

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
- **Generic and Specific authority**
- Expediency
- The church and the individual
- The Scriptures give us a pattern
- Examples of respect and disrespect of authority
- Improper attitudes and assaults upon authority
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Lesson 9: Generic & Specific Authority

Objective of this lesson:

- Understand that God speaks to man in the Bible in both generic and specific ways. Learn to recognize the generic and the specific aspects of God's instructions.

Authorized Thing	The authorized thing is a specific in this general class	Therefore, these not authorized (other specifics of the general class)	The authorized thing is generic as to:	Therefore, these specifics/expedients authorized
Gopherwood Genesis 6:14	Species of wood	Oak, pine, ebony, etc.	Size of wood, trees	Small, large, etc.
Make ark Genesis 6:14	Vessel	Row boat, sail boat, etc.	Tools	Hammer, nails, bailing wire, etc.

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Take for himself...a male lamb from the sheep or from the goats Exodus 12:3-5	Species of animal	Ox, donkey, etc.	Color	White, black, etc.
	Sex	Female	Method to take	Rope, corner and grab, etc.

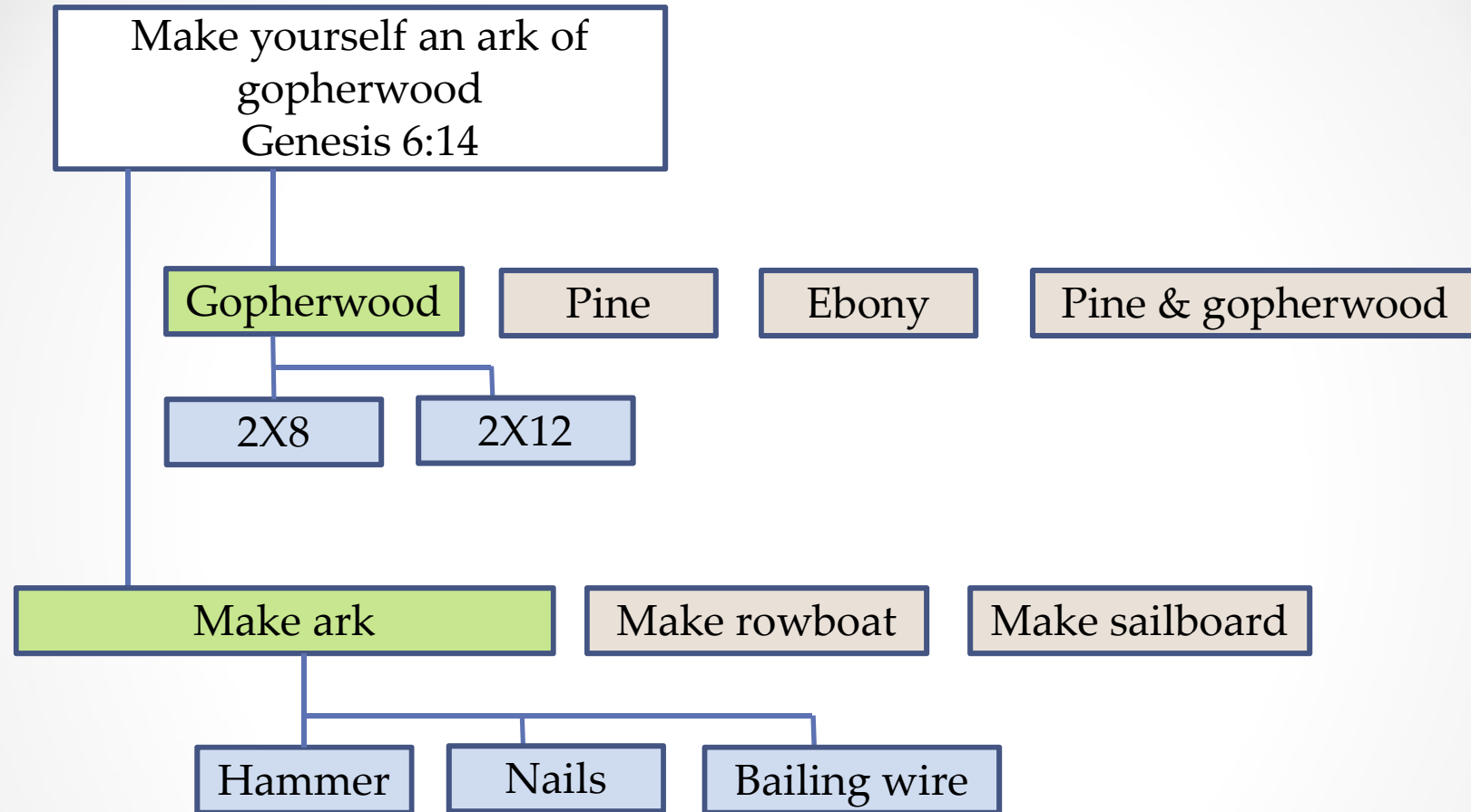
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Go into all the world and preach the gospel Mark 16:15-16	Message	Popular psychology, personal testimonies	How to go	Foot, Car, Plane, etc.
			Setting/venue	Street corner, home, public building, etc.



