Introduction

Carl Lewis writes, “Theology can be approached from two perspectives – Side A Theology and Side B Theology.”

Side A Theology

- Is concerned with epistemology, what we know about God, Jesus and the Bible.
- Is more cognitive and focuses on propositional truth. John 3:16; I Corinthians 15:3-6
- Led to the development of creeds and systematic theology.

Side B Theology

- Is more intuitive than cognitive.
- Looks to the narrative portions of Scripture for examples – the Exodus.
- Sees God’s concern for justice for the poor and oppressed. Micah 6:8

Both are important. Both are necessary.

“Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” I Timothy 4:15-16

I. Be diligent in these matters.


- Be discerning – verses 1-5
- Know the Scriptures – verse 6
- Strive to be godly – verses 7-8
- Put your hope in the living God – verses 9-10
- Set an example by your life – verses 11-14

Be all in!

Do this so that everyone may see your progress!

II. Watch your life closely.
Five areas:

- In speech
- In life
- In love
- In faith
- In purity

Can you look at your own life and see the areas where you have been changed?
Are there areas in your life where you want to change and need to change?

III. Watch your doctrine closely.

Why? Your salvation depends on it and the salvation of those who hear you.
What we believe matters.
Do you understand the gospel? Can you explain it clearly to others?
Do you know what you believe and why? Can you back it up with Scripture?
The Scriptures are our authority and we need to check what we hear and feel by the Word of God.
How well do you know the Scriptures?

Conclusion

Doctrine and Life. Both are important.
Be diligent in these matters.
Watch your life and doctrine closely.
Keep growing in your faith.
Make 2019 the best year it can be.