

Essential Doctrines

Introduction — Survey of the Six Doctrines

A 2-Lesson Study by Keith Blades | © Enjoy the Bible Ministries®

Expanded Study Guide & Lesson Summaries

About This Part

The Introduction to Essential Doctrines spans two lessons and serves as the gateway to the entire 30-lesson series. Lesson 1 surveys all six essential doctrines — identifying each one by Paul's unique signal expression, "I would not have you ignorant, brethren," and establishing their essential nature from God's perspective and Satan's. Lesson 2 continues by examining in detail how the satanic policy of evil attacks each essential doctrine specifically, using Ephesians 4 to frame the Adversary's overarching goal of keeping believers immature. Together these two introductory lessons provide the frame of reference that makes every subsequent study in this series immediately meaningful and urgent.



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Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
Lesson 1	Surveying all six essential doctrines by Paul's signal expression and establishing their essential nature from God's perspective and from Satan's
Lesson 2	Examining Satan's specific attacks on each essential doctrine in its context, using Ephesians 4:14 to frame his overarching goal against the Body of Christ

Lesson Summaries

L1

Lesson 1 — Essential Nature of These Essential Doctrines

Introduction | 1 Corinthians 12:1 as the Opening Example

Lesson 1 opens the series by identifying all six essential doctrines through Paul's signal phrase "I would not have you ignorant, brethren," establishing their essential nature from both God's perspective and Satan's. The lesson surveys each doctrine briefly so the believer has a working knowledge of the entire series before the detailed studies begin.

What "Essential Doctrines" Really Means

- The title "Essential Doctrines" does not refer to cardinal doctrines or

fundamentals of the faith such as the virgin birth or the deity of Christ — those are important, but they are not Keith's concern here

- Keith's "essential doctrines" are a specific set of six areas the apostle Paul marks with a unique expression across Romans through 1 Thessalonians — doctrines essential for members of the Body of Christ in the Dispensation of Grace
- These are not general Bible doctrines applicable to all ages; they are dispensationally targeted — essential specifically for those living in and understanding the present Dispensation of Grace
- There are also five "faithful sayings" in the Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon) that function similarly — underscoring additional essential truths particularly relevant to local assembly life
 - These five faithful sayings overlap with but also extend beyond the six main essential doctrines and will be examined time permitting at the end of the series

Paul's Signal Phrase — "I Would Not Have You Ignorant, Brethren"

- A unique expression Paul employs six times across Romans through 1 Thessalonians, each time introducing a doctrinal matter of the highest urgency for the saints
- The phrase communicates more than a desire for knowledge — it conveys that the believer literally cannot afford to be ignorant in this area; the stakes are too high
- Implicit within the expression is the presence of an active adversary who specifically wants the believer to remain ignorant: "There's someone out there who wants you to be ignorant, and if you're ignorant of it, he will have his way with you"
- Ignorance of these doctrines is not a neutral condition — when a believer is ignorant in these areas, the Adversary can and will have his way against them
- Three of the six doctrines Paul leads off with this expression (Romans 1:13; 1 Corinthians 12:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:13) — these appear to be Satan's primary "sugar sticks," the areas he most aggressively targets
 - Spiritual gifts in particular stands out: Paul leads off a three-chapter doctrine with this expression and addresses satanic counterfeiting more extensively here than in any other essential doctrine
- The other three occurrences (Romans 11:25; 1 Corinthians 10:1; 2 Corinthians 1:8) appear within broader doctrinal contexts but carry equal weight and urgency

The Six Essential Doctrines Surveyed

- Each of the six is briefly identified in Lesson 1 so the believer has an advance overview of the entire series before the detailed studies begin
 - 1. Romans 1:13 — Pauline Authority & Godly Edification: Paul's purposing to come to the Romans reveals his distinctive Gentile apostleship and God's design for godly edification through his ministry
 - 2. Romans 11:25 — Israel & the Mystery: Blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in; doctrinal corruption here produces spiritual pride and replacement theology
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 10:1 — Godly Sanctification: Israel's wilderness example introduces the doctrine of our sanctified position in Christ and the danger of misusing the liberty that comes with it
 - 4. 1 Corinthians 12:1 — Spiritual Gifts: Paul leads off this three-chapter doctrine