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Eat the bread (1 Corinthians 11:23-24; Matthew 26:26)	Food	Turkey, green beans, fish	Grain	Wheat, barley, etc.

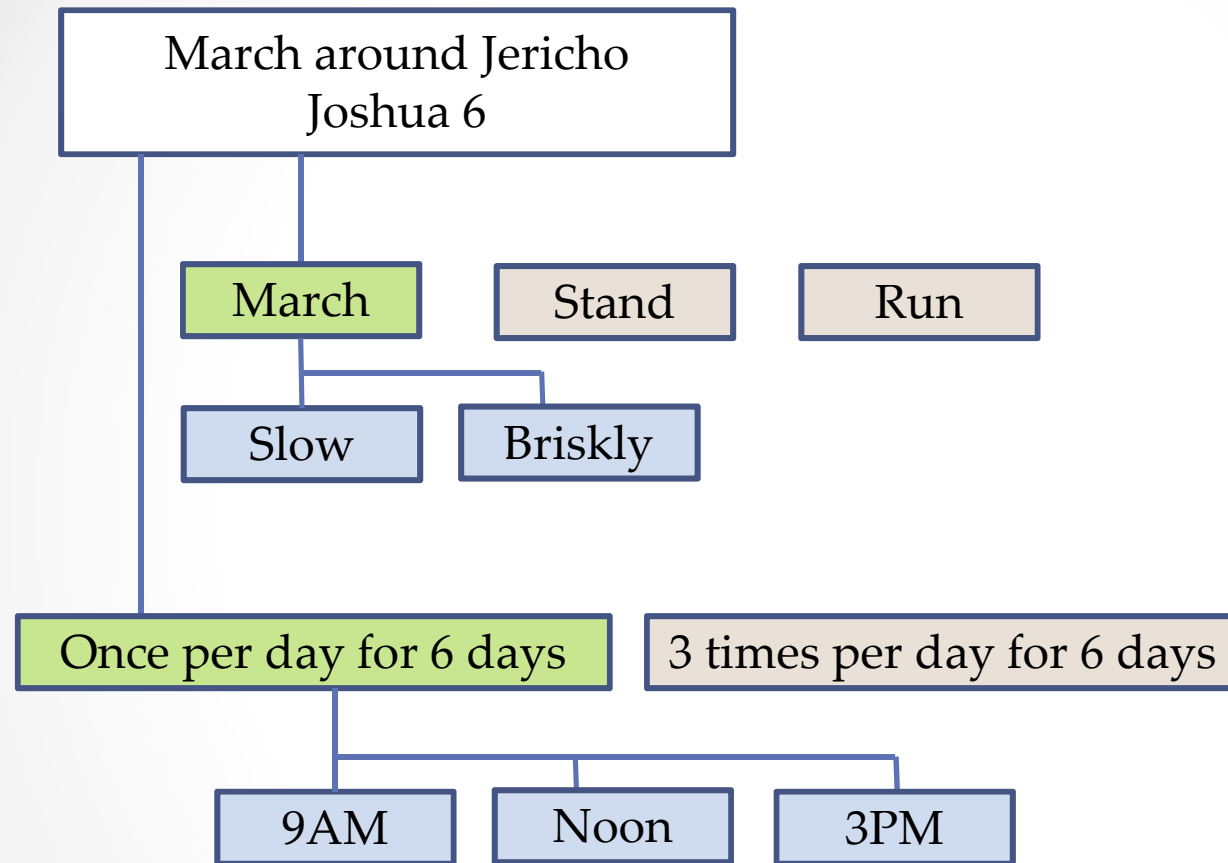
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Singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16)	Music	Entirely instrumental, sing + instrument, etc.	Harmony/unison/etc.	Soprano, alto, unison, etc.
			Method to sing the same thing	Memorized, printed songs, songs projected overhead
	Types of songs	Patriotic, folk, etc.	Organization of songs	Multiple verses, no chorus, repeated phrases, etc.

