

Review

What are two sides of authority?

- The R_____ or P_____ to rule or command
- To _____ by the instruction and/or approval of the rightful ruler

If we're concerned about authority, we're going to be concerned with...

- God's rule and His instruction and His L_____
- What I M_____ do and what I C_____ do

Roadmap

- ✓ What is authority, and how is the word used in the Scriptures?
- ✓ We need authority in our lives
- ✓ God is the ultimate authority
- ✓ What our source and standard of authority is not
 - **How is God's authority expressed to man**
 - Respecting God's silence
 - Using the inductive method to determine the will of God
 - Determining God's will through commands, statements, examples, and necessary conclusions
 - The Scriptures give us a pattern
 - Generic and Specific authority
 - Expediency
 - Examples of respect and disrespect of authority
 - Improper attitudes and assaults upon authority



Lesson 5: How is God's Authority Expressed to Man?

- ❑ We've seen how God has made His will known in times past
- ❑ We've seen that in the last days, God has spoken to us by His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2), and this includes:
 - ❑ The words Jesus spoke
 - ❑ The things the apostles spoke
 - ❑ The things the apostles wrote
- ❑ Thus we see the divine chain of **authority**.
 - ❑ God, Christ, Holy Spirit, Apostles, Scriptures
- ❑ The written, New Testament Scriptures are authoritative.
 - ❑ They contain the will of Jesus Christ
 - ❑ The qualities of the written Scriptures are consistent with their **authority**.
- ❑ Tonight:
 - ❑ To go beyond the written Scriptures is to go beyond the **authority of Christ**.

Divine authority and truth is in the words of Christ and His apostles and prophets and is written in the Scriptures.

If we go outside of those words, we leave the authority of Christ.

- John 16:13
- Galatians 1:6-9
- 2 John 9-11
- 1 Corinthians 4:6
- 1 Timothy 6:3-5
- 1 Peter 4:11



The Divine Chain of Authority

- ✓ God gave all authority to Christ.
- ✓ Christ sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles into all truth.
- ✓ The apostles spoke the words which the Holy Spirit teaches.
- ✓ The apostles and prophets wrote down those words for the benefit of all.
 - ✓ Those words are authoritative.

God's will for us today is expressed in the written, New Testament Scriptures. They are authoritative.



Lesson 6: Respecting the Silence of the Scriptures

- ❑ The objective of this lesson is to recognize the need to respect God's silence, i.e. the silence of the Scriptures.
- ❑ Silence
 - ❑ Means where God hasn't spoken
 - ❑ "which He had not commanded them"
 - ❑ "gave no such commandment"
 - ❑ "spoke nothing concerning"
- ❑ We know God's will by *what He has revealed*
- ❑ The Old Testament teaches respect for God's silence
- ❑ The New Testament teaches respect for God's silence
- ❑ We will see cases where acting upon God's silence was not pleasing to God

Two Attitudes

1. Silence is permission, consent

“Where does the Bible say not to?”

2. Silence does not give permission or consent

“What does the Bible say?”

The right attitude is #2. This is the attitude we see by precept and example in the Bible.

To presume to do something is to do a thing without right or permission

We Know God's Will *by What is Revealed*

- ❑ Deuteronomy 29:29
 - ❑ What belonged to the them and their children?
 - ❑ The things revealed, not the unrevealed or secret things
 - ❑ And why?
 - ❑ That they would *do* it
- ❑ 1 Corinthians 2:9-13, particularly v.11
 - ❑ Who knows the mind of God?
 - ❑ The Spirit
 - ❑ The Spirit has revealed the things of God to the apostles in the Spirit's words ["words are vehicles upon which thoughts travel"]
 - ❑ That's what the apostles spoke
 - ❑ Which is what we have

We Know God's Will *by What is Revealed*

Unless God reveals it, you don't know the thoughts of God



In the Old Testament, respect for God's silence was taught by commands and examples

- ❑ Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32
- ❑ Numbers 22:18, 20
- ❑ Numbers 9:1-8
- ❑ Leviticus 24:10-16
- ❑ Numbers 15:32-36