

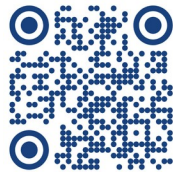
Essential Doctrines

A 30-Lesson Series · Keith Blades · Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

Complete Overview & Layered Outline

Seven sections — 30 lessons — essential truths for the Body of Christ in the Dispensation of Grace

Section	Lessons	Key Text
Introduction	Lessons 1–2	<i>“I Would Not Have You Ignorant”</i>
Part 1 — Pauline Authority & Godly Edification	Lessons 3–6	<i>The First and Most Foundational Essential Doctrine</i>
Part 2 — Israel & the Mystery	Lessons 7–10	<i>The Second Essential Doctrine</i>
Part 3 — Godly Sanctification	Lessons 11–14	<i>The Third Essential Doctrine</i>
Part 4 — Spiritual Gifts	Lessons 15–22	<i>The Fourth Essential Doctrine</i>
Part 5 — Sufferings	Lessons 23–26	<i>The Fifth Essential Doctrine</i>
Part 6 — Death, Rapture & the Lord’s Day	Lessons 27–30	<i>The Sixth and Final Essential Doctrine</i>



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Introduction · Lessons 1–2

"I Would Not Have You Ignorant" · Survey of All Six Essential Doctrines

P1

The Six Essential Doctrines Introduced

L1 · Essential Nature from God's Perspective and Satan's

- Paul marks six doctrines across Romans through 1 Thessalonians with the signal phrase "I would not have you ignorant, brethren" — each signals a doctrine essential for members of the Body of Christ in the Dispensation of Grace.
- These are not general Bible doctrines or cardinal fundamentals; they are dispensationally targeted — essential specifically for those living in and understanding the present Dispensation of Grace.
- Lesson 1 surveys all six doctrines in sequence so the believer has a working framework for the entire 30-lesson series before detailed study begins.
- From God's perspective, ignorance of these truths stunts growth and godly living; from Satan's perspective, ignorance of each doctrine opens a specific door for the satanic policy of evil to operate.

P2

Satan's Attacks on Each Essential Doctrine

L2 · Ephesians 4:14 — The Adversary's Overarching Goal

- Lesson 2 examines in detail how Satan's policy of evil attacks each of the six essential doctrines specifically, leaving believers tossed about by every wind of doctrine.
- Ephesians 4:14 frames the Adversary's overarching strategy: to keep members of the Body of Christ childlike and immature, susceptible to sleight of men and cunning craftiness.
- Each of the six doctrines has a corresponding satanic counterfeit or attack — identifying the attack helps the believer understand why the doctrine is essential in the first place.
- Together the two introductory lessons provide the frame of reference that makes every subsequent study in this series immediately meaningful and urgent.

Part 1 — Pauline Authority & Godly Edification · Lessons 3–6

The First and Most Foundational Essential Doctrine · Romans 1:13

P1

Paul's Gentile Apostleship and the Purpose of Edification

L3 · Romans 1:1–15 — The First Essential Doctrine Introduced

- Of the six essential doctrines, Pauline authority and godly edification stands first — without it none of the remaining five can be properly understood or received.
- Romans 1:1–15 establishes Paul's unique apostleship to the Gentiles as the indispensable gateway to everything God wants to accomplish in the Body of Christ today.
- Paul's purpose is explicitly stated: to produce godly edification — a building of sound doctrine within the believer's inner man — as the means to fruitful living.
- Satan's primary attack is against this first doctrine: undermine Pauline authority and the believer has no grid for right division and will inevitably misapply Scripture.

P2

Paul as “Chief” — Defending the Office Against Attack

L4 · 1 Timothy 1:15–16 — Submission to Paul's Authority

- Paul identifies himself as “chief” of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15–16) — not merely as self-deprecation but to establish the pattern of God's grace through the chief apostle.
- His apostleship was a direct commission from the risen, glorified Lord Jesus Christ — not derived from any earthly source or from the twelve apostles.
- Submission to Paul's unique authority is the prerequisite for godly edification — without it, the believer wanders without a fixed doctrinal curriculum.
- Lesson 4 equips believers to defend Paul's apostleship against the attacks that would neutralize his authority and leave them without their direct doctrinal teacher.

