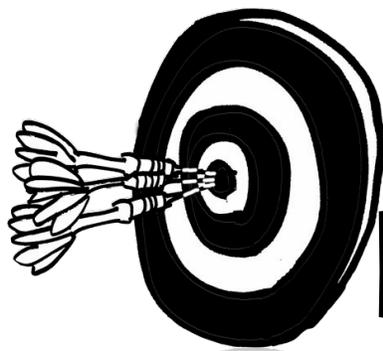


Book # 6 in the series ...
TOOLBOX BOOKS PRESENTS

LIFE ESSENTIALS IN CHEWABLE FORM



**ORTHO-
DOCTRINES!**

(OAR-thow-DOK-trenz)

What Christians have always believed.

LIFE-PROVOKING PRINCIPLES FOR TWEENS

an indispensable resource of on-target,
non-negotiable teaching of the Christian
faith, written especially for tweens!

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY ALAN ROOT!

SHORT BIOGRAPHY (by-AWG-ruh-fee)

short biography

Alan Root is a rock & roll musicianary to older kids. He is taller than he looks in this book. He enjoys reading books like Treasure Island and Nero Wolfe mysteries and almost anything by CS Lewis. He likes microwave popcorn, hiking, painting with watercolor, musical techno toys, strong coffee, and basketball. He has a B.S. and has done postgraduate studies in Geology at the University of Tennessee. He's done music for Wrigley's, Kellogg's, the Billy Graham Children's Crusade, and Dr. Seuss, won 3 national Telly awards For two decades he's been traveling the United States ministering the Gospel of Jesus with an electric guitar. He has tons of CDs and DVDs for kids available at www.alanroot.com.



He even drew the pictures for this book all by himself.

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For more copies, or to book an event, visit www.alanroot.com.

Scriptural quotes taken from the New International Version © Copyright 1973,1978, 1984 by International Bible society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. In a few places, I used the Bible in Worldwide English, published in 1962 by the American Bible Society, a paraphrase of the King James by Annie Cressman, a missionary Bible teacher who taught kids in the early 1900's and got tired of explaining the translation instead of the gospel.

TITLE PAGE (TYE-tull-payj)

ORTHODOCTRINES!

(OAR-thow-DOK-trenz) noun 1. Straight teachings.
2. What Christians consider essential to believe.
3. The basics of faith for which Christians of all ages and throughout time have been willing to die.

Welcome to a general and quick study of the bedrock principles of

Christianity: things for which there is little or no wiggle room for compromise, ideas firmly believed and defended by Christians of all denominations throughout the world and through history, written especially for tweens



by the semi-ubiquitous **ALAN ROOT!**

Note to teachers... you know who you are.

Daily Readings: Get a book for each student. The chapters are 12 pages long. Strongly encourage your kids to read a couple of pages a day with breakfast and write in the margins. **Black Boxes:** discussion starters that occur during the flow of the chapter. The answers are often obvious, but it helps to get tweens' marvelous brains thinking. **Q&A:** Have the kids pencil in their answers. Then check the first appendix for what I thought the answers were. Perhaps use this section as a catechism. **Activities:** Suggestions for full-contact learning, for those who prefer kinetic discovery. **Going Deeper:** Some of your kids will be challenged enough by what's in the chapters, but some will want to dig down deeper. Send them to Appendix 4 and ask them to take notes on what they find to share with the class. The format is free form back there; there's only a facade of organization, but a wealth of ideas.

this is one of seven books in the series...
... more **PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES** available or coming soon...

1. **designamentals** (creation, absolutes, authority)
2. **legalonomics** (right and wrong, Law and Grace)
3. **salvificology** (starting out on life's biggest adventure)
4. **disciplification** (practical tips on living the Christian life)
5. **bibliotectonics** (the world's most earth-shaking book)
6. **orthodoxtrines** (what Christians have always believed)
7. **pilgrimmometry** (Christianity in today's culture)

TABLE OF CONTENTS (KAHN-tense)

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PSSSST! HEY YOU (hay-YUE)

PSSSST! HEY YOU

If you're sure you belong to Jesus already, skip this page. But **if you're not sure**, don't worry, just read this page carefully.

DID YOU EVER WONDER IF THERE COULD BE MORE TO LIFE THAN JUST LIVING AND DYING? THERE IS. YOU, MY FRIEND, HAVE BEEN MADE FOR A GLORIOUS PURPOSE. NOW YOU MUST SEEK IT...

Jesus said that he came to "seek and save the lost." Are you lost? Do you know what you're doing here on the planet, or do you wish someone would tell you what's going on? This is big. It's REALLY big. It's stuff you've GOT to know. If you sense a "**tug**" on your heart, either now or later, head for Appendix 2 where you'll find help with taking your first step into the "real world." OK?

INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

INTRODUCTION: Who cares? It's too hard.

In **ORTHODOCTRINES** you'll discover ideas you may never have thought about. They'll become some of your most cherished beliefs. And you'll be in great company.

G.K. Chesterton wrote: "**Everything matters except everything.**" My pastor Ron Ferguson says, "Everything matters except what matters!"



BLAH
BLAH
BLAH

We talk about the weather. We talk about sports. We talk about movies and movie stars.

But we don't talk about life and death and good and evil and right and wrong and heaven and hell. How come? Because it's too hard? Because it matters too much? Well that's silly! If something really **matters**, maybe we OUGHT to be talking about it.

ORTHODOCTINES (OAR-thow-DOK-trenz)

"Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them... Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Timothy 4:15-16 NIV). It says "life and DOCTRINE."

**WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? YOUR LOCAL TEAM? A FAVORITE CELEB? THE LATEST VIDEO GAME? WILL ANY OF THESE SAVE "BOTH YOURSELF AND YOUR HEARERS?"
WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU?**

I remember being young, but I don't ever remember being **clueless**. When I run across important stuff, I take notice and I'll bet you do the same. I guess I've always enjoyed talking about things that matter more than a great TV show. There's a time to get real. Think. Is life a just a pointless carnival ride or a **training ground** for what's coming next?

INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

Everybody loves a swimming pool.

I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO VACATION
AT THE BEACH AND STILL SPEND MOST OF
THEIR TIME SWIMMING AT THE HOTEL
SWIMMING POOL. WHY IS THAT?

We like a swimming pool because we can touch the sides and the bottom. No one wants to be helicopter-dropped in the middle of the ocean. There's such a thing as TOO wide open. We prefer the swimming pool by far because it takes water and puts it in a **box**. Within that box, we feel secure.

Doctrine is like a swimming pool. It takes the great ideas of life and puts them into a sort of box. Of course, we can't put God himself in a box: that's like trying to stuff a tornado into your pocket, but we can take some ideas about him and define some boundaries. God's ideas taken from God's book, the Bible!

ORTHODOCTINES (OAR-thow-DOK-trenz)

What's this book about? Listen up...

**CHRISTIANS HOLD
SOME TEACHINGS SO
DEAR THAT THEY'RE
WILLING TO DIE FOR
THEM. DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THESE ARE?
ARE YOU READY TO?**

CHAPTER ONE

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

Where it all starts



God is... God is... is... mmm.

Well? What IS he?!! He's great and good, he's love, he's all powerful and knows everything. But

that still doesn't begin to cover it. Who is God? What is he like? What makes him laugh? Why does he do what he does and doesn't do what we tell him to? We need to know all that CAN be known about God, since knowing him is what life's all about. We need to find out about him. So let's go to the place where there's more info about him than any other place in the world: the Bible. If you don't have a Bible to read, it's hard to know a whole lot about God. Get one and get going. **God is where everything starts.**