

Biblical Authority

For Deaf Class on Wednesday January 13th, 2021

What is Authority?

- Every issue in Christendom is rooted in one's definition and application of authority.
- Robert Palmer defines authority as "ultimate power or control" and "the right to command and act".
- Wikipedia defines biblical authority as "the extent to which one can regard commandments and scriptures of the Bible as having authority over human belief and conduct".
- In this study, we are going to cause both of these definitions of authority work together. And we will determine what true Biblical Authority is.
- We will also determine what it matters to us today!

How Authority is Exercised:

- In order for authority to be properly exercised, we must understand two important and fundamental aspects of basic communication.
 - One party is expected to speak and/or write a message.
 - The other party is expected to receive and acknowledge that message.
 - [obviously, there are other forms of communication. For example, it is harder for deaf people to speak, so signing is how the deaf communicate].
- God communicated to His people via the Word of God! He did this by using many methods and means of communication.
 - In the past God spoke to our people through the prophets. He spoke to them many times and in many different ways. **2** And now in these last days, God has spoken to us again through his Son. He made the whole world through his Son. And he has chosen his Son to have all things. (Hebrews 1:1-2 ERV)
 - God spoke to the Israelites through the prophets. He spoke through Enoch, Moses, David, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and the minor prophets. Their words were written down and recorded in the Old Testament.

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- After the prophets, God communicated to his people through the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ. (See Matthew 28:17,18).
- Today, Christians abide by the New Testament. Therefore, God communicates to us through Jesus Christ. How do we recognize the authority of Christ?
 - See 1 Corinthians 3:11.
 - Jesus spoke with authority. He did not speak like the scribes, Pharisees, and other Jewish leaders as we see in Matthew 7:28-29.
 - As we see in Matthew 7 and Matthew 28, we need to recognize that Jesus had authority and power then, and he still has authority to this day. And Paul recognizes this authority as he is writing to the church in Corinth.

What the Authority of Christ means for us today:

- If we recognize the authority of Christ, this means...
 - He is our Lord.
 - We will ONLY obey the commandments of God.
 - The New Testament given to us by Jesus Christ and His Apostles is our source for authority.
- Jesus is our Lord.
 - As Christians, we deify Jesus because He is part of the Holy Trinity. But do we recognize that He is our Lord and Master.
 - See Romans 1:1-3
 - Paul says that Jesus did everything that he needed to do, including being of the lineage of kings, to become his and our Lord.
- We will ONLY obey the commandments of God.
 - In other words, we will not add or take away anything from the scriptures.
 - See Acts 5:27-29
 - See Galatians 1:8-10
 - This means, that even in our worship, we need to only include what God has told us to include in worship. If we just obey the commands of Christ, and only His commandments, then this proves our love for Him (see John 14:15-16)
- The New Testament given to us by Jesus Christ and His Apostles is our source for authority.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16,17 and Matthew 28:17-18