

# Lesson 1: Defining Authority

1. Understand the meaning of authority
2. Understand various aspects of authority from the Scripture



# In the name of

- ✓ Matthew 18:5
  - ✓ Vine's Expository Dictionary of Bible Words: "representing the authority of"; "on the ground of My authority"
- ✓ Matthew 24:5
  - ✓ In this case, many will come "in My name" (on the ground of My authority) falsely
- ✓ Acts 4:7
  - ✓ "by what power or by what name..."

# Matthew 28:19

- ✓ “...baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...”
- ✓ Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Bible Words: “in recognition of the authority of (sometimes combined with the thought of relying on or resting on)”



- ✓ Colossians 3:17

# Matthew 7:21-23

- ✓ We've seen previously: to do something in the name of Jesus is to do in accordance with His authority (His rule, command, instruction)
- ✓ Many claimed to do things in Jesus' name, so what was the issue?
- ✓ **Law** was the issue. What they did was lawlessness – not according to Christ's law.
- ✓ That which is not according to Christ's law is lawlessness and is not in the name of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ For something to be in the name of Jesus (**according to His authority**), it must be according to His **law**.
- ✓ Note, then, a direct connection between **authority** and **law**
- ✓ One may claim to act by the authority of Christ, but if they have not acted according to His law, then they are doing what is not lawful, what is not authorized

# The word “authority” includes these aspects:

- ✓ Rule
  - ✓ Matthew 8
  - ✓ Matthew 21
- ✓ Command
  - ✓ Matthew 8
  - ✓ Matthew 28:18
- ✓ Submission, obedience
  - ✓ Matthew 8
  - ✓ Matthew 28:19-20
- ✓ Divine appointment or approval
  - ✓ Matthew 21
- ✓ Power
  - ✓ John 19:11
  - ✓ Matthew 28:18
  - ✓ John 5:26-27
- ✓ Right to rule
  - ✓ John 19:11
  - ✓ Matthew 28:18
  - ✓ John 5:26-27

- ✓ Law
  - ✓ Matthew 7:21-23
- ✓ Right
  - ✓ 1 Corinthians 7:4
- ✓ Liberty or choice
  - ✓ 1 Corinthians 9:12, 18
  - ✓ 1 Corinthians 8:9
  - ✓ 2 Thessalonians 3:9
- ✓ Control
  - ✓ Acts 5:4

To be concerned with authority is to be concerned with

- ✓ God’s rule and His instruction and His law
- ✓ What I must do and what I can do

# Recap

- ✓ Authority includes the power and right to command
- ✓ Authority includes acting in obedience to command and acting within the liberties granted
- ✓ “to act by authority is to act by the order or instruction of the one who has the rightful power to rule or to command” (Billy Moore, “Authority”)
- ✓ Just because one has the power, in the sense of ability, to do a thing does not mean he has the authority
- ✓ Two possible sources of authority – human and divine
- ✓ We need to follow divine authority
- ✓ All authority has been given to Jesus by the Father
- ✓ Jesus therefore has the right to command and to judge
- ✓ Jesus commanded that baptized believers be taught to observe all that He commanded. This involves not adding to and not taking away
- ✓ “In My name” means on the ground of my authority, or in recognition of the authority of
- ✓ To act in the name of Christ, to act in recognition of His authority, is to act according to His law
- ✓ We need to teach and practice what is in God’s law!



# Recap

Are we operating then within the Bible use of the word authority when we say or ask...

- ✓ “We worship this way by the authority of Christ”
- ✓ “By the authority of Christ we teach baptism for the remission of sins”
- ✓ “We need God’s authority in our lives”
- ✓ “God has granted us the authority to ....”
- ✓ “We do not have the authority to ....”
- ✓ “By what authority are you doing this?”
- ✓ “Where is your authority to ....?”



## To be concerned with authority is to be concerned with

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- ✓ What I must do and what I can do
- ✓ "We need God's authority in our lives"
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# Lesson 2: The Universal Need for Authority

We saw in lesson 1 that in the Bible the word “authority” can refer to the right or power to command, enforce, and judge as well as the right, whether by obligation or liberty, to act. To act with authority is to act by the order or instruction of the one who has the rightful power to rule or to command.

## Objective of Lesson 2

Recognize the universal need for authority and the need to respect authority



# Man's Nature Demands the Need for Authority

- ✓ We need rule and instruction
- ✓ Jeremiah 10:23
- ✓ Proverbs 14:12
- ✓ Proverbs 16:25
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 1:21



# History Shows What Happens When There is Disrespect for Authority

- ✓ Disregard, Ignorance of, Unconcerned with, Disobedient to
- ✓ Romans 1:21-28
  - ✓ Leviticus 10:1-3
- ✓ Ephesians 4:17-19
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 1:18-21
- ✓ Judges 21:25