- with his signal phrase; the most widely corrupted of the six in Christianity today
- 5. 2 Corinthians 1:8 — Sufferings: Paul's trouble in Asia introduces the broader doctrine of the sufferings of Christ — the privilege believers have of enduring suffering for His sake in this dispensation
- 6. 1 Thessalonians 4:13 — Death, the Rapture & the Lord's Day: Three interlocking issues — physical death for the believer, the rapture/resurrection, and keeping the Lord's return for us distinct from His return with Israel
- Five of the six are concentrated in Romans and 1 & 2 Corinthians — the foundational epistles that lay the bedrock for all subsequent edification

Essential from God's Perspective

- Five of the six essential doctrines appear in the foundational epistles — Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians — the epistles God designed as "first things first" for every believer's education in this dispensation
- These doctrines are fundamental building blocks: without them firmly established, the structure of sound doctrine that God desires every believer to live in and live out of cannot be properly constructed
- They are prerequisite to advancing in the fuller revelation of Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, which assume these foundations are already firmly in place
- Without firm establishment in these six doctrines, growth toward "that perfect man" — the fully educated, mature member of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:13) — is effectively blocked
- Ignorance of these doctrines is like a ball and chain on the believer's spiritual progress — you may attempt to advance, but you will be held back and hindered at every turn
 - Paul's goal in coming to the Romans — and the goal of this entire series — is to establish believers firmly in these six areas so they can grow and mature upon them

Essential from Satan's Perspective

- Satan recognizes the value and essential nature of these six doctrines with at least as much clarity as most believers — and responds accordingly with specific, targeted attacks
- He specifically targets each one with a corresponding attack — they are his "pet doctrines" to corrupt or suppress, chosen precisely because they are so foundational to godly edification
- His overarching goal: keep members of the Body of Christ as "children tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14) — perpetually immature, unable to make progress, easily deceived
- When believers are ignorant of these doctrines, they unknowingly cooperate with the Adversary's agenda — doing him a favor without realizing it
- The success of Satan's attacks on all six is measurable and widespread: "Ignorance in all six of these areas is really an identifiable plague that exists among Christians today"
 - Entire theological systems with names, labels, and large followings have been built on doctrinal corruption in the area of Israel and the mystery alone
 - The counterfeit of spiritual gifts is perhaps the most visibly active satanic attack in contemporary Christianity
- Lesson 2 will examine in greater detail the satanic activity visible within the immediate context of each of the six signal expressions, providing the believer advance awareness of the specific attacks to watch for

L2

Lesson 2 — Satanic Opposition to Each Essential Doctrine

Introduction | Ephesians 4:14 and the Six Specific Attacks

Lesson 2 completes the introduction by examining how the satanic policy of evil specifically attacks each of the six essential doctrines. Beginning with Ephesians 4:7-16, Keith establishes the Adversary's overarching goal before working through each doctrine and showing the satanic opposition embedded in its immediate biblical context.

Ephesians 4 — God's Goal and Satan's Counter-Goal

- Ephesians 4:7-16 describes God's marvelous provision for the growth and maturity of every member of the Body of Christ — apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers given for "the perfecting of the saints... for the edifying of the body of Christ" (v. 12)
- The goal God has in view: "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (v. 13)
- "Children" in verse 14 is used in a bad sense — immature, uneducated, unstable: "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine"
- The one behind the "winds of doctrine" is Satan himself — he is a teacher, he operates behind pulpits, through Bible colleges and seminaries, through ministers whose stated goal is to keep the Body of Christ in the condition of verse 14
- "Sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" — the Adversary's operation is organized, strategic, and specifically designed to exploit ignorance of the six essential doctrines
 - When Paul says "I would not have you ignorant," God is speaking through the apostle (Galatians 1:11-12) — these are not Paul's personal recommendations but God's own declaration of what is essential
- The six essential doctrines are the direct antidote to Ephesians 4:14 — firm establishment in them is what produces the mature, stable, adult son of God Satan cannot toss to and fro

Attack on Doctrine 1 — Pauline Authority & Godly Edification (Romans 1:13)

