



# DEALING WITH DRIFT

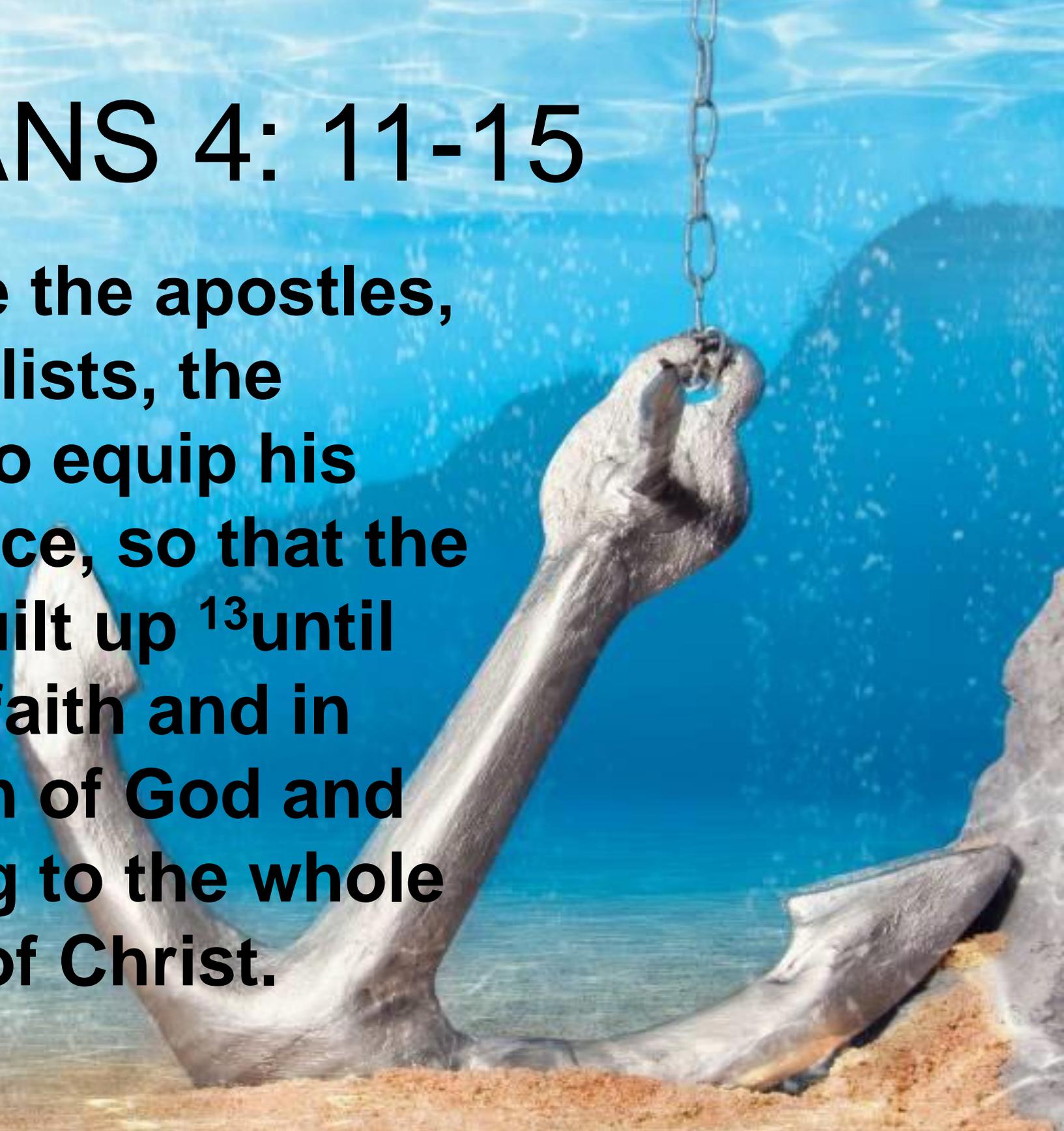
Doctrine

John Brooker

Faith Fellowship Church

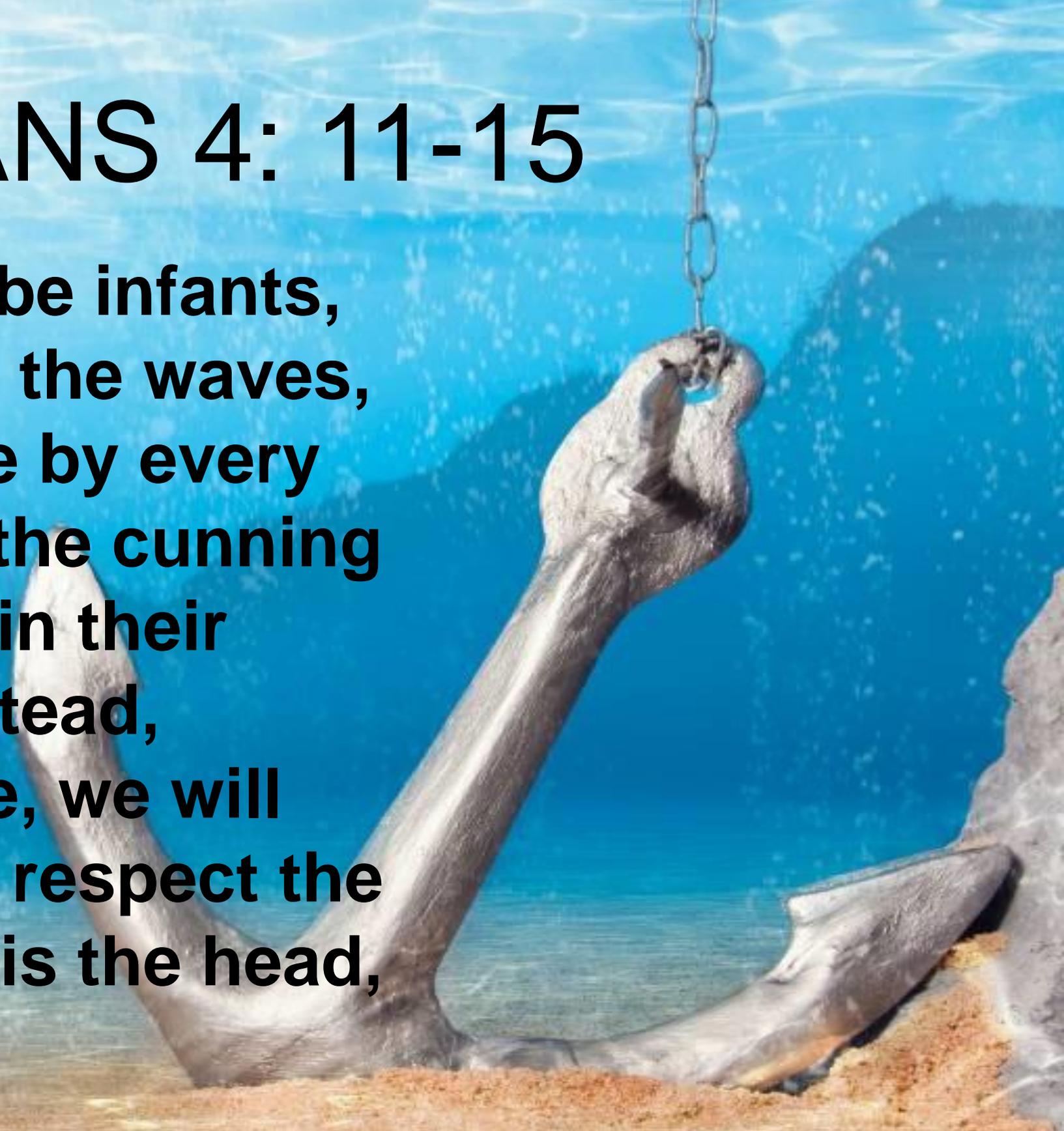
# EPHESIANS 4: 11-15

**<sup>11</sup>“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup>until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

A large, weathered metal anchor is the central focus, resting on a sandy beach. The anchor's shank is angled upwards, and its crown is visible at the top. A chain is attached to the crown, extending upwards out of the frame. The background consists of a clear blue sky and a calm ocean with gentle ripples. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

# EPHESIANS 4: 11-15

**<sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”**

A large, weathered metal anchor is the central focus, resting on a sandy beach. The anchor is positioned diagonally, with its shank pointing towards the upper right and its flukes pointing towards the lower right. A chain is attached to the crown of the anchor, extending upwards out of the frame. The background consists of a clear blue sky and a calm ocean with gentle waves. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.



# DOCTRINE



# DOCTRINE

- “a particular principle, position, or policy taught or advocated, as of religion or government”
- “something that is taught; teachings collectively”
- “a body or system of teachings relating to a particular subject
- “a body of beliefs about God, man, Christ, the church, and other related concepts considered authoritative and thus worth of acceptance by all members of the community of faith.”

