

“OUR NEED FOR BIBLICAL AUTHORITY” (#2)

Introduction

- I. In our last lesson, we established the fact that there is a need for authority. What is a good “working definition” of authority? _____
 - A. Read I Corinthians 1:10. How is it possible for men today to be united upon Biblical truths? _____
 - B. Where are the only two places where we can get our authority? _____
- II. Someone or something will serve as a guide for our lives! Seeing that this is true, let us make sure that our guide is the correct Guide – the One who will lead us to Heaven!
- III. In this lesson, we will learn who the true source of authority is – Jesus Christ!

Discussion

I. JESUS CHRIST IS OUR SOURCE OF AUTHORITY TODAY:

- A. While upon this earth, God spoke on behalf of Christ, and told Peter, James, and John: “_____” (Matthew 17:5).
- B. “*In these last days*” God has spoken to men through _____ (Hebrews 1:1-2).
- C. In fact, when Paul wrote to the Ephesians, he said there is _____ (Ephesians 4:5)!
 - 1. Lord – “*kurios ... (supremacy); supreme in authority, i.e., (as noun) controller*” (Strong’s).
 - 2. When we use the term “Lord Jesus Christ,” we are saying that Christ is supreme, and our controller!
- D. If Christ is our controller, then can man rightly say that he is in control?

II. WHY SHOULD WE LISTEN TO CHRIST?

- A. He has all authority (Matthew 28:18)!
- B. We will be judged by His words (John 12:48).
- C. Christ is above all today (I Timothy 6:15).
 - 1. Seeing that He is “*Lord (controller/supreme in authority) of lords,*” true unity will be seen when we all submit to the same Lord!
 - 2. Much of the lack of unity today is the result of folks following a lord that is not Christ!
 - a. Since Christ has “*all authority,*” how much does this leave for anyone else? _____
 - b. Sadly, in spite of Christ having “*all authority,*” many will follow false gods (false authorities). Name some of the false gods which are popular today. _____
 - c. In fact, who is it that is NOT subject to Christ? _____
- D. Christ’s word is all-inclusive! (There is no area wherein we are not subject to Christ!)
 - 1. Colossians 3:17 says: _____
 - a. “*Whatsoever*” – “[*Gr. Pas*] *all, any, every, the whole:-- all (manner of, means) always (-s), any (one), ... every (one, way) ... thoroughly, whole*” (Strong’s).
 - b. “*Ye*” – The individual. We are each responsible for our own actions.
 - c. “*Do*” – “*execute, exercise, fulfil, gain, ...observe, ordain, perform, provide*” (Strong’s).
 - d. “*Word*” – “*something said (including the thought); by impl. a topic (subject of discourse), also reasoning (the mental faculty) or motive ... communication, ... doctrine ... speaker, speech, talk, ... utterance*” (Strong’s).
 - e. “*Deed*” – “*to work; toil (as an effort or occupation); by impl. an act:-- doing, labour*” (Strong’s).
 - f. “*Do all*” - “[*Gr. Pas*] (Same as “*whatsoever*”)” (Strong’s).
 - g. “*In*” – In connection with. “*denoting union or communion with*” (Vincent’s Word Studies of the New Testament, Vol. 1, p. 149).

- h. "The Name Of" - "(lit. or fig.) [authority, character]" (Strong's). See: Proverbs 22:1
 - i. "Lord Jesus" - (Remember the definition of "Lord" above?)
 - j. "Giving thanks to God and the Father by him" – Gratitude toward God is emphasized here.
2. Now that we have defined the words in that passage, take a moment and re-write Colossians 3:17 in your own words. Can you name an area in which Christ's authority CANNOT be felt?? _____
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E. In connection with His work on earth, he also delegated authority to the apostles.

- 1. The apostles were called "*ambassadors for Christ*" (_____).
 - a. Ambassador: "One who is an official representative."
 - b. Ex: The ambassadors from the United States to Iraq, China, England, Japan, etc., are people who have the authority to speak and act on behalf of the President in the various countries.
 - c. In this case, the apostles were sent all over the world to speak the truth on behalf of _____!
- 2. Therefore, the word of the apostles is just as authoritative as Christ's! (I Corinthians 14:37; I John 4:6; Matthew 10:40)

Conclusion

- I. We must respect the fact that Jesus is our only source of authority today that will lead us to Heaven!
- II. Everything we teach and practice must be authorized by Christ in the New Testament!
- III. Read II Timothy 3:16-17. Remember, a deed is not a "good work" unless it is authorized from God's inspired word!
- IV. In our next lesson, we will study what things are NOT our authority today.

- Jarrod Jacobs