

DOCTRINE

Doctrine (teachings of the Bible regarding its various subjects) is very important. Teachings are gathered from the inductive study of the Scriptures. To make sure our doctrinal beliefs are sound we must consider the whole Bible, not just its parts. As mentioned before, Jesus said, "The Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35). Paul said, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for doctrine..." (II Timothy 3:16). Doctrinal truth is found throughout the whole Bible, so we must study the whole Bible to check our beliefs. The doctrine taught in the New Testament does not contradict the doctrine taught in the Old Testament. Paul does not contradict Jesus (as some people believe). The Bible is a harmonious book, and it does not contradict itself. It has been stated, "The New Testament is in the Old concealed; the Old is in the New revealed." The revelation of doctrine in the Bible is progressive. Every New Testament doctrine is found in the Old Testament at least in type or seed form. The emphasis is different in the two testaments, but the teaching is consistent with the purpose of the whole Bible. It is incorrect to say the Old Testament teaches a God of wrath, and the New Testament teaches a God of love. Both testaments teach the wrath of God and the love of God. The difference is a matter of emphasis. The Book of Revelation brings to a conclusion God's written revelation of doctrine that began in the Book of Genesis.