P3

The Authority for Edification Defined

L5 · 2 Corinthians 10:8 — Building a House of Doctrine

- 2 Corinthians 10:8 provides the explicit claim: the Lord gave Paul authority for edification — not for destruction — establishing the divine mandate behind his teaching ministry.
- Edification is precisely defined: the building of a house of sound doctrine within the believer's inner man, providing the structural framework for godly living and decision-making.
- This is not self-improvement or behavioral modification — it is a Spirit-empowered construction of truth that progressively transforms the inner man from the inside out.
- The five essential doctrines that follow are the specific rooms in that house — each must be built in order for the believer to function as God intends.

P4

Godliness Defined as God-Likeness

L6 · Genesis 1:26, the Fall, and God's Full Provision

- Godliness is precisely defined as God-likeness — not religious behavior or moral performance, but actually displaying the divine nature through the inner man.
- Genesis 1:26 traces the origin: man was made in God's image and likeness — to be God-like was the original design; the fall destroyed that capacity.
- In this dispensation, God has made full provision for the restoration of God-likeness through the inner man — this is the goal of all godly edification.
- Lesson 6 concludes Part 1 by tying together the entire foundation: Paul's authority, edification as the method, and God-likeness as the magnificent goal of the entire series.

Part 2 — Israel & the Mystery · Lessons 7–10

The Second Essential Doctrine · Romans 11:25

P1

Why Ignorance of This Doctrine Is Catastrophic

L7 · Romans 11:25 — Every Ism and Schism in Christianity

- “I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery” (Romans 11:25) — Paul signals the essential nature of understanding what God has done dispensationally with Israel.
- Ignorance of this doctrine is the root cause of every ism and schism in Christianity: replacement theology, covenant theology, and kingdom-now confusion all trace back here.
- The doctrine identifies itself within the verse: blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles is come in — Israel's blindness is temporary, purposeful, and will be reversed.
- Satan exploits ignorance of Israel's program to produce high-mindedness, doctrinal confusion, and a failure to understand the present Dispensation of Grace.

P2

The Danger of Being “Wise in Your Own Conceits”

L8 · Proverbs 26 — High-Mindedness Toward Israel

- Proverbs 26 provides the defining portrait of being “wise in your own conceits” — applied specifically to the high-mindedness toward Israel that Paul warns against in Romans 11:20.
- Keith demonstrates the God-designed benefits of properly understanding Israel's program: gratitude for grace, humility toward God's faithfulness, and zeal for the present dispensation.
- High-mindedness toward Israel leads to the practical error of applying Israel's covenanted promises directly to the Body of Christ, distorting both programs.
- The antidote is not neutrality but active, informed appreciation: understanding Israel's past, present suspension, and glorious future produces a grounded and humble walk.

P3

Romans 9–10 Survey: Israel's Privileges and Responsible Rejection

L9 · The Five Privileges, the Genuine Kingdom Offer, and Israel's Own Choice

- Romans 9 establishes Israel's unique privileges (adoption, glory, covenants, law, promises, fathers, and Messiah) — advantages not shared by Gentiles in Israel's program.
- A genuine kingdom offer was extended by Christ and the twelve — not a token gesture but a real offer that Israel's rulers had three honest opportunities to accept (Acts 2, 5, and 7).
- Israel's rejection was responsible and culpable — they were not victims of divine predetermination but active agents who rejected their Messiah with full knowledge of the facts.
- Romans 10 confirms that faith comes by hearing the word — Israel heard and understood, but would not submit to the righteousness of God, making their rejection inexcusable.

