Essential Doctrines

Introduction — Lessons 1–2

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

Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

About This Series

Lesson 1 of Keith Blades' Essential Doctrines series identifies the six doctrines Paul marks with the expression "I would not have you ignorant" — doctrines essential for members of the Church, the Body of Christ, to understand and appreciate, and pet doctrines of the satanic policy of evil against us in this dispensation of grace. Lesson 2 introduces the value Satan sees in these doctrines: in connection with each one there is a Satanic warning. All six are essential to God for our edification; the adversary needs to keep you ignorant about them or corrupt you in connection with them to keep you a child; Paul understood them as a package.

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Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
L1	Identifying the Six Essential Doctrines — "I would not have you ignorant" — Romans 1:13 to I Thessalonians 4:13
L2	The Value Satan Sees in Essential Doctrines — Ephesians 4:7–16 and the Satanic Warning with Each Doctrine

Lesson Summaries

L1

Identifying the Six Essential Doctrines *"I would not have you ignorant" — Romans 1:13 to I Thessalonians 4:13*

What Makes a Doctrine Essential

- On at least six occasions in Romans to Philemon, Paul introduces a doctrinal issue with an expression similar to "I would not have you ignorant"; if Paul says you can't afford to be ignorant about it, that means they're essential
- They are essential because they are pet doctrines of the satanic policy of evil against us in this dispensation of grace; they produce great doctrinal corruption when they are successfully attacked and members of the Body of Christ are ignorant of the truth
- There's someone out there who wants you ignorant — the adversary himself — and if you're ignorant of it, he'll have his way with you

- Five times in the pastoral epistles Paul says something like this is a faithful saying, underscoring the essential nature of some things; Keith hopes, time permitting, to look at them at the end, though they won't be the focal point

Doctrines One and Two: Romans

- Romans 1:13 is read with its context, verses 1–15: Paul isn't simply saying he has not been avoiding them; his ministry was preaching the gospel so people become saints and also providing for their godly edification
- The first essential doctrine is Paul's authority as the apostle of the Gentiles and the godly edification God designed through members submitting to it — Pauline authority and godly edification
- Romans 11:25 winds down Romans 9, 10 and 11; the second essential doctrine is what God has done with Israel in view of having brought in the dispensation of grace — Israel and the mystery
- Getting Christians to misunderstand what God has done with Israel and think of themselves as spiritual Israelites is very common; whole systems of theology are based on a misunderstanding of this issue

Doctrines Three and Four: I Corinthians

- I Corinthians 10:1 is part of a doctrine running from chapter 8 to the end of chapter 10; with Israel's program set aside, there is still something in God's program with Israel we are to learn from
- Paul deals with what Keith calls, for now, a particular aspect of our sanctification; Israel did not respond properly to their sanctification, and the Corinthians were doing much the same — the third doctrine, godly sanctification
- I Corinthians 12:1 leads off the three-chapter doctrine of spiritual gifts (chapters 12, 13 and 14); if you don't understand what God says about it, you're easily deceived by the satanic policy of evil's counterfeiting of spiritual gifts
- Keith says it almost seems that three of the six are really the "sugar sticks" Satan will assail the most; Paul talks more about satanic activity with spiritual gifts than with most of the others

Doctrine Five: Sufferings

- II Corinthians 1:8 begins with "for" and follows the first seven verses on the sufferings of Christ; Keith names this essential doctrine with the one word, sufferings
- Paul already dealt with another category in Romans 8, the sufferings of this present time; Keith will cover its fundamentals, though the focal point will be the sufferings of Christ

Doctrine Six and the Foundation

- I Thessalonians 4:13, carrying on into chapter 5, gives the sixth essential doctrine and its three major components — death, the rapture, and the Lord's day — all commonly attacked
- None of the six are in Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians; five are foundational doctrines to your edification, and ignorance or corruption in them is like a ball and chain on your leg

L2 The Value Satan Sees in Essential Doctrines *Ephesians 4:7–16 and the Satanic Warning with Each Doctrine*

Ephesians 4: Edification vs. Ignorance

- In Ephesians 4:7–16 Paul deals with the divine design and provision for growth and maturity; verse 13 sets forth God's design for your full education
- When Paul says "I would not have you ignorant, brethren", that's God saying it through Paul; in direct contrast to the value God has upon your edification, the adversary values your ignorance
- In verse 14 "children" is used in a bad sense: God wants you a perfect man, a fully educated adult son of God that He's made you to be in Christ; the deception's goal is to keep you a child

Romans 1:13 — "but was let hitherto"

- The Satanic warning with each doctrine is not a warning from Satan but from Paul — God through Paul — about Satanic desires in connection with these things
- In Romans 1:10–12 Paul speaks of getting them established — the first thing that takes place in edification — and of "the mutual faith both of you and me"
- Paul "was let hitherto" — hindered by someone who knew the value of establishment — the adversary, Satan himself; the first two essential doctrines comprise one half of your establishment
- In I Thessalonians 2 Satan hindered Paul getting back, because he saw value in the Thessalonians not getting established; the tempter saw the value in the foundational doctrines just as Paul did

