

STUDY OF AUTHORITY

Matt. 28:18; Matt. 21:23-27

INTRODUCTION:

1. The need for Authority is recognized in Various fields.
 - a. The Home
 - b. School
 - c. Business.
2. Many are not concerned about Authority when it comes to religious matters
3. The Word Authority from the greek word. *Exousia* meaning - Lawful, the right to exercise power. Matt. 9:6; 2 Cor. 10:8; Jn. 17:2
4. Text Shows two things
 - a. Recognize the need for Authority in religion
 - b. Power must come from someone with the power to grant it.
5. Jesus' answer given
 - a. Authority from two sources
 - 1) Heaven - Divine
 - 2) Men - Human

I. NEED FOR AUTHORITY IN RELIGION

- A. Some will deny authority from God is needed for all that man does in religion.
 1. Look To Themselves as Authority.
 - a. Jer 10:23; Prov. 14:12
 2. Or Look to Men
 - a. Col. 2:20-22; Matt. 15:9
- B. Jesus Recognized and taught the need for Authority.
 1. Workers of Iniquity rejected
 - a. Matt. 13:41-42
 - b. Matt. 7:21-23
 2. Foretelling of Apostasy
 - a. 2 Thess. 2:7
 - b. Acts 20:29-30
 - c. Col. 3:17

II. WHERE IS OUR AUTHORITY TO COME FROM:

- A. The Old Testament
 1. Many today think so.
 - a. Such practices as Polygamy, Tithing, Instrumental Music, Infant church membership The Old Testament is appealed to for Authority.
 2. Many fail to recognize the Old Testament is only a shadow Heb. 10:1
 3. Fail to realize that it was removed when Christ Died on the cross Col. 2:14-16; Eph. 2:14-16
 4. Many say that the Ceremonial Law was all that was removed.
 - a. Acts 15:5-10 v. 20,24; Gal. 3:15-29; Gal. 5:3-6
- B. Preachers
 1. Many hold to the "Pastor" system that the preacher is the pastor and final authority in the Local Church.
 - a. 2 Tim. 4:1-2 and the work of the Preacher.
 - b. Gal 1:6-9 "...any other gospel, let him be accursed!"
- C. Creeds of Men.
 1. Some believe that the Bible is like the US Constitution needs amended from time to time. Times change and so should the Bible and religion.
 - a. Matthew 24:35 "...My words will by no means pass away."
 - b. 2 Peter 1:3 "...divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge..."
 - c. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 "...man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
- D. Desires of the Congregation
 1. Some hold to the idea that the congregation can vote on matters of faith like church membership, Salvation, etc.
 2. Notice Example of Israel Wanting gods before them. Exodus 32

III. CHRIST IS OUR SOURCE OF AUTHORITY TODAY!

- A. He is God's spokesman Mat. 17:1-5; Heb. 1:1
- B. God requires that we hear him: Deut. 18:18-19; Acts 3:22,23
- C. All Authority is give to HIM.
 1. Mat. 28:18; 1 Cor. 15:27; 1 Tim. 6:15

CONCLUSION:

1. We noticed definition.
2. How Authority is recognized in different areas of Society
3. How Some feel don't Need Authority in Religion
4. We then notice how some try to establish Bible Authority through various sources.
5. We noticed Christ is our source of Authority today.