P4

Romans 11 in Detail — Israel's Certain Fulness

L10 · The Olive Tree, the Remnant, and the Practical Walk

- Romans 11:1–27 demolishes the “God has cast away Israel” misunderstanding — God has not cast them away; a faithful remnant always exists, and the nation's fulness is certain.
- The olive tree illustration (Romans 11:17–24) establishes the Gentiles' grafted-in position and warns explicitly against high-mindedness — we stand by faith, not by merit.
- “All Israel shall be saved” (Romans 11:26) — not universalism but the national salvation of Israel at the resumption of God's program with them in the Day of the Lord.
- The practical result: understanding this doctrine produces a non-high-minded, time-redeeming, zealous walk that appreciates the unprecedented privilege of the Dispensation of Grace.

Part 3 — Godly Sanctification · Lessons 11–14

The Third Essential Doctrine · 1 Corinthians 10:1–6

P1

Position in Christ and the Liberty Problem at Corinth

L11 · Justification, Sanctification, and Exaltation

- 1 Corinthians 10:1–6 introduces essential doctrine #3 — Paul uses Israel's Exodus failure as the defining negative example for what ignorance of sanctification produces.
- The three-part framework of the believer's full position in Christ is established: justification (declared righteous), sanctification (set apart in Christ), and exaltation (seated in heavenly places).
- The Corinthians' liberty problem in 1 Corinthians 8–10 traces back to ignorance of what their sanctification is for — they had position but lacked understanding of its purpose.
- Godly sanctification is not experiential (earned through behavior) but positional — it is the believer's standing in Christ that provides the platform for godly living.

P2

Romans 6 and 7 — The Mechanics of Sanctification

L12 · Freedom from Sin's Dominion and the Law's Contrary System

- Romans 6 establishes that the Spirit's baptism into Christ's death, burial, and resurrection means sin no longer has dominion over the believer — a positional truth with practical implications.
- Romans 7 establishes freedom from the Law's contrary system — the Law could identify sin but had no power to deliver from it; in Christ the believer is free from that framework entirely.
- The angelic audience of the Body of Christ's conduct is introduced — the believer's walk is a testimony not only to other humans but to the spiritual realm watching God's grace in action.
- The resulting capacity: fruit unto holiness — the believer in Christ has everything needed to produce the fruit God desires; ignorance of this capacity is the great practical hindrance.

P3

The Affective Dimension — Zeal, Abhorrence, and God-Likeness

L13 · Ephesians 4–5, Titus 2, and Philipians 1

- Knowledge of our sanctified position ought to produce an affective response — not mere intellectual acknowledgment but genuine zeal for holiness and abhorrence of the former life.
- Ephesians 4–5 provides the practical outworking: putting off the old man, renewing the mind, putting on the new man — each step rooted in what sanctification has already accomplished.
- Titus 2 and Philipians 1 reinforce the same truth: godly living is the visible display of the divine nature — God-likeness through the inner man made possible by position in Christ.
- The goal of Lesson 13 is not more information but the right attitude: zealous, ambitious, and enthusiastically pursuing the fruit unto holiness that our position in Christ makes possible.

P4

1 Corinthians 10 — Israel's Failure as the Defining Example

L14 · Liberty's Two Objectives and the Call to Flee Idolatry

- A verse-by-verse walk through 1 Corinthians 10:1–14 uses Israel's Exodus sanctification and subsequent failure as the supreme negative example for the Body of Christ.
- Israel was sanctified (set apart) by God — they passed through the sea, under the cloud, ate the same spiritual meat, drank the same spiritual drink — yet most were overthrown in the wilderness.
- The two objectives of liberty are established: agape love (seeking the other's benefit rather than exercising one's own rights) and repudiating the former life (not returning to idolatry).
- The lesson concludes with the call to flee from idolatry — the mark of proper zeal for sanctification and the practical measure of whether the believer has truly understood their position in Christ.