Romans 11:25 and 16:17–20 — Advantage

- The expression "wise in your own conceits" is not God's goal but the adversary's; it is not just a fleshly tendency but an objective of the satanic policy of evil
- The adversary gets what Paul calls an advantage when his tactics succeed; all his devices are taught in Paul's epistles, Romans to Philemon, and denominational business comes out of exploited advantages
- At the end of Romans Paul warns about the satanic policy of evil and sets forth the fundamentals of his tactics; the advantage he seeks is based on corruption of the doctrine you've learned

Counterfeit Sanctification and Gifts

- In I Corinthians 10 Israel preferred Satan's method and form of sanctification rather than God's; counterfeiting is Satan's most successful method of operation, and counterfeits are only about 1% off
- Satan's sanctification is the temptation in verse 13; you'll think you're real spiritual with it, but if you're ignoring godly sanctification you're going to be involved in satanic sanctification
- In I Corinthians 12:1–3, genuine gifts were in operation when Paul wrote, and he marks off when they end; ignorant of this doctrine, you will fall for the satanic counterfeits that continue after the real ones have left

Sufferings, the Lord's Day, and the Package

- In II Corinthians 1:8 the particular sufferings are the sufferings of Christ; the adversary produced that trouble in Asia, and the way he'll get you to respond as he wants is ignorance of the doctrine
- In II Thessalonians 2 the satanic policy of evil even counterfeited a letter from Paul, designed to produce doctrinal corruption on death, the rapture, and the Lord's day
- All six are essential to God for our edification; the adversary needs to keep you ignorant about them or corrupt you in connection with them to keep you a

	child; Paul understood them as a package

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

Cardinal Doctrines vs. Paul's Essential Doctrines

A title like Essential Doctrines might suggest a look at cardinal doctrines of the faith; Keith is not saying those aren't important — they certainly are. The doctrines Keith calls essential are those Paul marks with "I would not have you ignorant"; if Paul says you can't afford to be ignorant about it, that means they're essential. When Paul uses other expressions very similar to it, the issue being dealt with can usually be thought of as part of one of these six.

God's Edification vs. the Adversary's Ignorance

In direct contrast to the value and esteem God has upon your edification, the adversary values and esteems your ignorance. The Satanic warning is not a warning from Satan but a warning from Paul — God through Paul — about Satanic desires. The word children is often used in a good sense, as in child of God; in Ephesians 4:14 it is used in a bad sense.

Godly Sanctification vs. Satan's Sanctification

Sanctification isn't unique to this dispensation of grace; the word is used a great number of times in God's program with Israel. With Israel's program set aside, there is still something in God's program with Israel we are to learn from. In I Corinthians 10, the example Paul makes out of Israel is that they preferred Satan's method and form of sanctification rather than God's. Satan can't deceive you with wickedness and evil, but he can deceive you with righteousness and his own form of sanctification.

Sufferings of This Present Time vs. Sufferings of Christ

In these two lessons Keith names two categories: the sufferings of this present time (Romans 8), common to man, and the sufferings of Christ, particular results of the satanic policy of evil against us. The particular sufferings in II Corinthians 1:8 are the sufferings of Christ, but sufferings in general need to be understood and appreciated too.

Key Scripture References

Romans 1:10–12	Getting them established — the first thing that takes place in edification

Romans 1:13	1st essential doctrine: Pauline authority and godly edification; “let hitherto” — hindered by Satan himself
Romans 8	Another category: the sufferings of this present time
Romans 11:25 (Romans 9–11)	2nd essential doctrine: Israel and the mystery; “wise in your own conceits” is the adversary’s goal
Romans 16:17–20	Paul warns about the satanic policy of evil and the fundamentals of his tactics
I Corinthians 10:1 (chapters 8–10)	3rd essential doctrine: godly sanctification
I Corinthians 10:13	The temptation: Satan’s sanctification offered to the Corinthians
I Corinthians 12:1 (chapters 12–14)	4th essential doctrine: spiritual gifts; ignorance means falling for satanic counterfeits
II Corinthians 1:8 (verses 1–7)	5th essential doctrine: sufferings; the particular sufferings are the sufferings of Christ
II Corinthians 2:8–11	“not ignorant of his devices” — if you are ignorant, he’ll get the advantage
II Corinthians 11:13–15	Satan can deceive with righteousness and his own form of sanctification
Ephesians 4:7–16	God’s design for growth and full education (verse 13); the goal of deception is to keep you a child (verse 14)
I Thessalonians 2:17–18	Satan hindered Paul getting back to the Thessalonians
I Thessalonians 4:13 (into chapter 5)	6th essential doctrine: death, the rapture, and the Lord’s day
II Thessalonians 2:1–2	The satanic policy of evil even counterfeited a letter from Paul