teach no other doctrine. (**1 Timothy 1:1-3**) Paul told the church in Rome to mark those people who taught contrary to Apostolic doctrine and to avoid them. (**Romans 16:17**)

We can already see, even back in the Apostles’ Day, that some were deviating from the true doctrine and some were wanting to hang on to their traditions that they had been taught all of their lives.

In **Romans 6:17**, Paul states that the Romans were made free from their sin because they obeyed from their heart that form of doctrine delivered to them. They did not change it, but they obeyed it.

The Apostles knew that Jesus had the words of eternal life. (**John 6:66-68**) When Jesus prayed in the garden, He said that the words given to Him He gave to the Apostles and that they had received them.

Jesus also prayed for all who would believe in Him through the Apostles' words. (**John 17:8,20**) John made a very bold statement in **1 John 4:6**. Here, John claims that they were of God and anyone of God would give heed to their doctrine. Those not of God would give no heed to their doctrine.

**The plan of salvation is not the only thing that the Apostles taught.**

The plan of salvation is not the only thing that the Apostles taught. Many born-again believers today completely ignore the rest of the Apostles' message that Jesus Himself entrusted them to teach.

The Apostles also taught about the soon return of Jesus which included the resurrection of the just and of the unjust, the gathering of the elect, and the judgment against a covenant-breaking Israel. (**John 5:25, 28-29, Matthew 16:27-28, John 9:39, James 5:8-9**)

These events would bring about the end of the Old Covenant and the consummation of the New Everlasting Covenant. The Apostles taught what Jesus taught them to teach. Jesus made a clear statement in **Luke 21:22** when He said that all things which were written would be fulfilled at the Fall of Jerusalem and the Temple.

The Apostles carried through with this theme that Jesus had established. They taught it with the same exact time indicators that Jesus had taught.

These time statements were not elastic. Nothing was postponed and nothing was delayed. The Apostles taught His soon return with such fervor that the first-century believers sold all their lands and houses and valuable possessions. **(Acts 4:34-35)**

They wrote, taught, and preached to a first century audience about things that were getting ready to happen in their lifetime just as Jesus had also taught. This also was a very vital part of the Apostles' doctrine.

Jesus did return in the first century in the year AD 70. He is here with us now in the spiritual kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is not geographical; it is dimensional. **(John 14:17-19)**

Jesus said, ***"I will never leave you nor forsake you."*** **(Hebrews 13:5)** He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. **(Hebrews 13:8)**

It is the input of teaching that will determine the output of your life and your lifestyle. What you believe shapes your actions.

**Always remember, you cannot believe what you do not know and what is not taught.**

Many voices are speaking about God all around our world today, but it is the Voice of God's Word that matters. **(Psalms 103:20, Romans 10:14-15,17)**

**The Word comes to us through the Apostles' doctrine.**

## **Conclusion**

- What gives us the right to change the Apostles' doctrine?
- What gives us the right to change the plan of salvation?
- What gives us the right to change the mode and formula of water baptism?

- What gives us the right to tell people that the Holy Ghost is NOT for us today and that we can NOT receive it the same way they did in the book of Acts? What gives us the right to say that Jesus has not performed that which He said He would when He said that He would perform it?

Are you following the men that followed Jesus or are you following the men who follow the traditions of other men?

The Apostles and their contemporaries expected **“the end”** and the soon fulfillment of all things in their lifetime. The Apostles were being guided by the Holy Ghost into all Truth and were shown the things to come. **(John 16:13, 14:26, 15:15)** They knew the whole story.

The **“end”** that the Bible proclaims is behind us not ahead of us. The Last Days are past, not in the present or in the future. The one and only **“end”** that the Bible speaks of is the end of the Old Covenant that God had with the Nation of Israel.

It was the End of the Old Covenant Age not the end of the New Covenant Age. This New Everlasting Covenant, in which we are now living, has no end.

It is Everlasting. The Bible says absolutely nothing about an end of the physical creation. There is no coming cosmic end as many are teaching and believing today.

It's all about choice. It is up to each of us to decide whether we believe and obey the words of Jesus and the Apostles or will we follow manmade tradition which has imprisoned so many minds of sincere-hearted believers today. We must come God's way, or we will not come at all. The Bible way is always the right way.

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