- Paul was "let hitherto" — hindered from reaching the Romans — not by circumstance but by the Adversary himself, who recognized the value of preventing establishment from taking place
- 1 Thessalonians 2:18 makes the identification explicit: "We would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us" — the same adversary who let Paul hitherto
- When Paul was absent from Thessalonica, Satan immediately moved in to exploit the gap: 1 Thessalonians 3:5 — "lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain"
- Romans 16:17-18 — at the end of the very epistle that contains the first two essential doctrines, Paul warns: "mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them"
 - "They that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ" — no matter how they speak His name, they do not serve His purposes; they serve "their own belly"
 - "By good words and fair speeches" they deceive — the deception is attractive,

well-packaged, and appealing to the carnal mind

- Without understanding Pauline authority, a believer cannot know what God is doing today and therefore cannot truly serve Him — they will end up serving the Adversary without knowing it
- This is why Satan attacks this doctrine first and most vehemently — it is the gateway to all the others

Attack on Doctrine 2 — Israel & the Mystery (Romans 11:25)

- "Lest ye be wise in your own conceits" — Paul identifies this not merely as a fleshly tendency but as a specific objective of the satanic policy of evil: the Adversary actively works to produce Gentile conceit about Israel
- 2 Corinthians 2:11 — "lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" — the Adversary gains a measurable advantage when believers are wise in their own conceits about Israel
- Once the advantage is gained, a snowball effect begins: false doctrines, denominations, and entire theological systems are built upon Gentile pride that replaces Israel with the Church
- The resistance that builds up within a believer who has embraced these conceits is "exceedingly strong" — the corruption, once established, is very difficult to dislodge
 - Entire systems of theology with names and large followings have been built on this foundation of doctrinal corruption — a testament to how effective this particular satanic attack has been

Attack on Doctrine 3 — Godly Sanctification (1 Corinthians 10)

- Satan does not attack godly sanctification merely through fleshly temptation — he has a counterfeit sanctification of his own, specifically designed to deceive members of the Body of Christ
- 1 Corinthians 10:20-21 — "the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils" — the Adversary has his own cup, his own table, his own ceremony of worship
- His sanctification is crafted to make the believer feel and think they are "real spiritual" — the deception is internal: "let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (v. 12)
- 2 Corinthians 11:4 — "another Jesus... another spirit... another gospel" — the Adversary's counterfeit package is complete: a full doctrinal system built to mimic God's
 - "His ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness" (v. 15) — Satan does not deceive with wickedness but with apparent holiness and spiritual success
- If a believer accepts Satan's sanctification, they will not suffer — they will instead prosper in ways they mistake for God's blessing, never realizing they have exchanged God's sanctification for the Adversary's

Attack on Doctrine 4 — Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1)

- Satan was counterfeiting spiritual gifts in Corinth even while genuine gifts were still in operation — demonstrating that the counterfeiting began before the real gifts had ceased
- 1 Corinthians 12:2-3 — the very same deceiver who led them as idol-worshipping Gentiles ("carried away unto these dumb idols") was now actively deceiving them within the assembly with counterfeit tongues
- Since the genuine gifts have ceased (as 1 Corinthians 13 teaches), what

operates under the label of spiritual gifts today is entirely counterfeit — there is no need to wonder whether any declared manifestation is genuine

- Ignorance of this doctrine means "duping, after duping, after duping" — a believer without knowledge of what the scripture teaches has no defense against the counterfeit
 - "Duped by the Adversary in connection with these things" could be stamped on Christianity as a whole when it comes to the doctrine of spiritual gifts
- To be ignorant in this area is to be "a laughing stock in the face of Satan and his principalities, powers, might and dominions" — the very beings the believer is supposed to be making an impact upon

Attack on Doctrine 5 — Sufferings (2 Corinthians 1:8)

- The trouble Paul experienced in Asia was not random hardship — it was produced by the Adversary himself; 1 Corinthians 16:8-9 identifies "many adversaries" at Ephesus as the source of that trouble
- Satan's goal through this attack: keep believers ignorant of the doctrine of sufferings so they fall apart under pressure rather than endure to God's honor and glory
- 2 Corinthians 11 reveals the contrast Satan exploits: his ministers of righteousness prosper and appear successful, while Paul suffers — those ignorant of the doctrine will draw the wrong conclusion
 - A believer ignorant of this doctrine will call Satan's worldly success "God's blessing" and Paul's sufferings "God's judgment" — precisely the inversion Satan intends
- "God the Father, the Father of all mercies, and the God of all comfort" (2 Corinthians 1:3) — the last thing the Adversary wants a believer to experience is the genuine comfort of the Father through the doctrine of sufferings
- Satan offers a substitute comfort — the worldly success of his false sanctification — to lure believers away from the genuine comfort that comes through rightly responding to the sufferings of Christ

