

Bible Authority and Truth

Introduction

1. There has always been a need for authority since the creation of man and we can see authority expressed in various ways in our day to day life:
 - A. Street signs - stop, handicapped parking, speed limits.
 - B. "Stop in the name of the law."
2. Most problems in religion are the result of a lack of Bible Authority and Truth.
 - A. Can we really do what **SEEMS** right to us?
 - B. Can we write our own message or change God's Word and call it God's Word?
 - C. Many individuals **SHOP** for a religion that fits their personal preferences. They are practicing a "Salad Bar Religion."
3. We must understand that the whole conclusion of the matter is not to serve God as we please, but rather **"fear God and keep His commandments"** (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
4. In our dealings with modern religious denominations and all matters religious, we must prove that divine authority is established by the scriptures and by the scriptures only.
 - A. This also applies to churches of Christ. There are differences in churches of Christ **(Liberal or Institutional and Conservative)**

5. So, What Do the Scriptures Teach about Authority and Truth?

- A. Matthew 28:18-20; John 8:32; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

Bible Authority and Truth

1. We first must understand that **God is the author** of the Bible
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Respect for Bible Authority

1. We must further know and understand that every writer of the Bible was guided in what they wrote by the Holy Spirit.
2 Peter 1:20-21
- A. No scripture that we have in our Bible came by man, but rather by God -- That **WE MUST BELIEVE** and **ACCEPT!**
2. Therefore, since the Bible is the Word of God, any attitude that we have toward the Bible IS the attitude that we have toward God.
- A. **Respect God - then we respect His Word, the Bible.**
- B. **Disrespect the Bible - then we disrespect God who gave it!**
- C. **Whether we change one thing or ten things from the Bible to please ourselves or our fellow man, we have disrespected God's Word.**

James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

- 1) The same **attitude** that will allow us to break one law of God will allow us to break EVERY law of God.

Let's Walk by Faith

1. The Bible speaks to us concerning walking by FAITH.

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Romans 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

A. The only way we can know what the right thing to do is by Faith. How do we acquire faith?

Romans 10:17

2. Too often men **do not do** things today because the Word of God authorizes them, they do things because they want to and then when asked for book, chapter, and verse in the Word of God ---- They try to see if they can justify their practices!

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

3. Through faith we can learn that EVERYTHING that we do must be done in the name of the Lord ---- Meaning by His Authority.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

A. A policeman might shout **"halt in the name of the law!"** He says this by the authority of the law. He has been given the right to enforce the law.

4. **Men must learn respect for God's Word today - more than ever.**
 - A. **Immoral people disrespect God and His authority.**
Galatians 5:19-21
 - B. **Unfaithful people disrespect God and His authority.**
1 Corinthians 15:58
Hebrews 10:25
 - C. **Those that DO THINGS without Bible Authority disrespect God and His Authority.**

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

5. **How can we tell if one disrespects the Word of God and His authority?**
 - A. **When one responds with "I believe", or "I think" without using the Bible to show why, they are showing a disrespect for God's word.**
 - B. **Many religious practices think that SILENCE of scripture authorizes a practice being done.**
 - 1) **They may say "Where does the Bible say not to?" (Have a piano in worship, have a pope, have the Lord's Supper twice a year, sprinkle babies, have church sponsored socials, etc.) WHERE DOES IT SAY NOT TO!**

2) **The faithful Christian and the Lord's church responds with "Where is scriptural authority, God's blessing, for such things?"**

1 Corinthians 4:6 ...that you may learn in us **not to think beyond what is written**, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: **If anyone adds to these things**, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and **if anyone takes away** from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

2 John 9 Whoever transgresses and **does not abide in the doctrine of Christ** does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

C. ILLUSTRATION:

Sent child to the store with \$5.00 and a note which said: "Please send me one gallon of milk you advertised for \$2.00 and also the change."

The child asked for some candy - Doesn't say anything about candy - sure!

Sent note back with child saying "note did not say "not to have some candy"!"

Would you be pleased with what the grocer did on his own?

- D. Suppose you sent the same note paraphrasing a few scriptures:
- 1) “And don’t go beyond what this note authorizes.”
 - 2) “Don’t add to or take away from what is written in this note.”
 - 3) “Don’t transgress my note.”
 - Then the grocer did the very same thing --- what would you think?
- E. The silence of the note authorizes nothing – and so does the Bible’s silence!
6. If we do not have Bible authority for EVERYTHING that we do, why have Bible authority for anything?

Divine Authority Established

1. **Divine Bible Authority is established in the scriptures and understood by direct command, approved apostolic example, and necessary inference.**

A. **Command:** Direct statement or a positive command.

All must repent:

Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Disciples are to contribute

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

Saints are to assemble

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together

It is wrong to lie

Colossians 3:9 Do not lie to one another

B. **Approved apostolic example:** The action of an individual or a collectivity of individuals (the local church) under the guidance of inspired apostles in the first century.

Breaking of bread on the first day of the week

Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread,...

Churches sending to the relief of others in benevolence

Acts 11:29-30

- C. **Necessary Inference:** That which though neither expressly stated nor specifically exemplified, is necessarily implied by the clear import and meaning of the language used.

Lot went down into Egypt with Abram

Genesis 12:10 Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.

Genesis 13:1 Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South.

Before he was baptized Jesus went down into the water.

Matthew 3:16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water...

All Activity in Serving God Must be God Authorized

1. We can see from the Old Testament an example showing the necessity of Divine Authority.
 - A. Notice what God told Moses in Numbers 20:8.
Numbers 20:8
 - B. To get the water out of the rock Moses was Divinely authorized to speak to the rock. But what happened?
Numbers 20:11-12
 - 1) What did God authorize? - to “speak to the rock”
 - 2) What did Moses do? “struck the rock”
 - a) Despite the fact that God did not say “Thou shalt NOT strike the rock”, the act, in serving God, was wrong because what Moses did was not authorized by God.

- b) This simple act of disobedience caused Moses and Aaron not to be allowed to enter the promised land.

2. The New Testament teaches us the Necessity of Authority.

A. Jesus says the following:

Matthew 7:21-23

1) Notice these things in this passage of scripture:

- a) Jesus did not deny that they were religious or sincere.
- b) He did not contradict their statement relative to having done good works. But He DID SAY: *“depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”*

2) Lawlessness is a condition of one without law ---- either because of ignorance or violation.

B. We must insure that we serve God based on His divine law.

Conclusion

1. **Friends and brethren, we must consider seriously what we have learned about Bible Authority and Truth.**
2. **If your efforts to serve God in a pleasing manner are not according to the teaching of God's Word, then be THANKFUL that, in God's providence, you have been given the opportunity to remedy this.**
3. **The faithful church of Christ here is eager to study with you concerning things that you may be doing without Divine Bible Authority.**
4. **Remember, that each one of us must make sure that all we do is in the name of the Lord, based solely upon His written inspired Word because:**

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

- A. **Before one can progress spiritually in doing God's will, one must first accept His authority and love His truth!**