

Lesson One

Finding Source for

ALL

Religious Authority

based on work by John Isaac Edwards

Contact Information
Dave Scarpino – Evangelist
512 Columbus Street
Bedford, Ohio 44146

Building Phone: 440-232-2231 (24/7)

Introduction

1. With little acception religious division occurs because people refuse the word of God as the authority of Christ
2. Many do love Jesus, but they do not love the truth of His word: 2Thess. 2:10 *“with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did _____ receive the love of the _____, that they might be saved.”*
3. The Lord’s *“vengeance on those who do not _____ God, and on those who do not _____ the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”* 2Thess. 1:8
4. The purpose of this lesson is to allow the scripture to pinpoint the true standard of authority for the church today.

Discussion

I. Christ Has All Authority

- A. *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “_____ has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”* (Matt. 28:18)
- B. **God speaks to us today through Christ.** *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His _____, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds”* (Heb. 1:1-2).
- C. **Christ’s authority is revealed to us in the New Testament.** *“If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I _____ to you are the _____ of the Lord.”* (1 Cor. 14:37)
- D. **The Bible is God’s final and complete revelation to man:**

“16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be _____, _____ for every good work.” (2Tim. 3:16-17)

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to _____ earnestly for the _____ which was _____ delivered to the saints.” (Jude 3)

II. Strictness In God’s Law

- A. God means what he says and says what he means! *“You shall not _____ to the word which I command you, nor _____ from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”* (Deut. 4:2)
- B. John said, *“Whoever transgresses and does not _____ in the doctrine of Christ does _____ have God. He who _____ in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”* (2 John 1:9).
- C. Examples of God’s strictness:
 - i. Adam and Eve ate of the fruit and were driven from the garden of Eden (Gen 2:16-17; Chapter 3)
 - ii. Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire they had no authority for and were killed (Lev. 10:1-2)
 - iii. Moses struck the rock and was not allowed to enter the promised land (Num. 20:7-12)
 - iv. Uzzah touched the ark of the covenant, that was not to be touched, and died (2Sam. 6:6-7)

III. God’s Will Can Be Understood

- A. Many think that the Bible cannot be understood. But we are commanded to understand it. *“...when you _____, you may _____ my knowledge in the mystery of Christ.”* (Eph. 3:4). *“Therefore do not be _____, but _____ what the will of the Lord is.”* (Eph. 5:17)
- B. Do you think that God would give us a book to read, believe, and obey and then make it too hard to understand? _____
- C. This does not mean that the Bible reads as a first grade reader. It simply means that with study you can understand what God expects of you without some special anointing of God.

IV. False Standards Of Authority

A. Let's take a look at some false standards of authority that many appeal to in religion.

i. Conscience.

- a. In religious matters, many people just let their conscience be their guide. Conscience is that which tells us whether we are doing right or wrong, based upon what we have been taught.
- b. Personal experiences and feelings can lead one astray, yet many are guided by them. Solomon said, *"There is a _____ that may _____ to a man. But its end is the way of _____."* (Prov. 14:12)
- c. The apostle Paul was guided by his *"good conscience"* (Acts 23:1), but he did many things which were religiously wrong. *"Indeed, I myself thought I _____ do many things _____ to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."* (Acts 26:9)

ii. The Wisdom Of Men

- a. Men can be wrong! Our faith must not be in our own thinking, nor in the wisdom of others. *"that your faith should not be in the wisdom of _____ but in the _____ of God."* (1 Cor. 2:5; Rom. 1:16)
- b. God's ways and man's ways are different. *"For since, in the wisdom of God, the _____ through _____ did not know God..."* (1 Cor. 1:21).
- c. This will eliminate all man-made creed books that about every denomination has. God's only creed is the Bible!

iii. The Majority

- a. The majority of people can and will be wrong.
- b. Just because the majority may do a thing does not make it right. There were only 8 persons saved in the ark Noah built (1 Pet. 3:20).
- c. *"13 Enter by the _____ gate; for _____ is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are _____ who find it."* (Matt. 7:13-14).
- d. The Lord's people have always been the few *"The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were _____ in number than any other people, for you were the _____ of all peoples"* (Deut. 7:7)

iv. Parents

- a. Many want to or feel need to follow the traditions handed down by their parents. Belonging to a church simply because one's parents do or did is going by a false standard.
- b. *"He who loves father or mother _____ than Me is not _____ of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."* (Matt. 10:37)
- c. Christianity is a one on one individual relationship. **People are not saved "by groups"**. You as an individual must examine the Bible for yourself and do what it teaches.
- d. Paul was involved in religious error because he followed tradition. *"...I _____ the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. 14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the _____ of my fathers."* (Gal. 1:13-14).

v. The Law of Moses

- a. Many fail to realize that the law of Moses is not our standard of authority in religion today. It served its purpose and has been done away.
 - b. The law was added because of transgressions, _____ the Seed should come (Gal. 3:19). Who is identified as the Seed? “_____” (Gal. 3:16)
 - c. “*having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having _____ it to the _____...*” (Col. 2:14).
 - d. See also Galatians 3:23-25; “*23 But **before** faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would **afterward be revealed**. 24 Therefore the **law was our tutor** to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are **no longer under a tutor**.*”
(Eph. 2:15) “*having **abolished** in His flesh the enmity, **that is, the law of commandments** contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace*”
(Heb. 8:7-9) “*7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. 8 Because **finding fault** with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 9 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because **they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.**”*”
 - e. This is the reason we do not keep the **Sabbath, burn incense, offer animal sacrifices**, and do other things they did under the law of Moses.
 - f. It was the **death of Christ that took the law of Moses away** and put into force the New Testament. “*16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.*” (Heb. 9:16-17).
 - g. The Old Testament is still beneficial for us today. We learn how God deals with people and receive many moral lessons from it.
(Rom. 15:4) “*For whatever things were written before were **written for our learning**, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*”
(1 Cor 10:11) “*Now all these things happened to them as **examples**, and they were **written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*”
- B. **False standards of authority** keep people from understanding the Lord’s will for us today. False standards of authority keep people enslaved to error which is sin and from the true salvation of the Lord.

Conclusion

1. The standard of authority for today is Christ’s will found only in the reading of the New Testament.
2. In the judgment which will certainly come, (2 Thess. 1:7-10) “*...**when the Lord Jesus is revealed** from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in **flaming fire taking vengeance** on those **who do not know God**, and on those **who do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those **who believe**, because our testimony among you was **believed**.*”
(John 12:48) “*He who **rejects Me**, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—**the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.**”*
(Rom. 2:16) “*in the day when God will **judge the secrets of men** by Jesus Christ, **according to my gospel.**”*
3. We will not be judged by any rule of any man, by our own feelings or thoughts, but by the word which the Lord has given all men that they may know the truth, and be without excuse.