Part 4 — Spiritual Gifts · Lessons 15–22

The Fourth Essential Doctrine · 1 Corinthians 12:1

P1

Three Areas of Ignorance and the Covenantal Nature of Signs

L15 · Why Ignorance of This Doctrine Is Dangerous

- 1 Corinthians 12:1 — “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant” — Paul signals that three specific categories of ignorance leave believers defenseless.
- Signs and wonders naturally belong to Israel's covenanted program — they were promised in the Mosaic covenant as covenant tokens and were therefore expected by Israel.
- The dispensational contrast: Israel walked by sight (signs confirmed the covenant); the Body of Christ walks by faith (the completed Word of God is our confirmation).
- Understanding the covenantal naturalness of signs to Israel is the first step to discerning why sign-gifts do not belong to this dispensation of grace.

P2

The Mechanics of Satanic Counterfeiting

L16 · Dumb Idols, Genuine Miracles, and the Tongue Gift

- Dumb idols could appear to speak — the mechanism behind this was not human illusion but genuine Satanic operation; the adversary can produce real supernatural phenomena.
- Satanic signs are genuinely miraculous, not mere psychological manipulation or staged performance — this is precisely why doctrinal discernment is essential, not just experiential testing.
- The gift of tongues is identified as the Adversary's preferred instrument of deception in this age — its emotional power and apparent spiritual prestige make it the ideal counterfeit.
- Lesson 16 provides the doctrinal framework for identifying and refusing Satanic counterfeiting without being deceived by the genuine supernatural nature of the deception.

P3

The Threefold Role of the Godhead in Spiritual Gifts

L17 · 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 — Gifts, Administrations, and Operations

- 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 provides the critical analytical framework: gifts from the Spirit, administrations serving the Lord, operations designed by the Father — three distinct but unified roles.
- This threefold framework is the divinely given tool for evaluating any claimed gift: does it fit within the Spirit's gifting pattern, the Lord's administrative design, and the Father's operational purpose?
- Understanding the Godhead's distinct roles in spiritual gifts guards against both the error of rejecting all supernatural claims and the error of accepting all claims uncritically.
- Lesson 17 anchors the entire Part 4 study in the theology of gifts rather than mere experience — doctrine governs what is real, not the emotional or apparent supernatural character of the phenomenon.

P4

The Five Operations of God — Ranking the Gifts

L18 · 1 Corinthians 12:28–31 and the More Excellent Way

- 1 Corinthians 12:28–31 ranks the gifts according to what each was designed to accomplish — apostles first, prophets second, teachers third, then miracles, healings, helps, governments, tongues.
- The five operations of God are identified: the purposes for which God gave gifts — and each gift is measured against whether it actually accomplishes those operations.
- The ranking demolishes the Corinthian fascination with tongues: the most-coveted gift is ranked last because it accomplishes the least of the five operations.
- “A more excellent way” is introduced at the end of 1 Corinthians 12 — a superior means of accomplishing all five operations that surpasses every spiritual gift.

P5

“That Which Is Perfect” — The Completed Word of God

L19 · *The Most Excellent Ministry and the Superior Means*

- The “more excellent way” of 1 Corinthians 12:31 is identified: the most excellent ministry of the Holy Spirit is teaching agape love through the completed written Word of God.
- “That which is perfect” (1 Corinthians 13:10) is the completed written Word of God — when it arrived, the partial (gifts) was done away, exactly as Paul predicted.
- The completed Word accomplishes all five operations of God more excellently than any combination of sign gifts ever could — it is the superior means for all God’s purposes.
- Lesson 19 is the doctrinal center of Part 4: establishing from 1 Corinthians 13 that the era of gifts was always intended to be temporary and that its replacement is superior, not inferior.

P6

Historical Verification — The Gifts Ceased in Paul’s Lifetime

L20 · *Ephesians, Colossians, and 2 Timothy — Evidence of Cessation*

- Ephesians, Colossians, and 2 Timothy provide historical evidence that “that which is perfect” arrived and the gifts ceased in Paul’s own lifetime — not centuries later.
- Paul’s later epistles contain no mention of healings or tongues as ongoing operations — the silence is itself evidence that the transition had occurred.
- Faith, hope, and charity alone abide (1 Corinthians 13:13) — the gifts do not abide; they were the scaffolding, removed once the building (the completed Word) was in place.
- Lesson 20 closes the case from historical and textual evidence: the cessation of gifts was not a tragedy but the fulfillment of exactly what Paul said would happen.

