



## READING SCHEDULE – MODULE THREE

Required Reading	Supplemental Reading
<input type="checkbox"/> Jamieson pp. 13-108	<input type="checkbox"/> Grudem, Collins & Schreiner pp. 7-18 <input type="checkbox"/> Grudem, Collins & Schreiner pp. 21-29 <input type="checkbox"/> Grudem, Collins & Schreiner pp. 109-117 <input type="checkbox"/> Sproul Appendix – The Creeds <input type="checkbox"/> Watterson, Bill, <u>The Indispensable Calvin and Hobbes</u> (not theologically significant, or relevant to this course, but still worth the time)

### Study Guide

#### For Jamieson pp. 13-108

##### *Introduction*

- What is the goal of this book, according to Jamieson?
- Describe in your own words the two main ideas of this book.

##### **Chapter 1** – *Sound Doctrine is For Life – The Life of the Church*

- What is the purpose of maps, according to Jamieson? What is the point that he draws from this about doctrine? Have you ever thought about doctrine like this before? How does this understanding of the purpose of doctrine apply to your own life?
- How does Jamieson define “doctrine”? How does he define “sound doctrine”? How does this definition apply to your theological work?
- What is the purpose of sound doctrine, according to Jamieson? How does the discussion of a doctor help illustrate this purpose? How does this work out in your own life and ministry?
- Describe in your own words what Jamieson meant by saying that Scripture is “sufficient”. What difference does this make?
- What point does Jamieson make from the Titus and 1 Timothy passages? How does this help us to understand the nature and purpose of sound doctrine?
- What is the point of Jamieson’s discussion of sports? How does this apply to the activity of theology?
- What does Jamieson say is the “primary way that we mature as Christians”? How does Eph. 4:11-16 illustrate this? How does 1 Cor. 12 illustrate this? How does Romans 12 illustrate this?
- What does Jamieson mean by the “life of the church”? Where is the life of the church most fully displayed? Where else?
- What is the main argument of the book that Jamieson claims he will develop in subsequent chapters?

## **Chapter 2 – *Sound Doctrine is For Reading and Teaching the Bible***

- Do you agree that Michael Brecker was the greatest saxophonist in the world? Why or why not? Check out “Some Skunk Funk” by the Brecker Brothers. You’ll thank me.
- What is the point Jamieson makes about the jazz saxophonist? How does he apply it to the life of a mature Christian? How does this apply to your theological work?
- According to Jamieson, why should every Christian be interested in reading and teaching the Bible wisely?
- What is the relationship between knowing doctrine and loving God, according to Jamieson? Do you agree? Why or why not?
- How does sound doctrine protect us in our Bible reading? How do pins and bumpers illustrate this truth? How would you like to experience this dynamic working in your own life?
- Describe in your own words Jamieson’s three points about the nature and function of the Bible. Describe the implications of each of these points for the way that you should approach the task of Bible reading and theology.
- What are the activities that Jamieson suggests in order to understand the big story of the Bible? Describe how each will help you to attain this goal. How can you work toward implementing these suggestions in your own life?
- What is the goal of the activities he suggests, according to Jamieson? Why is this important?
- What is the central message of the Bible? How does that message connect with every part of the Bible? How does that message connect with every part of life?
- Describe in your own words each of Jamieson’s six points on how we can read the Bible for its message. How do you think each point contributes to this goal? How can you implement these suggestions into your own Bible reading, theology and life?
- What is the first big-picture benefit of sound doctrine that Jamieson teaches? Why do you think this is beneficial? How can you benefit from this in your own life?
- What is the second big-picture benefit? Why is this beneficial? How should this impact your own life and ministry?
- How does sound doctrine protect us from blind spots and imbalances? How can you better use sound doctrine to protect yourself in this area?
- What does Jamieson mean by “map the Bible into our lives”? What would this look like in your life? How can you apply this insight?
- What is the “best antidote to false teaching” according to Jamieson? How does this help protect from false teaching? What difference should this make for your life and ministry?
- Summarize in your own words Jamieson’s four points about how sound doctrine should influence Bible teaching in church. If you are a pastor, how can your ministry more closely imitate this ideal? If you are not a pastor, how can these insights apply to your own life and the kind of ministry you do practice?
- How, according to Jamieson, should the teaching ministry of the church impact the life of the individual Christian? How can you apply these insights to your personal life? How can you influence others to help them do the same?

- How does Jamieson summarize this chapter and connect it with his illustration of improvisation? In what ways do you hope sound doctrine will help you to faithfully and successfully live in any circumstance you encounter?

### **Chapter 3 – *Sound Doctrine is For Holiness***

- What is the point Jamieson makes from the story about the sermon that changed his life? What does he mean by “Biblical lens”? How was this an instrument of change in his life?
- What does Jamieson say is needed in order to grow in holiness? Why do you think this is necessary? How does it contribute to growth in holiness?
- What four things does 1 Tim. 3:16 say the Scripture is profitable for? Which does Jamieson highlight for growth in holiness? Why do you think he highlighted this one?
- How does indwelling sin keep us from holiness? How does sound doctrine combat this?
- How does Jesus pray that His disciples would be sanctified in John ch. 17? What does it mean to be sanctified? How do you think His Word helps in this goal?
- How does Paul connect sound doctrine with lifestyle in First Timothy? How does Jamieson elaborate the connection between sound doctrine and godly living?
- How does Paul’s prayer in Philippians illustrate the connection between sound doctrine and holiness? Why does Paul pray this? What can you do to make this more of a reality in your own life?
- How does the doctrine of God contribute to holiness? How does each of the two Scripture passages contribute to this? How can you apply the doctrine of God to your own growth in holiness?
- Describe in your own words how sound doctrine helps holiness grow through each of the four aspects of church life. How does this apply to your own life and ministry?
- What is the difference between simply replicating specific behaviors and the kind of modeling that Jamieson is describing?
- In what ways have you experienced the power of sound doctrine in ways similar to Jamieson? How did that power impact your life?