Generic & Specific



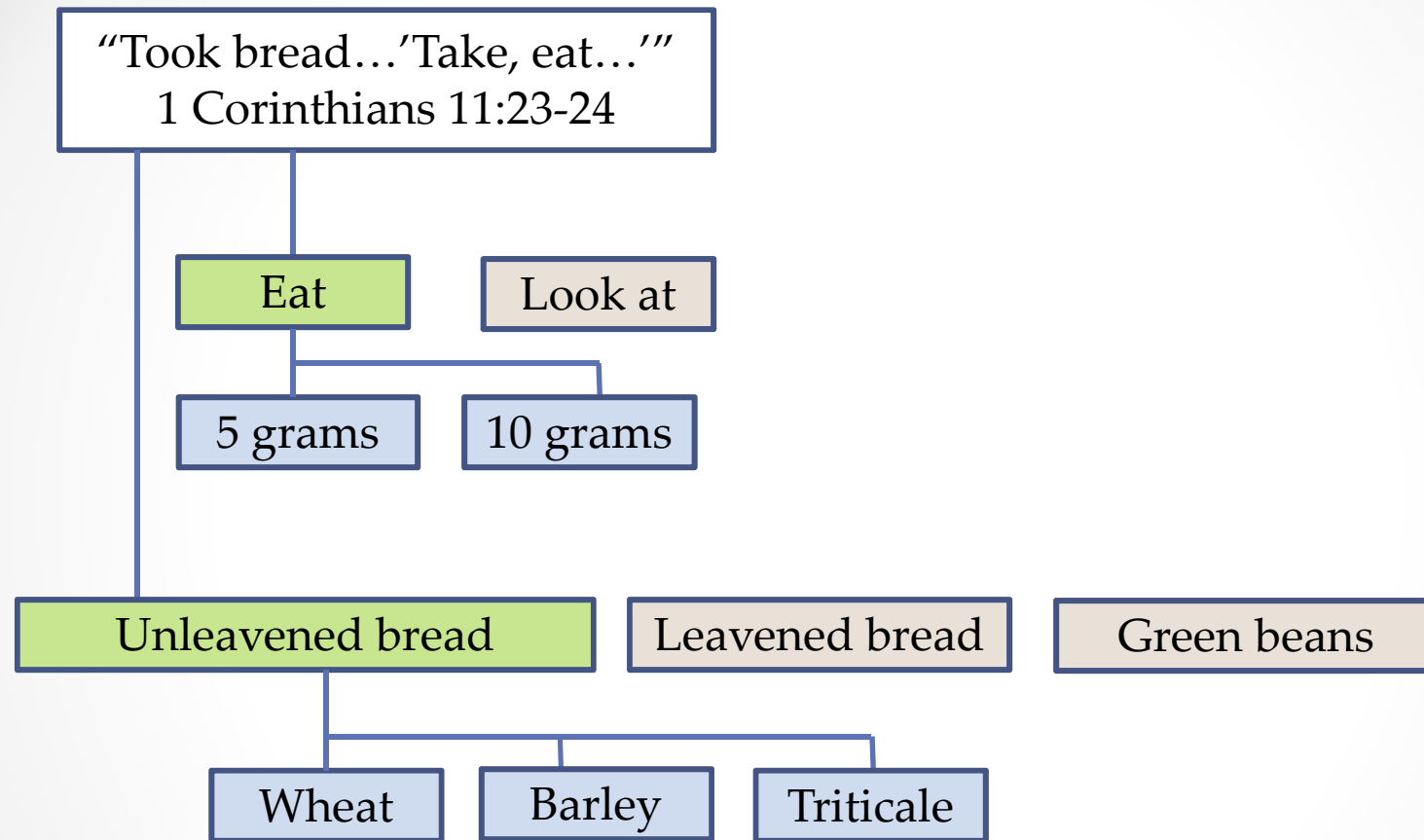
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Generic & Specific



