



Churches of the Commonwealth
Ministering to the World



Virginia Association of Free Will Baptists

PLUMBLINE

April 22, 2022

Preaching and Teaching in the New Testament: Indoctrination

For God's Word to be shared with another person, some level of instruction must take place. There can be no learning if there are no facts to be considered. Whether through teaching or preaching, one possesses biblical truth that must be shared, understood, and accepted. Therefore, it is the communicator's responsibility to find effective methods by which this transfer of knowledge may be accomplished, and practical application made.

The Greek word for this instruction is *kataxeo*. It concerns truth that is sounded out, informed, taught, or instructed. In

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God's Man Conference Begins at Gateway

Today begins the God's Man Conference at Gateway Church in Virginia Beach. Don't miss this opportunity to receive encouragement and challenge from the services and fellowship.

Speakers are Jim McComas, Scott Coghill, and Brent Patrick. There are two services tonight (6:30 and 7:45) and three Saturday (9:00, 10:15, and 11:30).

Gateway Church
5473 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
(757) 499-9686
bpatrick@gatewaychurchvb.org



Where to Find Strength, When There is None

Undoubtedly, life can be difficult and for some more than others. Are you one of those who face problems and are seemingly all alone? When no one seems to understand or you feel left alone, please remember that "he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). Paul said, "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me" (2 Timothy 4:17). Look to the Lord, "whence cometh [your] help" (Psalm 121:1-2).

Cont'd., Preaching and Teaching: Indoctrination

today's culture, the word "indoctrination" is misconstrued to suggest propaganda or brainwashing. However, that is not the New Testament concept. Indoctrination is akin to our word "catechism" (*Theological Dictionary of New Testament Words*, 639). It is a consistent method by which biblical truth can be learned.

Paul's use of *kataxeo* is solely that of instruction in matters relating to the Christian faith. An example passage of this is Acts 18:24-25. "And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was **instructed** in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John" [emphasis mine].

Apollos already understood much of the Old Testament Scriptures; however, he presently only understood the New Testament implications of John's baptism. He needed further instruction to build his doctrinal understanding beyond where it was. Therefore, a systematic method would be required in specific biblical knowledge and application areas. Such would enable him as a better servant of Christ in all areas of truth. This type of indoctrination is in keeping with the Scriptural mandate of 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

As such is understood, both the preaching and teaching of God's Word contribute to appropriate instruction and indoctrination. Neither method is to be sporadic or pointless. These should be founded in God's Word, specific to the hearer's need, consistently building faith, and challenging a change in actions.

VAFWB ON THE CALENDAR

- April 22-23, East Coast God's Man Conference at Gateway Church
- April 24-27, PR-DR, Forgiveness Conference, Woodland Heights FWB Church, Martinsville, VA
- April 29, Annual John Wheeler Association Meeting
- May 1, PR-DR, Baby Dedication, Faith FWB Church, Wytheville, VA
- May 2, Tidewater Minister's Conf., Providence FWB Church, Hampton
- May 22-25, PR-DR, Forgiveness Conference, Bethany FWB Church, Norfolk, VA
- May 28, Southwest Virginia Assoc., West Wise Conference
- June 11, John Wheeler Northeast Quarterly
- June 16-17, Virginia State Assoc. Meeting, New London Church, Forest, VA
- June 26-July 2, Northern Virginia Conference Youth Camp