P7

The Gifts Were Literally Gone — Timothy’s Medicine and Trophimus

L21 · *1 Corinthians 14 — Three Sources of Tongues-Chaos*

- Paul tells Timothy to use a little wine for his stomach (1 Timothy 5:23) — if the gift of healing were operative, Paul would have healed him; the gift was gone.
- Trophimus was left sick at Miletus (2 Timothy 4:20) — again, no healing; this was not a failure of faith but confirmation that the era of sign gifts had ended.
- Luke the physician traveled with Paul — not incidentally but necessarily, because healing was no longer a divine operating gift available to Paul’s team.
- A survey of 1 Corinthians 14 exposes three sources of the tongues-chaos at Corinth, establishing that God is the author of peace, not confusion — the very opposite of what the Corinthian meetings had become.

P8

The Satanic Counterfeit Continues Today

L22 · *False Apostles, Profane Vain Babblings, and the Practical Response*

- The Satanic counterfeiting operation that existed in Paul’s day continues today — false apostles, sleight of men, and cunning craftiness (Ephesians 4:14) describe the ongoing deception.
- “Profane and vain babblings” (2 Timothy 2:16) and “shun” — Paul’s language is not cautious or academic; he instructs believers to actively refuse and avoid.
- The practical doctrinal response is threefold: refuse on the basis of right division, shun the ongoing operation, and avoid those who promote it — not neutrality but active discernment.
- Lesson 22 closes Part 4 by equipping the believer not just to understand the doctrine of spiritual gifts theoretically but to respond correctly in the face of the present-day counterfeit.

Part 5 — Sufferings · Lessons 23–26

The Fifth Essential Doctrine · 2 Corinthians 1:8

P1

Introduction to the Doctrine of Sufferings

L23 · Two Categories and the Fundamental Difference from Israel's Program

- “I would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning our trouble in Asia” (2 Corinthians 1:8) — Paul introduces the fifth essential doctrine from his own extreme experience of suffering.
- Sufferings in the Dispensation of Grace must be understood entirely differently from how they were handled in Israel's program — the dispensational difference changes everything.
- Two primary categories are identified: the sufferings of this present time (arising from the bondage of corruption, Romans 8:18–23) and the sufferings of Christ (arising from the satanic policy of evil).
- God's provision in this dispensation is endurance and inner transformation — not the deliverance and outward restoration promised to Israel under their Deuteronomy 28 covenant.

P2

Defining the Two Categories and Israel's Covenant Contrast

L24 · Deuteronomy 28 and the Dispensational Difference

- The sufferings of this present time: common to all creation — the consequences of living in a fallen world under the bondage of corruption; not personal or disciplinary but universal.
- The sufferings of Christ: opposition that comes specifically from the satanic policy of evil in response to faithful gospel ministry and sound doctrine — for Christ's sake.
- Israel's Deuteronomy 28 covenant provided: God would remove both categories of suffering for Israel in exchange for faithfulness — blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience.
- The Body of Christ is not under the Deuteronomy 28 covenant — our framework is grace, not law; endurance through both categories is God's design for us, not their removal.

P3

Israel's Prophetic Program — Removal in the Kingdom

L25 · Isaiah 11, 25, 33, 65 — God's Provision Is Endurance

- Isaiah 11, 25, 33, and 65 together with Revelation 21 confirm that Israel's prophetic program promises complete removal of both suffering categories — but only in the Kingdom.
- The present time is not Israel's kingdom program — attempting to appropriate kingdom promises now produces false expectations and ultimate disappointment.
- God's provision for the Body of Christ is not removal of suffering but “the excellency of His power” working through us in the midst of it (2 Corinthians 4:7).
- Lesson 25 redirects the believer from the false hope of present-tense deliverance to the genuine hope of endurance through the Word — a hope that does not disappoint.