# DOCTRINE



**GREEK**

Didaskalia (dē-dä-skä-lē'-ä)

- teaching, instruction
- that which is taught, doctrine
- precepts

# Familiar Doctrines

**Presidential: Monroe Doctrine - The European powers were obligated to respect the Western Hemisphere as the United States' sphere of interest.**

**Legal: Presumption of Innocence - required in criminal proceedings under the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**

**Military: Objective, Offensive, Mass**

# Purpose and Importance of Doctrine

- **Foundation for Living (2 Timothy 3:16-17)**
  - <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
  - Our faith is an all-encompassing worldview
  - God is the source of all truth
  - Scripture, which is our doctrine, is the our primary source for that truth

# Purpose and Importance of Doctrine

- **Preparedness**

- The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. (1 Timothy 4:1)
- But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. (2 Peter 2:1)
- We have to know the true doctrine to distinguish it from false doctrine.

# Purpose and Importance of Doctrine

- **Defense – apologetics**
  - But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)
  - Doctrine is the source of the answers we give to explain our hope in Christ, why we revere him, our entire worldview.

# Purpose and Importance of Doctrine

- **Edification and Encouragement**

- But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. (Jude 1: 17-21)
- Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thess 4:18)
- We use doctrine to help each other keep it together

# Purpose and Importance of Doctrine

- **Unity**

- I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. (1 Cor 1:10)
- We are intended to live together in close community
- The shared values expressed in our doctrine enables this

# Characteristics of Sound Doctrine

- **Authoritative**

- <sup>28</sup>When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup>because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law. (Matthew 7:28-29)
- When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases (Luke 9:1)

# Characteristics of Sound Doctrine

- **Authoritative**

- <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matt 28:19-20)
- Doctrine is authoritative when it comes from the authority.

# Characteristics of Sound Doctrine

- **Worthy of Acceptance**

- For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. (John 17:8)
- Those who accepted his message (*Peter's teaching on Jesus*) were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:41)

# Characteristics of Sound Doctrine

- **Worthy of Acceptance**

- **Warning:** this is not popular consensus or a “if it feels good...” concept

- Combination of the **authority** of Jesus, the **miracles** performed among them, and the work of the **Holy Spirit** in each believer

- <sup>4</sup>In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. (Ephesians 3:4-5)

# Characteristics of Sound Doctrine

- **Worthy of Acceptance**

- Modern believers continue the legacy, accepting Jesus because the eyewitnesses accepted him and documented this and because the Holy Spirit is still at work in us confirming what is true and continually validating the doctrine.

# Consequences of Unsound Doctrine

- **Division & Obstacles**

- <sup>16</sup>I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. (Romans 16: 17)

# Consequences of Unsound Doctrine

- **Division & Obstacles**

- <sup>17</sup>But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. <sup>18</sup>They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” <sup>19</sup>These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. (Jude 1: 17-19)
- These hinder our proper growth and can destroy our efforts to be in close community

# Consequences of Unsound Doctrine

- **Separation/alienation**

- <sup>17</sup>So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

(Ephesians 4:17-18)

- You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

(Galatians 5:4)

# Consequences of Unsound Doctrine

- **Separation/alienation**

- Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15)
- Unsound doctrine jeopardizes our relationship with God, now and in eternity.

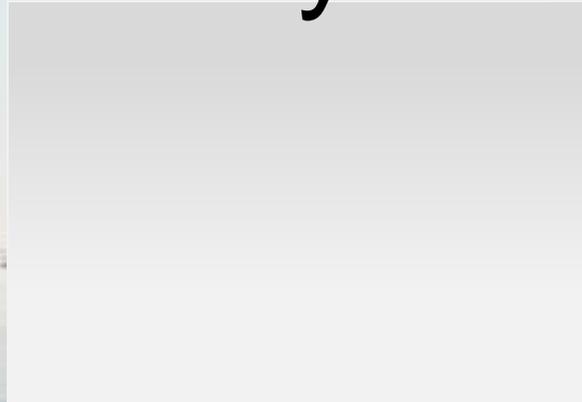
# Consequences of Unsound Doctrine

- **Death**

- There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. (Proverbs 14:12)
- For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)
- Bad doctrine is deadly

