

Establishing Bible Authority

Matthew 21:23-27 - What authority - who gave it; Heaven or man?

Introduction - Differing opinions in the religious world have caused divisions and strife; bringing confusion and causing untold millions to turn away from Christ.

Is God the author of this confusion? If not, how can we know what He wants?

I. Authority is NOT determined by:

- A. O.T. practices - Matthew 9:16; Hebrews 7:12; 8:7, 13; 9:15; 10:1, 9-12; Col 2:16-17
 - 1. Animal sacrifices - Ephesians 2:14-16; Colossians 2:14-16
 - 2. Tithing - 2 Corinthians 9:7
 - 3. Instrumental music - 2 Chronicles 29:25; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19
- B. What religious leaders say - Matthew 22:29; Romans 10:2-4; Matthew 7:21-23
- C. Traditions of men - Mark 7:6-9; Colossians 2:8, 20-23 (see vss 16-17)
- D. Desires of the congregation - Exodus 32; 1 Samuel 8; Matthew 27:22-25
- E. Hoping for good results: (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3)
 - 1. Eve - Genesis 3:6
 - 2. Uzzah - 2 Samuel 6:1-11
 - 3. King Uzziah - 2 Chronicles 26:16-21
 - 4. Nadab and Abihu - Leviticus 10:1-2
 - 5. Working man - Numbers 15:32-36

II. Authority Comes from God OR Man - Matthew 21:23-27

- A. Jesus has ALL authority - Matthew 28:18; 1 Corinthians 15:27; 1 Timothy 6:15
- B. Jesus is God's ordained spokesman - Matthew 17:1-5; Hebrews 1:1-2
- C. All men are to hear Him - Deuteronomy 18:18-19; Acts 3:22-23
- D. Going beyond His law is sinful - 2 John 9; Colossians 3:17; 1 John 3:4; John 12:48

III. Authority of Christ was written by the N.T. writers - John 15:20; 17:20

- A. Peter - 2 Peter 3:1-2; 3:14-16
- B. Paul - 1 Cor 14:37-38; 7:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- C. Luke - Acts 9:3-16; 26:14-18; Acts 15:7, 12, 13, 22, 28-29

IV. N.T. Christians followed God's Word STRICTLY - 1 Corinthians 4:6

- A. United in ONE teaching - Philippians 2:1-2; 3:15-18; 1 Corinthians 10; Ephesians 4:1-6
- B. Writings were the last word - 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6, 14; 2 Peter 3:14-16
- C. The WORD is living and powerful - Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-25

V. Writers warned of a departure from God's Word:

- A. Luke - Acts 20:29-30; Luke 18:8
- B. Peter - 2 Peter 2:1-3
- C. Paul - 1 Timothy 4:1-6; 2 Timothy 3:1-7; 4:3-4
- D. John - 1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 9-11
- E. Jude - Jude 4, 16-21

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