P4

More Than Conquerors — God's Love and the Treasure in Earthen Vessels

L26 · Romans 8:37; 2 Corinthians 4:7–18; 12:9

- “We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us” (Romans 8:37) — not conquerors by avoiding suffering but by being transformed through it in the power of God's love.
- God's love is not measured by circumstances — the list in Romans 8:35–37 (tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, peril, sword) represents the very things God allows for His purposes.
- 2 Corinthians 4:7–18 establishes the treasure in earthen vessels: the very weakness of the vessel ensures that the excellency of the power is seen to be of God, not of us.
- “My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9) — the doctrine of sufferings ends in triumph through grace.

Part 6 — Death, Rapture & the Lord's Day · Lessons 27–30

The Sixth and Final Essential Doctrine · 1 Thessalonians 4:13

P1

Three Interconnected Issues — Death, Rapture, and the Lord's Day

L27 · 1 Thessalonians 4–5 — Why This Doctrine Is Essential

- “I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep” (1 Thessalonians 4:13) — Paul introduces the sixth and final essential doctrine with characteristic urgency.
- Three issues are addressed together because they are inseparably linked: physical death (what happens when a believer dies), the Rapture (our distinct hope), and the Lord's Day (Israel's prophetic program).
- Confusing the Rapture — the Body of Christ's hope — with the Lord's Day — the resumption of God's program with Israel — is one of Satan's most effective and destructive tactics.
- The doctrine's primary purpose is comfort: “that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope” — not the elimination of sorrow but its transformation into confident hope.

P2

Physical Death Examined — Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord

L28 · Paradise, the Third Heaven, and the Resurrection Body

- What happens when a member of the Body of Christ dies: absent from the body, present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8) — an immediate transition to conscious presence with Christ.
- Paradise is identified as the third heaven — the same location Paul was caught up to in 2 Corinthians 12 — where the departed believer awaits the Rapture in the Lord's presence.
- The resurrection body: a glorified, spiritual body like the Lord's own resurrection body — the full redemption of the body at the Rapture completing the salvation already received.
- “To die is gain” (Philippians 1:21) — Paul's perspective on physical death is not reluctant acceptance but genuine confidence rooted in understanding exactly what death brings for the believer.

P3

The Rapture Detailed — The Mystery Resurrection

L29 · 1 Corinthians 15:51; 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17

- The order of resurrections from Israel's prophetic program is surveyed — establishing the pattern before introducing the Rapture as Paul's distinct mystery revelation.
- “Behold, I shew you a mystery” (1 Corinthians 15:51) — Paul reveals the Rapture separately from Israel's resurrection program because it is a distinct mystery hid in God until revealed through him.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17 details the Rapture sequence: the Lord descends with a shout, the dead in Christ rise first, then living saints are caught up together to meet the Lord in the air.
- The dispensational context is essential: the Rapture is not part of Israel's prophetic program — it is the Body of Christ's distinct hope, our appearing with Christ in glory.

P4

No Need of Times and Seasons — Comfort and Edification

L30 · 2 Thessalonians 2 — The Restrainer and the Purpose of This Doctrine

- The Body of Christ has no need of the times and seasons of Israel's prophetic calendar (1 Thessalonians 5:1–2) — those belong to Israel's program, not to the dispensation of grace.
- “We are not appointed to wrath” (1 Thessalonians 5:9) — the Body of Christ is not destined for the Day of the Lord's wrath; we are removed before it begins.
- 2 Thessalonians 2 corrects the confusion about the Day of Christ: the restrainer (the Body of Christ indwelt by the Spirit) must be taken out of the way before lawlessness is fully revealed.
- The purpose of the entire doctrine is stated in 2 words: comfort and edify — “wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:18) — 30 lessons end in confident, comforting hope.