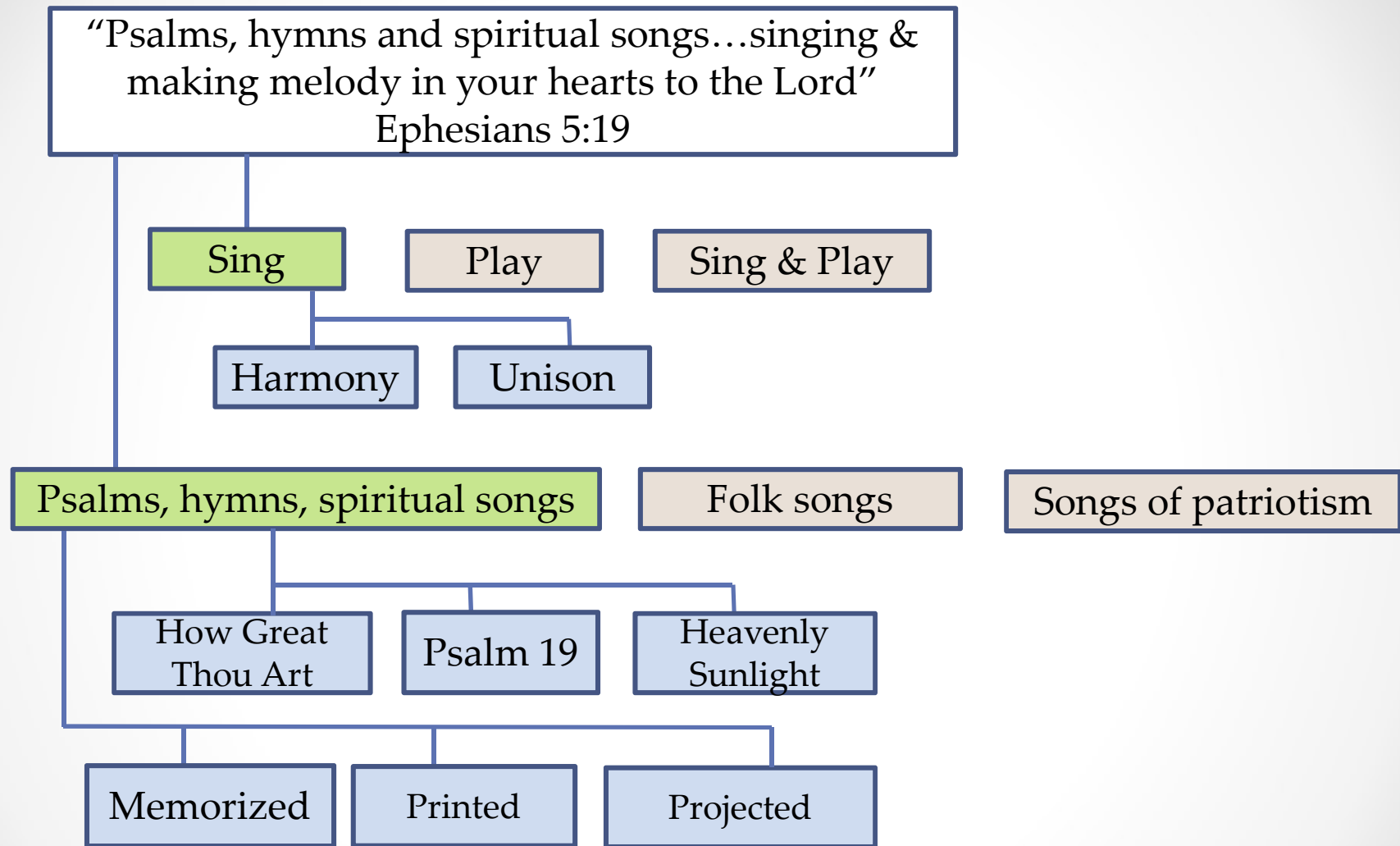
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Generic & Specific



