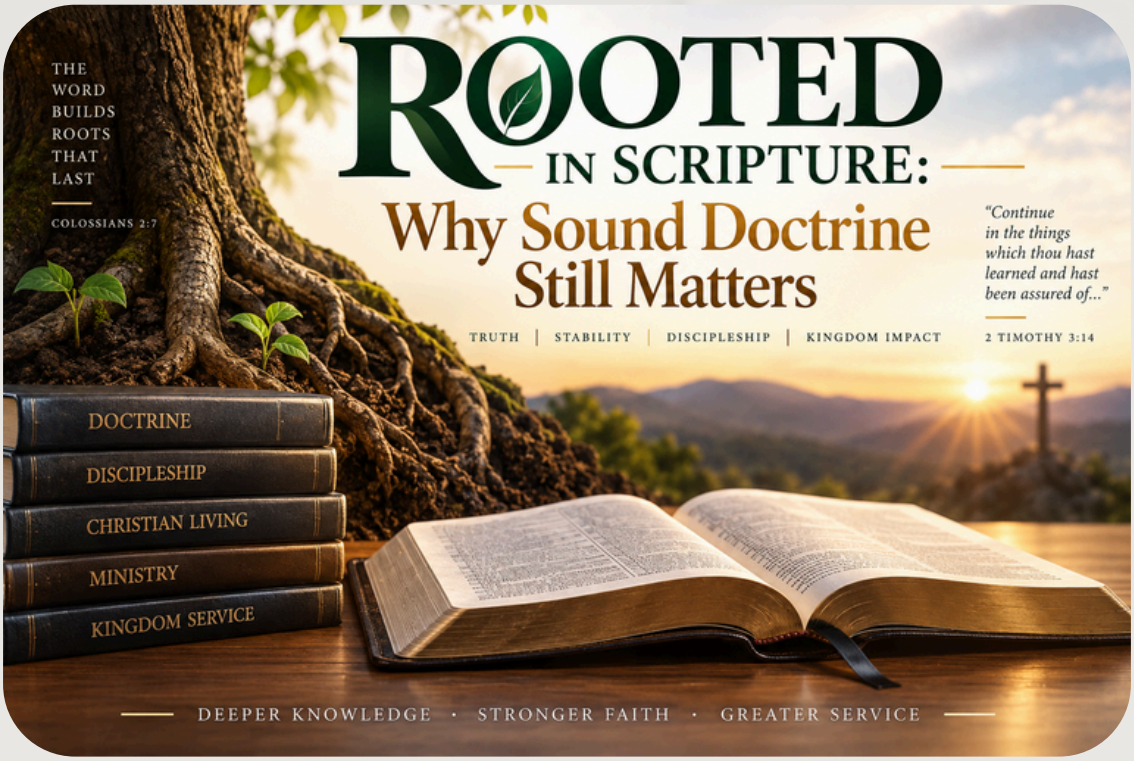
NEWSLETTER

Apostolic Connection

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ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE: WHY SOUND DOCTRINE STILL MATTERS

J. D. Williams, Sr. Bible Institute



FEATURE STORY

Christian education cannot remain truly Christian if Scripture ceases to occupy its foundational place. At J. D. Williams, Sr. Bible Institute, biblical education begins with the conviction that the Word of God is the authoritative foundation for Christian faith, apostolic doctrine, spiritual formation, holy living, and effective ministry. Scripture does more than inform the believer; it reveals God's redemptive purpose, directs Christian conduct, and provides the truth by which doctrine and ministry must be evaluated.

Students therefore need more than familiarity with individual Bible passages. They must learn how Scripture fits together as the unfolding revelation of God, how biblical texts should be interpreted responsibly, how doctrine arises from the biblical witness, and how truth should be applied faithfully. Serious study requires believers to examine Scripture in its historical, literary, and theological contexts while remaining committed to its authority.

ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE: WHY SOUND DOCTRINE STILL MATTERS

Sound doctrine provides stability in an age of competing ideas, changing cultural values, and widespread access to religious information. Not every persuasive message is biblical, and not every popular teaching accurately represents Scripture. Believers must therefore develop the spiritual and intellectual discipline to distinguish biblical teaching from personal opinion, tradition, speculation, and cultural assumptions.

For the Apostolic believer, this responsibility is especially significant. Scripture provides the foundation for understanding the one true God and His full revelation in Jesus Christ, the gospel of salvation, repentance, baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, the gift and work of the Holy Spirit, the Church, holiness, discipleship, and the mission of God's people. These truths are not merely statements to affirm; they form a biblical worldview that should shape the believer's identity, worship, conduct, witness, and service.

Why This Matters

Doctrine should never become merely an intellectual exercise. Biblical doctrine must influence worship, relationships, holiness, evangelism, leadership, preaching, teaching, and service. What believers understand about God affects how they worship Him. What they believe about salvation influences how they proclaim the gospel. What they understand about the Church shapes how they participate in Christian community. What Scripture teaches about holiness should become visible in character and conduct.

Sound doctrine also provides the Church with continuity. Generations change, ministry methods develop, and communication platforms evolve, but biblical truth remains the foundation upon which faithful ministry is built. The challenge is not to change the message to satisfy contemporary culture but to communicate enduring truth with clarity, wisdom, compassion, and relevance.

NEWSLETTER FOCUS

Faculty Conversation: How can ministers maintain apostolic doctrinal conviction while communicating biblical truth effectively to contemporary audiences?

This question deserves thoughtful consideration. Faithful ministry requires both conviction and communication. Ministers must understand what they believe, know why they believe it, demonstrate its biblical foundation, and communicate it in ways that people can understand without weakening the truth being proclaimed.

Institute Reflection

This issue invites students, faculty, alumni, church leaders, and friends of the Institute to consider how biblical education strengthens personal discipleship and corporate ministry. The enduring task of theological education is to unite faithful study with faithful service so that knowledge becomes wisdom, conviction produces character, and preparation becomes ministry.

Scripture Focus: Titus 2:1

Paul's instruction, "speak thou the things which become sound doctrine," reminds Christian leaders that sound teaching carries both privilege and responsibility. Doctrine must be taught faithfully and reflected consistently in Christian life.

From Learning to Ministry

For the Apostolic believer, studying God, Jesus Christ, salvation, baptism, the Holy Spirit, the Church, holiness, discipleship, and mission should lead to deeper conviction and more faithful Christian living. The objective is not simply to produce students who can pass examinations but disciples who can understand, articulate, teach, defend, and live biblical truth.

Putting the Theme into Practice

Students can identify an area of doctrine requiring deeper study. Teachers can examine whether their instruction is biblically grounded and clearly communicated. Ministry leaders can evaluate current practices in light of Scripture, Apostolic doctrine, Christian character, and responsible leadership.

The Institute's educational work is strengthened when learning produces measurable growth: clearer biblical understanding, stronger teaching, thoughtful leadership, greater spiritual discipline, mature Christian character, and faithful service. These outcomes should become visible in academic work, congregational life, personal discipleship, and ministry practice.

ACTION POINT

Choose one biblical doctrine to study more deeply this month. Examine the relevant Scriptures, record what was learned, identify how it applies to Christian life and ministry, and determine one practical action that should follow.