Attack on Doctrine 6 — Death, Rapture & the Lord's Day (1 Thessalonians 4:13)

- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 — Paul addresses believers being "shaken in mind" and "troubled" regarding the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the gathering together unto Him
- The Adversary uses multiple channels to produce this distress and confusion: "by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us" — including the counterfeiting of apostolic correspondence
 - "Extra-Biblical revelations" — new prophetic words, alleged letters from Paul, direct spiritual impressions — are a specific tactic to produce doctrinal corruption on the final essential doctrine
- The goal of the attack: produce fear and distress about the Lord's Day of wrath in believers who should instead have peace and assurance about their deliverance from it
- The doctrine is designed to produce comfort and hope (1 Thessalonians 4:18: "comfort one another with these words") — the Adversary's attack is designed to produce the exact opposite

The Six as a Package — Conclusion

- Paul understood the six essential doctrines as a package, not as isolated

topics; believers must appreciate them that way and resist the tendency to treat any one as optional

- Essential to God: you cannot become that perfect man without firm establishment in all six — each one is a necessary brick in the doctrinal foundation for your edification
- Essential to Satan: he needs all six suppressed or corrupted to keep believers as children tossed to and fro — ignorance in even one gives him significant advantage
- Lesson 3 begins the detailed examination of Essential Doctrine #1 — Pauline Authority & Godly Edification — the most foundational of the six and the gateway to all that follows

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

"I Would Not Have You Ignorant" — God's Declaration, Not Paul's Opinion

When Paul uses the expression "I would not have you ignorant, brethren," it is God speaking through His apostle (Galatians 1:11-12) — not a personal preference or editorial comment. This means that the essential nature of these six doctrines carries divine authority. God has declared that members of the Body of Christ cannot afford to be ignorant of these specific areas. Any teaching that dismisses or minimizes these doctrines opposes God's own expressed concern for the edification of His saints.

The Adversary Is a Teacher — Not Just a Tempter

One of the key insights of these two introductory lessons is that Satan is not merely a source of moral temptation — he is a teacher. He operates through ministers, Bible colleges, seminaries, denominations, and theological systems. He uses "good words and fair speeches" and deploys "ministers of righteousness" to deceive. His doctrines are carefully counterfeited to resemble truth as closely as possible. Understanding this changes how a believer evaluates the teaching they receive: it is not enough that something sounds spiritual or biblical — it must be tested against Paul's apostolic authority and rightly divided.

Ignorance Is Not Neutral — It Is Cooperation with the Enemy

A believer who is ignorant of any of the six essential doctrines is not simply uninformed — they are unknowingly cooperating with the Adversary's agenda. Satan specifically targets these six areas because he knows that ignorance in them produces the exact condition described in Ephesians 4:14: children tossed to and fro, unable to mature, easily deceived. The introduction to this series is designed to make the believer feel the weight of this reality — so that the desire and urgency for firm establishment in every essential doctrine becomes genuine and personal.

Key Scripture References

Romans 1:13	Essential Doctrine #1 signal verse — Pauline Authority & Godly Edification
Romans 11:25	Essential Doctrine #2 signal verse — Israel & the Mystery
Romans 16:17-18	Warning against those who cause divisions contrary to Paul's doctrine
1 Corinthians 10:1	Essential Doctrine #3 signal verse — Godly Sanctification
1 Corinthians 10:20-21	Satan's table and cup — his counterfeit sanctification exposed
1 Corinthians 12:1	Essential Doctrine #4 signal verse — Spiritual Gifts
2 Corinthians 1:8	Essential Doctrine #5 signal verse — Sufferings
2 Corinthians 2:11	"Lest Satan should get an advantage... we are not ignorant of his devices"
2 Corinthians 11:4	Another Jesus, another spirit, another gospel — Satan's counterfeit system
2 Corinthians 11:14-15	Satan transformed as an angel of light; his ministers of righteousness
Ephesians 4:12-14	God's goal: the perfect man; Satan's goal: children tossed to and fro
1 Thessalonians 2:18	"Satan hindered us" — explicit identification of who prevented establishment
1 Thessalonians 3:5	"Lest by some means the tempter have tempted you" — Paul's concern for Thessalonica
1 Thessalonians 4:13	Essential Doctrine #6 signal verse — Death, the Rapture & the Lord's Day
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3	Satan's attack on the sixth doctrine — shaking believers concerning the Lord's Day

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