

“BY WHAT AUTHORITY ARE YOU DOING THESE THINGS?”

INTRODUCTION

A. Matthew 21:23-27 (400)

Jesus was once asked, “By what authority are you doing these things?” In His reply, Jesus acknowledged that religious authority comes either “from heaven or from men”. This lesson identifies religious authority from heaven.

B. Proverbs 20:10 (265)

It is dishonest to use varying standards of measurement in the marketplace. It is even more dishonest to use varying standards of measure in religion. It would be altogether unprofitable for two parties to initiate a study of the scriptures without first agreeing on a single objective standard of truth.

I. GOD EXISTS.

A. Hebrews 3:4 (483)

Nothing can exist without having been built. God is the answer to the existence of the universe.

B. Romans 1:20 (454)

Proof of God’s power and existence is obvious in creation.

C. Psalm 19:1 (225)

His work identifies Him.

D. Acts 14:17 (447)

He is born witness of by having provided for His creatures.

II. GOD GAVE ALL AUTHORITY TO CHRIST.

A. Matthew 28:18 (404)

Jesus claimed universal authority.

B. His authority is derived from God.

1. John 12:49 (435)

Jesus acknowledged that His authority came from God.

2. **Acts 2:36** (440)

Jesus was made Lord by God.

3. **Matthew 17:1-5** (398)

God told men to listen to Him.

4. **Hebrews 1:1-2** (482)

It is through Christ that God communicates with man.

C. His authority is total.

1. **Matthew 6:24** (393)

He does not share His power.

2. **Acts 4:12** (440)

No one else has the power to save, neither the Pope, nor Buddha, nor Mohammed, nor Joseph Smith.

3. **John 14:6** (436)

He provides exclusive access to God the Father.

D. John 12:48 (437)

The words of Jesus are the standard by which all will be judged. Therefore, submission to His will is essential.

III. CHRIST AUTHORIZED HIS APOSTLES.

- A. Luke 24:46-49** (428); **Acts 1:8** (440); **2:1-4** (440)

Jesus told the apostles they would preach His gospel worldwide, beginning when they were empowered with the Holy Spirit, which thing did come to pass.

- B. 2nd Corinthians 5:20** (467)

They are His ambassadors. As political ambassadors are sent by a head of state to represent policy abroad, so the apostles of Christ were commissioned by Jesus to proclaim His gospel to the world.

- C. 1st Thessalonians 2:13** (479)

The apostle Paul commended those of Thessalonica because they received his preaching “*not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God*”.

1. **John 13:20** (436)

Acceptance of Christ is entirely dependent on acceptance of those whom He sent.

2. **Luke 10:16** (420)

Likewise, by rejecting Christ’s representatives, Christ is rejected.

IV. THE APOSTLES RECORDED GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE.

A. **1st Corinthians 14:37** (465)

The authority of Christ is revealed to us in the writing of the apostles.

B. **2nd Peter 1:20-21** (490)

Those who wrote the scriptures were not recording their ideas, but God’s.

C. **2nd Timothy 3:16-17** (481)

God is the source of every scripture.

D. **John 16:13** (437)

Jesus stated that the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles “*into all truth*”.

What they did with the truth is worthy of our consideration.

1. **Acts 20:20, 27** (450)

The knowledge of the apostles was withheld from no one.

2. **Ephesians 3:1-5** (472)

It is available to all who will read their writings.

V. THE SCRIPTURES ARE SUFFICIENT

A. **Jude 3** (493)

“*The faith... was once for all delivered to the saints*”. The faith, not subjective faith as in what I believe or you believe, but objective faith as in the system of belief set forth by the Lord, is final.

B. **Additional revelation is not forthcoming.**

1. **2nd Peter 1:2-3** (490)

“All things that pertain to life and godliness” have already been supplied.

2. **Galatians 1:6-9** (470)

All revelations past the Bible are untrustworthy.

C. God preserves His word perfectly for us.

1. **1st Peter 1:25** (488)

The word of God will always endure.

2. **Luke 21:33** (426)

The words of Jesus will never pass away.