***Hello Valley Height’s Ladies!*** Reviewing our Feb.25th Bible Study!

“Attitudes of a Transformed Heart”

“Attitudes and Scripture” –Chapter Six- ***“DOCTRINE”***

“We live in dangerous times. In a culture that elevates opinion above truth and feelings above facts. The modern church has lost its confidence in, dependence on and passion for God’s Word! Where absolutes are laughed at, tolerance is applauded, and ***DOCTRINE*** considered divisive, there’s little room for careful study and teaching of the Bible. The result; ill-fed Christians are left defenseless, poorly equipped and starving for truth. Churches struggle along with *no sense of purpose* and no source of power and authority.”

I am not sure where I got this quote from which I penned in my “Attitudes” book ten years ago. One thing I am sure of though is that after studying this chapter on doctrine, it gave me *a greater sense of* *purpose*: **TO KNOW MY SAVIOUR** even more!

Ladies, let’s look through my acronym and one of the significant questions Martha Peace asked, ***“Why Study Bible Doctrine?”*** Martha gives fifteen reasons to this answer for us to ponder. I have gently mixed her reasons with other important ingredients from this chapter to help us form *new attitudes* toward doctrine. Let’s pray for a new understanding of why doctrine is not dry but deliciously divine!

**T**  rue saving faith “comes from hearing … the word of Christ (doctrine).” Romans 10: 12-17

**O** bliterates glorifying self and leads to glorifying God’s Holy name. Psalm 138:2

**K** eeps us hungering for obedience to Him which is more valuable than daily food. Job 23:12

**N** ecessitates a plan for practicing the disciplines of godliness if we are never to stumble. 2 Peter 1:5-10

**O**  nly way to true freedom from the power of sin and the temptations that daily bombard us. Jn.8:31-32

**W** hen warnings from the Word of God abide in us we can have victory over satan. 1 John 2:14

**M** akes us aware of the priorities of what the Lord wants His church to be. Acts 2:42; Titus 2:1-15

 **Y** ielding our will to the demands of righteous and holy living will train us to for ministry. 2 Tim. 3:16-17

**S** imply put; understanding and living Bible doctrine is the COMMAND of God. Matthew 4:4

**A**  lerts us to become more discerning which will lead to outstanding wisdom. Ps.119:98-100

**V**  aliant soldiers equipped in the armor of God are needed to reach the world with the gospel. Eph.6

 **I** nfuses us with the mind of Christ and causes us to grow spiritually. We should long for it! 1 Pet.2:2, 3

**O** penly bearing fruit of a transformed life will have a powerful effect on others. John 15:7, 8

**U** nmistakably stimulates us to surrender and turn to God leading to comfort in trials. Ps.119:50

**R** aises our eyes to look up TO TRUST HIM, and readies our hearts TO WORSHIP HIM! Col. 3:16

Ladies, without a doubt this chapter on doctrine has clearly pointed me to having an *“ATTITUDE OF* *DETERMINATION”* **TO KNOW MY SAVIOUR** more! **Determined:** to hear Him, to glorify Him, to be nourished by Him, to follow Him, to be freed by Him, to have victory in Him, to be devoted to Him, to be trained by Him, to understand and obey Him, to live wisely for Him, to declare Him, to think like Him, to be transformed by Him, to turn to Him, to reflect Him! All of this and more just inflames my heart to love Him, long to please Him and desirous ***to learn more of Him*** through His Word! How about you?

So ladies, do you see why it is so important to study Bible doctrine? Do you see some of the **attitudes** and **actions** that we must work towards together by the power of His Spirit to intimately know our Saviour? This is why I chose **2 Peter 3:18** **to be our memory verse** for this specific chapter on doctrine. We are commanded to *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him* *be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”*

Doctrine is not dull ladies, it’s dynamic!

Doctrine demands our attention!

One of the Biblical principles that Martha brought to our attention specifically related to women on doctrine states:

**“Pastors are to teach sound doctrine to the older women so the older women can teach and encourage** **the younger women in order that the Word of God will not be dishonored.”** **Titus 2:1, 3-5**

Titus 2:3-5 is a critical blueprint for us women to obey. It is *NOT* optional for us! And it is *NOT* just something for us to “consider”! These are priorities for us as women given by God for us to obey by the enablement of His Spirit. Having studied, meditated on and embraced these foundational verses for many years now, with my keyboard at my fingertips I have typed Titus 2:3-5 in quick ‘2-d’ form:

Doctrine dictates the parameters of what the will of God is for us as women!

Doctrine defines our priorities and shapes the sphere of influence that greatly honours God!

Doctrine differentiates fateful feminism from fierce faithfulness to His Word!

Doctrine distinguishes the roles and God-given responsibilities of older women from younger women!

Doctrine details the character and conduct of both younger and older women!

Doctrine devises a clear plan: older women are to teach the younger women HOW to live out doctrine!

Doctrine disciples the younger women to learn from the older women who have been faithful!

Doctrine discloses who we are to serve, how we are to serve, and the motives behind our serving-LOVE!

Doctrine determines the Biblical goals for women of: service, sacrifice and submission!

Doctrine directs our thoughts and attitudes towards Christlikeness!

Doctrine demands godliness, holiness and purity of life!

Doctrine directly determines if others will see the Bible as believable or not by our obedience!

Doctrine demonstrates to the world we have been saved from the power and penalty of sin!

Doctrine decorates and adorns, (greek word ‘kosmeo’) beautifies the gospel by our transformed lives!

Doctrine displays the glorious gospel as we submit ourselves under Christ’s divine directives!

Doctrine drives us to our knees praying for the Holy Spirit’s help!

Ladies, the topic on doctrine, I pray, will have deepened our understanding of what God requires from us: to walk *HUMBLY* and *HOLY* before our God. We will need to do this even among those women who do not know His plan, have not embraced His plan, or in some cases have rejected His perfect plan for our lives! Oh that “our liveswould **look** different and **be** different because **we are** different” (Lisa Hughes) for His name’s sake!

Doctrine helps us discover who God is! Oh, **TO KNOW MY SAVIOUR** and become more like Him!

Ladies, let’s continue to lean upon Christ and accept His Word which performs its work in us who believe! (1Thess.2:13)

Blessings, Christyn