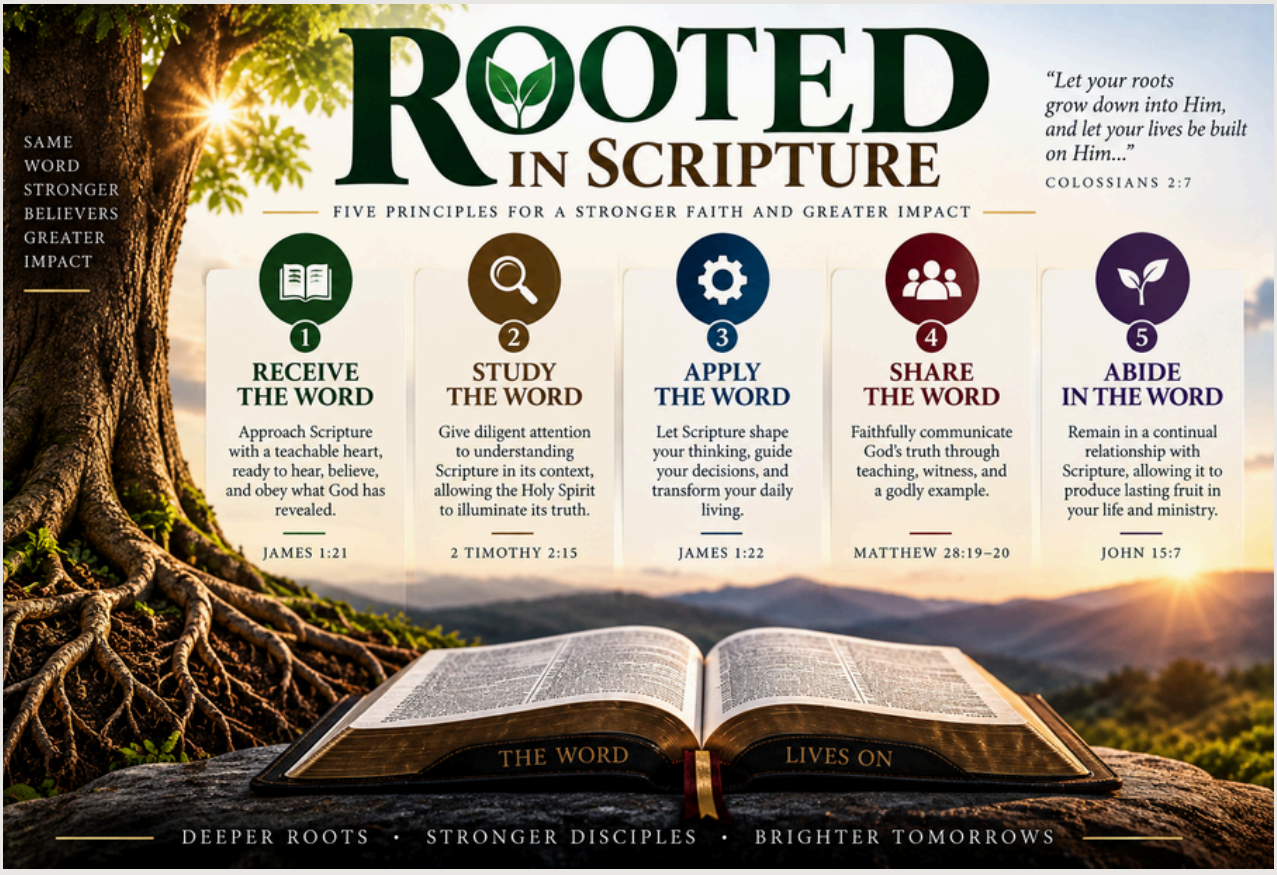
A Word to the JDWSRBI Community

Every member of the JDWSRBI community contributes to a culture of biblical excellence. Together, we strengthen an educational community grounded in Scripture, Apostolic truth, Christian character, accountability, service, and continual growth.

As the Institute moves forward, its purpose remains clear: equip believers to understand the Word of God, become firmly rooted in biblical truth, and serve effectively in the Church and wider community.

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As we remain rooted in Scripture, we strengthen more than individual knowledge—we strengthen the Church. Every believer who grows in biblical understanding becomes better equipped to teach, lead, disciple, encourage, and serve others. May our commitment to sound Apostolic doctrine continue to produce lives marked by spiritual maturity, holiness, unity, and faithful witness, demonstrating that what we learn from the Word of God is reflected in how we live and serve.



Dr. Karl Davidson, EdD
Dean