The Gospel - the Faith - the Doctrine - the Truth
1 Timothy 1:1-3,10,11;2:4;3:15

Introduction:
A. We tend to isolate each individual points of gospel, doctrine, faith, and truth.
   2. Easy to forget that offence in one point, offends the whole unit. (Jas. 2:10).
B. We sometimes make artificial distinctions in our use of these terms.
   1. Gospel and Doctrine.
   2. Doctrinal, Moral, and Practical.
   3. Assign relative importance based on these distinctions.
C. We need to understand some facts about these terms:

Discussion:
I. THE TERMS ARE INTERCHANGEABLE.
A. Each term refers to same system.
   2. "Doctrine" and "Gospel" (1 Tim. 1:10,11).
B. Each term emphasizes a different feature of same system.
   1. "The Gospel" emphasizes it as a system of good news.
      a. Greek: "glad tidings" or good news. cf. Evangelist, evangelism.
      b. Old English: Good Spell.
   2. "The Faith" emphasizes it as a system of belief.
   3. "The Doctrine" emphasizes it as a system of teaching.
   4. "The Truth" emphasizes it as a system of spiritual truth.
C. Each term demands the obedience.
   1. The Gospel must be obeyed. (2 Thess. 1:8).
   2. The Doctrine must be obeyed. (Rom. 6:17).
   3. The Faith must be obeyed. (Acts 6:7; Rom. 16:26).

II. THE TERMS ARE COMPREHENSIVE.
A. Each term spans the whole of Christianity, not just select subjects.
   1. "The Gospel"
      a. Includes Death, Burial and Resurrection. (1 Cor. 15:1-4)
      b. Includes day to day behavior toward others. (Gal. 2:14)
   2. "The Doctrine"
      a. Includes "form of doctrine" to be freed from sin (Rom. 6:17)
      b. Includes various duties of Christians (Tit. 2:4ff).
   3. "The Truth"
      a. Includes what is obeyed to become a Christian (I Pet. 1:22)
      b. Includes what is obeyed as a Christian (Gal. 5:7).
   4. "The Faith"
      a. Includes "fundamentals" (Acts 6:7).
      b. Includes domestic duties. (1 Tim. 5:8).
B. Each term includes all points, so interrelated as to be a single unit.
   1. Cannot single out certain points to believe and obey - all or none.
   2. Cannot decide some points essential and others non-essential - a single unit.
C. Each term involves all points as a unit when dealing with error.
1. "Doctrine (of Christ)" vs. other doctrines (2 John 9; 1 Tim. 1:3; Rom. 16:17).- Cf. "Doctrine of Christ" & "Doctrine of Nicolaitans."
2. "Gospel" vs. "Another gospel" (Gal. 1:8,9).
3. "Contend for the faith" (Jude 3)
4. Some deceived because "they did not receive the love of the truth" (2 Thess. 2:10).

Conclusion:
A. Let us broaden our concepts of certain expressions we use:
   1. "Obeying the gospel" - More than Faith, Repentance and Baptism.
B. Let us realize that we must commit ourselves to the "whole thing" - that every point is so related to the other that all subjects are considered as one.