

BY WHAT AUTHORITY?

Page 1

Matt. 10:1; 21:23-27

A. TWO QUESTIONS:

1. What authority did He have for His actions.
2. Who gave Him that authority?

B. JESUS' reply makes it clear that he regarded man as having only two possible sources of authority for religious beliefs and practices.

1. From Heaven (that is, from God) and....
2. From men.

C. Thus every religious act is done either by divine or by merely human authority.**D. To perform a religious act by only human authority is to be guilty of sin.**

(Matthew 15:3).

In Name Of The Lord

A. Colossians 3:17:

1. The expression "in the name of the Lord" means; by the authority of...
2. Healing of the lame man: (Acts 4:7-10).
 - a. "By what power, or in what name, have ye done this?"
 - b. Peter's reply; "...in the name of Jesus of Nazareth...doth this man stand here before you whole."

B. II John 9.

1. Anyone who does that which is not authorized by the word of Christ (the gospel, the faith, the N.T., et al.) Sins in so doing.
 2. It is absolutely crucial that man walk by faith (II Cor. 5:7). And recognize that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. (Rom. 10:17)
 3. Everything that a man believes, does or is in, (a member of) is either by God's authority or mere human authority.
-

The Chain Of Authority

1. All authority resides in God by virtue of the fact that God is the creator of the world (Gen. 3; Rom. 9:11-24).
2. He (God) gave all authority in heaven and on earth to Jesus Christ, His Son, (Matthew 28:18-20).
3. In turn, Christ sent the holy Spirit upon the apostles to guide them into all the truth (John 16:13; 14:26; Acts 2:1-41).
4. The apostles laid hands on other men that they might receive miraculous power from the Holy Spirit - Inspiration (Eph. 3:5; I Cor. 2:12-14; Act 8)

BY WHAT AUTHORITY?

Page 2

5. For a time, then, the word of God was in inspired men, who were able to infallible preach the gospel of Christ.
6. With the passing of time, these men (apostles, and prophets) wrote the various books of the New Testament. The word of God was then in the inspired book, the Bible (Eph. 3:5; II Tim. 3:16,17).

TODAY: There are no inspired men...

There is no one who has any miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit!

TODAY: We have the Inspired book, The Bible....

And no religious act is pleasing to God which is not authorized by That Book. (II John 9-11; Rev. 22:18,19)

THE BIBLE IS

A. AUTHORITATIVE:

1. Must obey this truth to become a Christian. (Acts 2:14-41; James 1:21; Romans 6:17).
2. Must live in harmony with this truth (Acts 2:42-47; James 1:22)

B. ALL SUFFICIENT: (II Tim. 3:16,17; James. 1:25; I Cor. 13:10).

1. There is no need for further revelation (Jude 3).
2. Men must learn not to go beyond the things which are written (I Cor. 4:6)

C. THE BIBLE IS SUFFICIENT TO TEACH MAN:

1. What to do to become a Christian.
 2. How to live the Christian life, including all Christian work and worship.
-

AUTHORITY IS SIMPLE

A. The matter of authority in religion is claimed by many people to be so complicated as to be beyond comprehension.

1. This is simply not so.
2. Usually such individuals are doing things that the Bible will not support.

B. Notice Authority In Everyday Matters.

1. Fishing license = "authorized by legal permit"
2. Drive way sign = "authorized vehicles only"
3. Restrooms = "Men"...."Women"...Which one are you authorized to enter?

C. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES:

1. Nadab and Abihu ...why was it "strange fire"?
 2. King David and moving the Ark.
 3. The Plan of Salvation....Why is it that authority gets hard to understand at this point....or does it really?
-

BY WHAT AUTHORITY?

Page 3

CONCLUSION

A. THE CRUCIAL THING TO NOTE HERE IS:

1. To reject Biblical authority is to reject Christianity.
2. To reject Christianity is to reject Jesus Christ, and
3. To reject Jesus Christ is to reject the only way of salvation from sin which exists (Acts 4:12; Jn. 3:3-5; II Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:10-15).

B. The Bible Is The Word Of God, And Christianity Is The Religion Of Biblical Authority!

To be followed by a lesson on the “Truth” Can a man know the “truth”?