

Two Words for Doctrine

- I.** The whole Bible is “God-breathed” (2 Tim. 3:16).
1. Ever verse has a purpose.
 2. Not every verse has the same purpose.
 3. New Testament saints cannot, and should not, practice pre-Old Testament (Gen. 1-Ex. 19) nor Old Testament principles.
A few examples:
 - 1) Diet (see page 2 of notes).
 - 2) Gideon (Jud. 6:35-40 *cf.* Rom 14:23).
 - 3) The Old Testament is to be used by Christians, but not for practice in the Christian life: see “How to use the Old Testament” handout.
- II.** There are two different words used for “doctrine” in the New Testament (2 Tim. 4:3-4; Tit. 1:9).
1. The beginning of New Testament doctrine, *διδασκαλία*, *didache*, (except Upper Room, Jn. 13:31).
 - 1) The New truth “to live by” began at Pentecost (Acts 2:42).
 - 2) This new truth grew (Acts 6:17; 13:10, 12; 17:19; 1 Cor. 14:6; Eph. 3:2; 2:20).
 - 3) This new truth, New Testament, was to be believed and practiced (Rom. 6:17; 2 Jn. 7-9; obey & believe Rom. 10:16; 16:17).
 2. “Old Testament” doctrine (*διδασκαλία*, *didascalía*), is doctrine not directly related to the Christian Life.—it is to be valued as truth but not practiced.
 - 1) It is to be valued as truth but not practiced (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:6, 11).
 - 2) This “Old Testament” doctrine is grossly misused (1 Tim. 4:1, 6 *cf.* 1:9-10; 5:17; 2 Tim. 3:10, 16; 4:3-4).

Note: Using the terms Old Testament doctrine and New Testament doctrine is really an oversimplification; however, the stereotype is useful since it is true in a general sense.

How to use the Old Testament

The Old Testament has great value for the Christian. The correct position of the New Testament believer regarding the Old Testament can be summarized:

- 1) We understand the Old Testament to be the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16).
- 2) We use the Old Testament to understand more about Who and What God is (*e.g.* Ps. 8:1; 104:1-2; Is. 57:15).
- 3) We apply the Old Testament exactly how the New Testament instructs us to use it for admonition—what not to do, and for comfort (1 Cor. 10:6, 11; Rom. 15:4).
- 4) The truth of Christ’s redemptive work for the church is not in the Old Testament (1 Pet. 1:20).
- 5) The Dispensation of Grace is not seen between the Suffering and the Glory in the Old Testament (1 Pet. 1:10-12 *cf.* Ps. 22; Is. 52:13-15; Eph. 3:1-9 “the dispensation consisting of a quality of a mystery: *i.e.* not revealed in the Old Testament but now is made plain Rom. 16:25).