### **Chapter 4 – *Sound Doctrine is For Love***

- What is the point Jamieson makes from his discussion about sailing and the wind? What is Biblical love NOT like in this description? What is Biblical love like? Why is sound doctrine important for this?
- Have you ever heard love and doctrine treated as opposites in church? Have you ever thought and/or acted as if this were true?
- Go read 2 John. How does John connect love and truth? How does sound doctrine contribute to this dynamic? How can you apply these insights in your own life?
- What stood out to you from Jamieson’s examples of sound doctrine teaching us to love? How can you apply this insight in your own life and ministry?
- Which doctrines does Jamieson highlight as contributing to our love? How does the Edwards quote contribute to this dynamic? How have these doctrines influenced your growth in love? How should your love continue to grow, and which doctrines can help?

- Explain in your own words how sound doctrine can provide the pattern for our love. How can you apply this insight?
- What suggestions does Jamieson make for applying doctrine for our own love? What specific advice does he give for dealing with people who are hard to love? In what specific ways can you put this into practice?
- How does Jamieson describe the Love of God? Think about this truth until your sail is full.

### **Chapter 5 – *Sound Doctrine is For Unity***

- Do you have any friendships similar to Jamieson’s, which would not have happened without Christ? How did the friendship happen, and what obstacles were overcome? How did Christ overcome these obstacles?
- What are some of the divisions in our society which Jamieson mentions? Which one stood out to you? How do you think the church transcends this difference?
- How does the doctrine of justification by faith alone contribute to the unity of the church? What implications does this have for the way that we should live as a church?
- What does Jamieson mean when he writes that “sound doctrine is not only the foundation, but the restorer of unity”? What are some examples of Paul using sound doctrine to restore unity? How can we apply these doctrines today?
- What kind of issues does Jamieson mention that divide the church? How does the Bible say we should pursue unity? How does it address these particular issues? Notice Jamieson’s insistence that the solution is doctrinal, and not just practical. What difference should this make for your life?
- What are some things around which we should NOT pursue unity, according to Jamieson? What is the one thing around which we SHOULD pursue unity? Describe the difference between a unity around the Gospel and a flimsy unity around other things? How does this typically work out? What can we do in response to this difference?
- How does unity testify to the Gospel? What implications does this have for your life and ministry?

### **Chapter 6 – *Sound Doctrine is For Worship***

- What is “story grip”? What point does Jamieson make from it and similar experiences?
- What is the danger to our thinking about worship, according to Jamieson? How can sound doctrine protect us from this?
- Describe what it means for sound doctrine to be the “fuel” for our worship. How does sound doctrine help us to worship God? What kind of doctrines act as fuel?
- Why does Jamieson highlight the word “for” in the Psalms? What does this tell us about the connection between doctrine and worship? What does this tell for the way you personally should grow in worship?
- What are the two ways to commit idolatry, according to the Ligon Duncan quote? Describe how sound doctrine protects us from each one.
- What does the New Testament tell us about the way we should worship corporately? What does the “horizontal” dimension of worship mean? What does the New Testament tell us about the horizontal dimension? What does the New Testament tell us about how we are to worship personally?

- Describe in your own words each of Jamieson’s implications for worship. How should you put each of them into practice in your own life and ministry?
- How can sound doctrine help us to lose ourselves in worship?

**Chapter 7 – *Sound Doctrine is For Witness***

- What connection does Jamieson make between a musician’s practice and the usefulness of sound doctrine for witness? Have you ever had a similar experience? Does this motivate you to “practice” sound doctrine more? How can you do so?
- How does Jamieson define “witness”? How does he describe the Good News? What have you learned from this?
- What is the first reason Jamieson gives why sound doctrine is for witness? What implications does this have for the way we should witness?
- How does sound doctrine enable us to explain the Gospel more fully? Why is this important for our witnessing? How does Paul’s message in Acts ch. 13 illustrate this truth? What implications does this have for your own witness? How does Paul’s message in Acts ch. 17 illustrate this? How is this different than the previous message? What implications does this have for your own witness?
- How does Paul’s message in Acts ch. 17 prepare for and frame the Gospel? What doctrines does it proclaim? How can we do something similar to connect with unbelievers in our current culture?
- What lesson does Jamieson draw from Paul’s Acts 17 message? How does this help our own witness?
- How does sound doctrine motivate us for witness? How does it free us from false guilt and intimidation in witnessing?
- How does the doctrine of election embolden us for witness? How does it help us when we fail, or are persecuted for witness? How should you apply each of these truths to your own practice of witness?
- Describe in your own words how each of the previously examined fruits (Holiness, Love, Unity, & Worship) makes the church more effective and attractive. In what ways would you desire this to become more of a reality in your own church?
- What does Jamieson counsel pastors to do in light of the previous discussion? Do you agree that this is necessary and helpful? How specifically can this be practiced in your own church?
- How can you apply Jamieson’s analogy between the “vocabulary” of sound doctrine and the “improvisation” of witnessing to the Gospel?

**Postscript – *Sound Doctrine is For Joy***

- Describe how your view of sound doctrine differs from the view you had before reading this book. In what specific ways should this change of view lead to a change in behavior? How has sound doctrine given you joy? Based on the content of this book, how can you find greater joy in God through the proper use of sound doctrine? What specific steps can you take to achieve this?