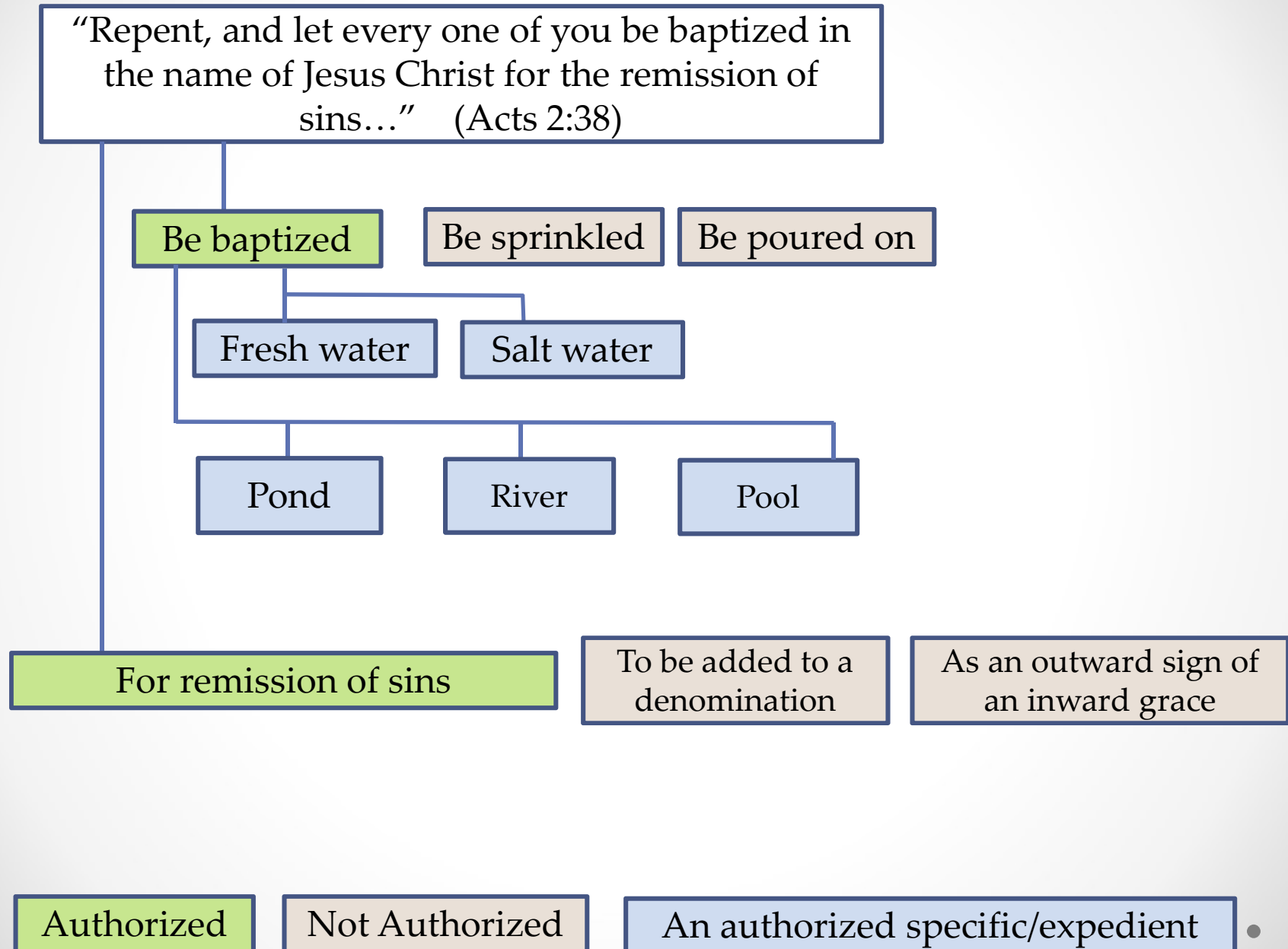
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Generic & Specific



