

Do You Believe the Bible? Part 2

Int.

1. Aim: To show that if we believe the Bible we must accept its authority.
2. Acts 26:27 "King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest?"
 - a. Paul had been teaching Agrippa
 - b. He asked and answered the question - Do you believe the prophets?
 - c. I'm asking "Do you believe the Bible?" You must answer
 - d. If you do then here is what that means:
3. You believe:
 - a. It is inspired - God breathed
 - b. God created us and all things
 - c. That you have a soul that is going to have an eternal destiny in either Heaven or Hell
 - d. Christ died for the sins of all people.
4. Today the question is - Do you Believe the Bible about AUTHORITY?

Discussion

I. WHAT IS AUTHORITY?

A. Definition

1. Authority = "The right to command and to enforce obedience"
2. Authorize = "To empower, permit, to justify, to furnish ground for."
3. Authorized = "Sanctioned or approved by authority"
4. Greek word [] = "The power of rule or government; the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed."

B. Scriptures that claim authority

1. Mt. 28:18 ASV "And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth." Authority = jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength
2. Jn. 17:2 NKJV "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him."
3. Jude 25 "To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

II. THE NEED FOR AUTHORITY

A. Authority is the great regulator of our lives.

1. Chaos would be the condition of our society without "authority"
2. Examples:
 - a. Driving - which side - stop signs - traffic lights -yield - right of way - speed limits
 - b. Taxes - IRS can enforce - April 15
 - c. Government - laws - police - military - Time Zones [See Card]
 - d. Heights and measures - pound - ton - foot - yard
 - e. Sports - rules and regulations - official - umpires - referees

B. Religious world

1. If we do not have some standard of authority then every man can do that which is right in his own eye
2. Judges 21:25 "In those days there was no king in I srael: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."
3. The Result would be chaos - division - different doctrines and practices

III. RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY

A. Respect

1. "To consider worthy of esteem; —— regard —— honor —— consideration"
2. We are living in a world that has lost respect for authority
 - a. In government
 - b. In Business
 - c. In the Home
 - d. In the Church

B. We must Remember:

1. God is the creator - we are the created
2. God is the lawgiver - we are the law keepers

IV. FALSE STANDARDS OF AUTHORITY

A. Majority Opinion

1. "The voice of the people is the voice of God" — is the wrong view which many have.
- poll, politically correct
2. If this is true then in Asia we must be Buddhist because of the majority
3. In Italy - Roman Catholics
4. World - overall does not believe in Christ - Atheist - infidel
5. Mt. 7:13-14 — majority is not always right

B. Man's conscience

1. Inner feelings
2. Jer. 10:23 "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

3. Just because a way seems right to one, does not make it right -
 - a. Prov. 14:12 "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."
 - b. Prov.16:25 "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."
4. Saul of Tarsus had a good conscience but was wrong -
 - a. Acts 23:1 " And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."
 - b. I Tim. 1:15 "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."
5. Conscience is not the standard for authority.

C. Philosophers and Wise Men

1. Some "wise men" know not God - in Athens -
 - a. Acts 17:16-21
 - b. I Cor 1:26 "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:"
2. They often contradict one another
3. They often contradict the Bible

D. Kinfolks

1. Shall we take our relatives as the authority in Religion?
2. If so, which one of our kin?
 - a. In 4 generations each of us has 30 direct ancestors
 - b. In 5 generations we have 62
 - c. Might find some of our relatives who were atheists.
3. Rare if they were all of the same religious persuasion!
4. Remember what Jesus said - Mt. 10:37 "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."
5. We cannot put our relatives ahead of Christ - Lk. 14:26 "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."
6. Paul followed his ancestors zealously - but when he found that this was wrong he gave it up and became a Christian.

E. Human Creeds

1. Human creeds cannot be authoritative!
2. They contradict one another and the Bible
3. They cause religious division and confusion
4. Jesus wanted and prayed for unity - Jn. 17:20-23
5. Mt. 15:9 "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

V. THE CHAIN OF AUTHORITY

A. All authority resides in God.

1. Rom. 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."
2. God is supreme in authority.
 - a. He is eternal
 - b. He is all powerful - Gen. 17:1 "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect."
 - c. He is always present - He is all knowing
3. "For in him we live, and move, and have our being;..." Acts 17:28
4. There are three in the Godhead - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
5. The ultimate authority resides in the Father.

B. Christ

1. Mt. 17:5 "...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."
2. Heb. 1:1-2 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;"
3. God has given all authority to Christ, His only Begotten Son, for the Christian age.
4. Matt. 28:18 "And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth."
5. Jn. 5:27 "And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man."
6. Heb. 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher our faith;..."

C. Inspired Apostles

1. Christ called his apostles, trained them, and gave the power from on high.
2. Christ delegated his authority to the Apostles
 - a. John 14:26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."
 - b. John 16:12-14 "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."
3. Christ gave the Apostles the Word which the Father gave him.
 - a. John 17:8 "For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me."
 - b. John 17:14 "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."
4. At first the gospel was in these inspired men, and they preached it.
5. They recorded that gospel in the N.T. - II Tim. 3:16-17
6. Now we must "continue stedfastly in the Apostles Doctrine." - Acts 2:42

D. Summary

1. God gave Christ all power or authority.
2. Christ delegated authority to the Apostles to speak for Him.
3. The Holy Spirit guided them into all the truth.

4. These inspired men revealed God's will to man and they recorded this truth in the N.T.
5. That New Testament is now in force and we must obey it

VI. SPEAK AS THE ORACLES OF GOD

- A. I Pet. 4:11 "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God;..."
- B. Oracles of God - His written word.
- C. The Bible is our one and only source of Authority in religion!

CONCLUSION

1. Do you Believe the Bible about Authority?
 - a. Yes or No ?
 - b. Many say "maybe" or "partly"
 - c. They believe parts of the Bible and then they want to have some other things that they like.
 - d. If we have an infallible rule or authority like the Bible, then we don't have any need for a fallible guide.
 - e. Why should a merchant have two yardsticks, one of standard length and a another just a little longer?
 - f. Why honest merchant keeps two pairs of scales, one which he knows to be correct, and another one which weighs heavier?
 - g. If we are honest in religion we will accept the authority of the Bible!!
2. Partial obedience = disobedience

3. The Bible does not become outdated with the passing of years.
4. The Bible is just as applicable to the people of this hour as it was to those of the first century!
5. God has always been, therefore, there has always been authority. There has never been a time when man was without authority, but this does not mean that man has always recognized and obeyed that authority.
6. We must rightly Divide the Word of Truth
 - a. II Tim. 2:15
 - b. Our plan of Salvation is: H.B.R.C.B.
 - c. Do you believe the Bible?

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