

“OUR NEED FOR BIBLICAL AUTHORITY”

Introduction

- I. We live in a world that assumes that anything deemed “good” by men must be inherently “religious/spiritual.”
- II. Some have the mistaken notion that if we can find some “moral value” behind something, or if we are being selfless in our action, then God accepts such actions as worship. This is simply false!
- III. The religious world today is in a state of turmoil:
 - A. Some say that man is born a sinner, while others do not.
 - B. Some teach that once a man is saved, he can never be lost, while others deny this.
 - C. Some encourage worship with the mechanical instrument, while others discourage such a practice.
 - D. Some teach that the Holy Spirit “personally” indwells folks and makes them do things, while other religious people will say that the Holy Spirit dwells through the instrumentality of the Word.
 - E. Besides all of this, there are various churches in Owensboro that have varied names on their signs. All of these groups claim to be following Christ, and yet all are walking in different directions.
- IV. Can folks come to an agreement on spiritual/religious matters? _____ Compare your answer with what Jesus said (John 17:20-21). _____
 - A. How does Amos 3:3 fit into this study? _____
 - B. How does I Corinthians 1:10 fit into this study? _____
- V. Therefore, the question is not whether or not we can agree. Rather, the question is upon what standard will we base our agreement (if anything)? The lessons we will study here are designed to help us answer this question, and help us to establish Bible authority for all we do!

Discussion

I. IS THERE A NEED FOR AUTHORITY?

- A. Authority: “(in the sense of ability); privilege, i.e. (subjectively) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (objectively) mastery ... delegated influence:-- jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength” (Strong’s).
 - 1. Some have made the point that authority implies permission to act or speak.
 - 2. Do we need permission to act or speak? _____
 - 3. Read Matthew 28:18 and Colossians 3:17. Did this change your answer? _____
- B. Perhaps some think that there is no need for authority of any kind. If this is the case, consider this object lesson:

- 1. How tall are you? _____
- 2. How did you arrive at this answer? _____
- 3. Do you think if everyone measured you, they could arrive at the same answer as you? If so, why? If not, why not? _____
- 4. Therefore, can we be united on how tall you are, as well as how tall each person in this class is? What is the standard of measurement that allows us to have unity? _____

- C. In like manner, if we are going to come to an agreement upon any spiritual truth, we must accept the standard God has given us: _____!
- D. How would a passage like I Peter 4:11 fit into this discussion? _____

II. FROM WHERE DOES YOUR AUTHORITY COME?

- A. Read Matthew 21:23-27 (parallel: Mark 11:28-33).

1. The Pharisees, as well as Christ, recognized that authority to do a thing will originate with either _____ or _____!
 2. This is also stated in Matthew 16:17. What is being contrasted in this passage? _____
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- B. Therefore, the authority for what you do and say will come from one of these two places!

III. WHY DO WE NEED AUTHORITY?

- A. Why ought we make a plea for Bible authority? Can't we get along without it?
 1. Our society encourages the philosophy of "anything goes!" Why is this not acceptable?
 2. Can a family, a nation, or a church function without authority? _____
- B. Someone or something must guide and direct us!
 1. Is man a good guide? (See: Jeremiah 10:23) _____
 2. Will a multitude of men always have the right answer? (Exodus 23:2; Proverbs 1:10-19) _____
 3. Jesus said that some "religious" folks were guilty of "iniquity" and were commanded to "depart" from Him (_____). The word "iniquity" means lawlessness.
 4. These folks claimed to do things for Christ, and in fact probably did "good works" in the eyes of men. In reality, they operated without law, or without authority!
- C. Therefore, there is a need for authority in our lives!
 1. Authority will either come from heaven or men.
 2. Which will you choose to follow?

Conclusion

- I. This lesson begins a series of lessons on the subject of authority. I hope it will be helpful to you and encourage you to "*do all in the name of the Lord*" (Colossians 3:17).

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