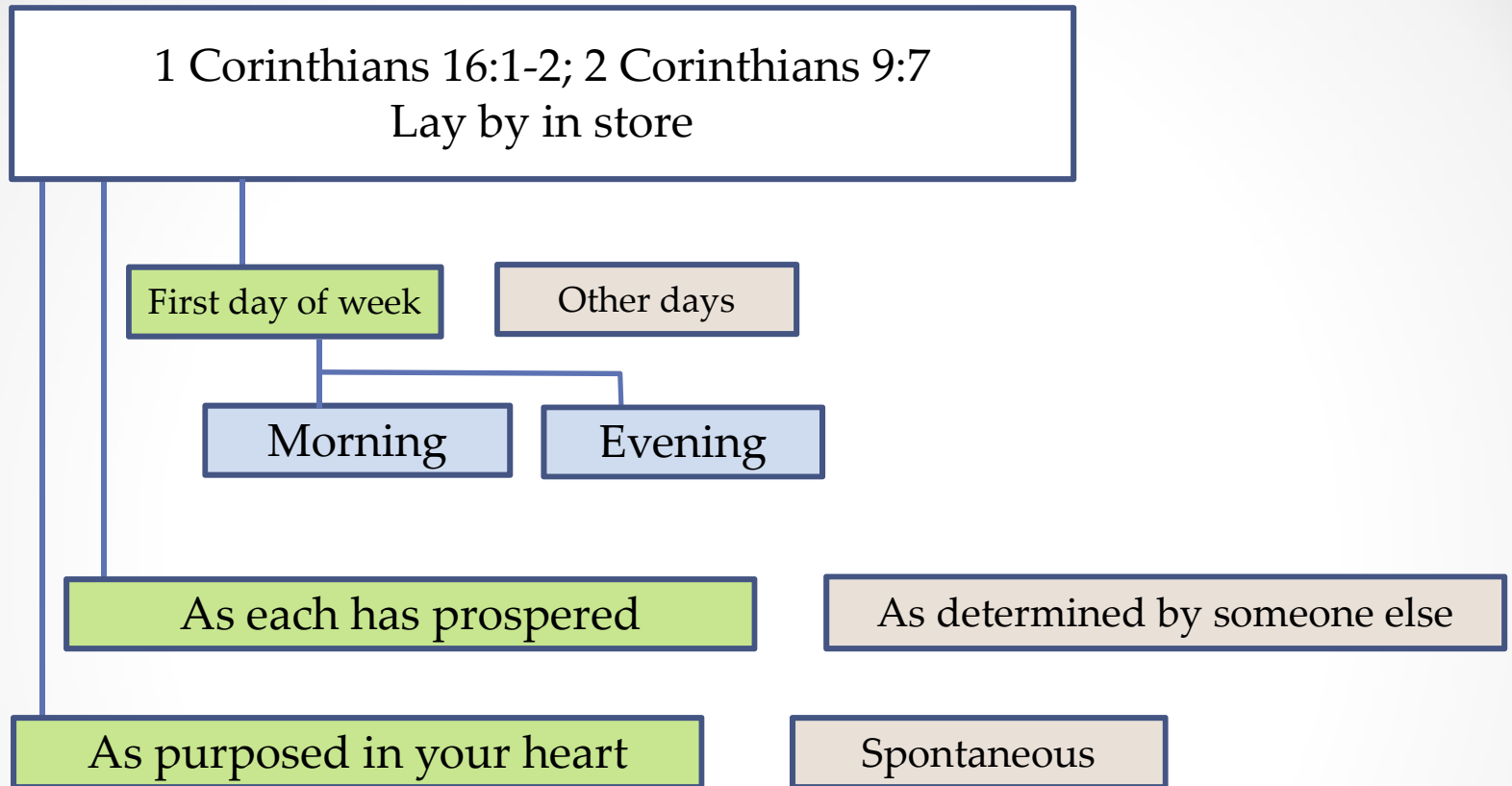
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Free-will giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)	Means for putting together a collection	Business, farm, solicit, car wash, etc.	Medium of funds	Cash, check, coins, etc.
			Collection method	Basket, pass, walk to, etc.

Generic & Specific



- **Authorized** **Not Authorized** **An authorized specific/expedient** •

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Elders & deacons in a local church (Philippians 1:1, Acts 14:23, etc.)	Organization	Pope, archbishop, etc.	Number of elders within a plurality of elders	2, 3, 4, etc.

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Collective works of the church – Evangelism; Edification, Care of Needy Saints (2 Corinthians 11:8; Acts 5:34, 35; Ephesians 4:12)	Collective works	Entertainment; daycare; politics; social; etc.	Form of aid for needy saints	Money, food, clothing
			Location of preacher	Local, domestic, foreign



Conclusion

- Bible instruction comes in both generic and specific ways
- Generic authorizes specifics
 - “When the pattern circumscribes a general class or action, the specifics in that general class or action are authorized.” (Steve Fontenot, lesson: Generic and Specific Authority)
- Specific does not authorize its generic
 - “However, when the pattern delineates a specific class or action, only that specific class or action is authorized – NOT the general class or action of which it is a member, nor other specifics of that general class.” (ibid.)

Conclusion

- In determining what we are authorized to do, we should be as general as God has been in the Scriptures, and as specific as God has been in the Scriptures.
- Let us respect both the generic aspects and the specific aspects of the language of the Scriptures.

Where are we going with all this?

- We have seen that the Scriptures teach these principles (these are not principles we have imposed into the Scriptures):
 - Respect God's silence. Silence does not give consent. Silence prohibits.
 - We must take all of what the Scriptures say on a subject.
 - Statements, commands, approved examples, and necessary conclusions establish the authority to do a thing.
 - We must respect the generic and specific aspects of Bible language.
- We will next consider
 - The principle of expediency.
 - Distinguishing between the individual and the church
- Then we can take all of what we have learned and apply to subjects with great religious disagreement, such as
 - Worship
 - Organization of the church
 - Works of the church