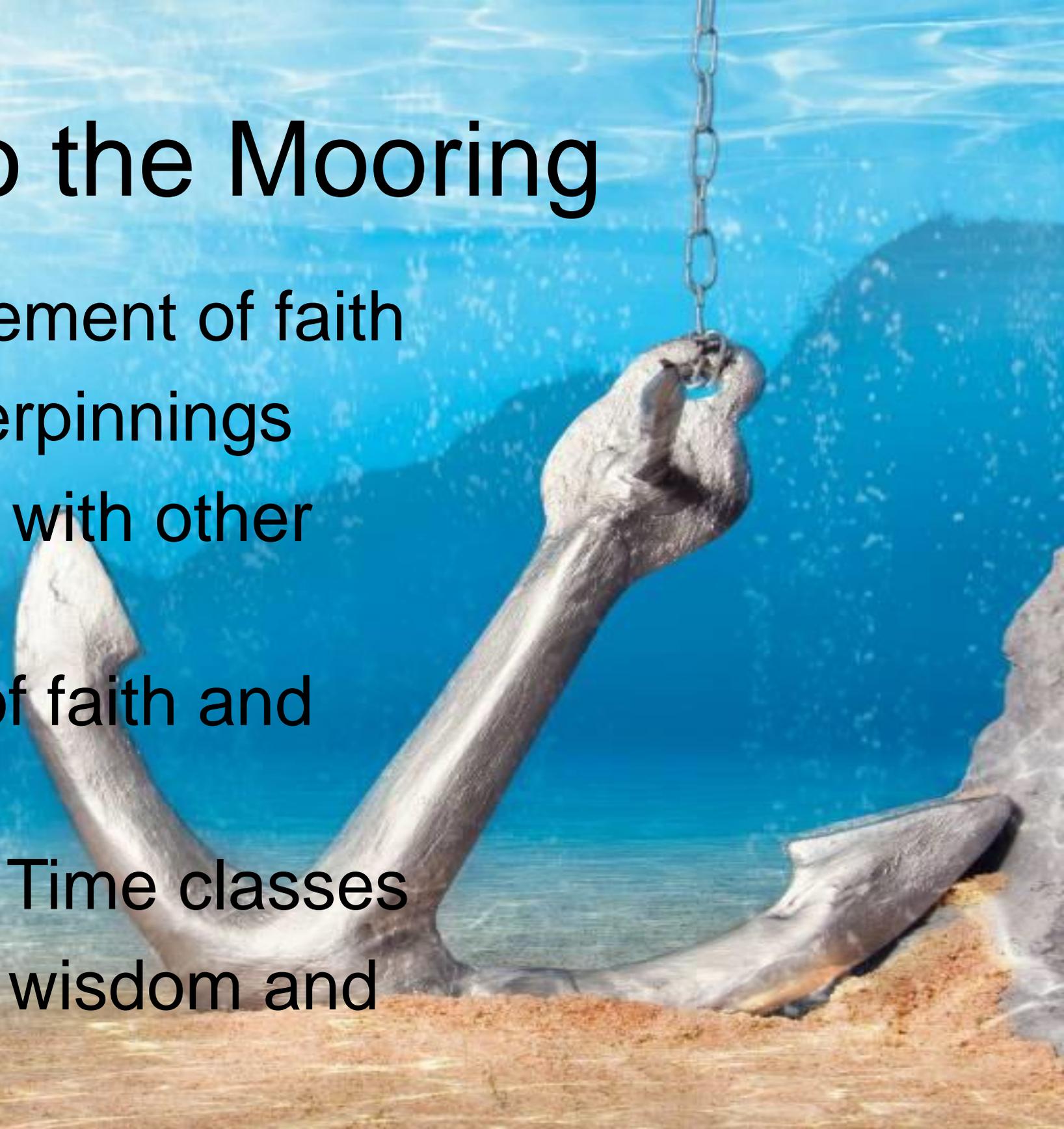
# What's in Your Doctrine?

- Is it sound? How do you know?
- Can you explain it to someone else?



# Securing to the Mooring

- Start with the EFCA statement of faith
- Dig into the Biblical underpinnings
- Talk about what you find with other believers
- Read other statements of faith and repeat the cycle
- Join Bible studies/Prime Time classes
- Pray without ceasing for wisdom and discernment



A photograph of a sailboat on a lake at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the water and the sky. In the foreground, the rigging and mast of the sailboat are visible on the left. In the background, a long wooden pier extends across the water, and distant hills are visible under a clear sky. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

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