

AUTHORITY IN RELIGION

Int.

1. Aim: To show how the Bible authorizes us in religion
2. What is our authority in religion today? Matt. 28:18 "all power- authority"
 - a. Definition of terms
 - i. Religion - worship and service unto God
 - ii. Authority - commandment, right to exercise power
 - b. False standards of authority
 - i. Feelings - Pro. 16:25 - possible to feel satisfied and be lost
 - ii. Conscience - Acts 23:1 - Paul had a good conscience but was the chief of sinners - I Tim. 1:15
 - iii. Common Sense - Jer. 10:23 - Pro. 3:5-6 Some people think that they can just figure out by thinking what to do in order to be saved. We cannot do that.
 - iv. Creeds - Gal. 1:6-9
3. Bible is standard of authority
4. Chain of authority:
 - a. God - Gen. 1:1 Heb. 1:1 All authority resides in God. creator of the world and of man.
 - b. Christ - Mt. 28:18 - Heb. 1:2 We are to hear Christ. Mt.17:5
 - c. Holy Spirit - Christ has delegated authority to the apostles as they were guided by the H.S. - Jn. 14:26 - Jn. 16:13-14
 - d. Apostles and prophets - Eph. 3:5 their message is recorded in the Bible. The H.S. guided them as they wrote the words of the Bible. The words are just as much the words of God as if God Himself were to speak from heaven that we might hear Him speak.
5. The Bible is our only true authority - but How does it authorize????

Discussion

I. EXAMPLES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

A. Rom. 15:4

1. For our learning and admonition
2. Not for our specific details of how to live
3. God's principles never change.

B. Gen. 2:16-17 Eden

1. Eat of every tree --- except one
2. Did not specify all the trees of which they could eat
 - a. They had to use reasoning ability
 - b. God allowed them to eat of all except one. Tree of knowledge of good and evil
3. They ate of that one tree!
 - a. Was it important?
 - b. They believed in the one true God. Did it really make any difference?
 - c. Of course it did!

AUTHORIZED		UNAUTHORIZED	
Necessary or Allowed	Optional	Forbidden	Sinful because Not authorized
*All other Trees		*Tree of knowledge Of good and evil	

C. Gen. 4 - Cain and Abel - Heb. 11:4

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* Abel - Sheep			* Cain - Fruit of Ground

D. Gen. 6:-9 Noah and the Ark

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Gopher Wood * Length 300 cubits * Width 50 cubits * Height 30 cubits * One window * Eight people * Animals * Pitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * How to cut wood * Length of pieces * Dry or green wood * Where he got wood 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 1/2 cedar * 12 of each animal * No skunks * All relatives-cousins

E. Lev. 10:1-2 Nadab and Abihu

1. Some would say, oh it's a little, unimportant matter
2. They are serving the true God, they are good people, they are offering a sacrifice.
They are not ignoring God or not following idols
3. God thought it was important
4. We ought to learn from this that it is sinful to do what God has not authorized

AUTHORIZED		UNAUTHORIZED	
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			* Strange Fire

II. APPLICATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE TO NEW TESTAMENT

PRACTICES

A. Baptism

AUTHORIZED		UNAUTHORIZED	
Necessary or Allowed	Optional	Forbidden	Sinful because Not authorized
* Water * Burial * For the Remission	* Warm or Cold * Creek - Pond - Ocean River - baptistry * Preacher or member Baptize		* Infant * Sprinkling * Pouring

B. Worship - John 4:24

AUTHORIZED		UNAUTHORIZED	
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* God * Spirit and truth	* Place * Hour		

1. LORD'S SUPPER

AUTHORIZED		UNAUTHORIZED	
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1 st day of week Unleavened bread Fruit of vine	Hour of Day Before sermon After sermon		Thursday night Steak & Tea Monthly

2. Giving - 1 Cor. 16:1-2

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As prospered 1 st day of week	Hat or box		Pie supper Car Wash Bingo parties Yard sales

3. Prayer - Col. 3:17

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In Jesus Name	Posture		Through Mary

4. Teaching - 1 Tim. 2:12

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Preach Gospel All the world	Visual aids Method of travel	Women preachers	

5. Singing - Eph. 5:19

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Sing	Song Books Number to sing		Instruments Choirs

C. Silence of Scriptures

1. An often repeated statement is "The Bible does not forbid it".
2. But the silence of scripture does not authorize a religious practice.
3. Examples
 - a. No place in the Bible that says "thou shalt not sprinkle water upon a baby as a religious act!"
 - (1) Yet those who do so are in rebellion to god
 - (2) Baptism is a burial - Rom. 6:4
 - (3) Baptism is for an accountable person - Mark 16:15-16
 - b. There is no place in the Bible that says "Thou shalt not count beads as an act of religion."
 - (1) Yet it is sinful
 - (2) Not one of the requirements of true worship - John 4:24
 - (3) Simply sinful because it is not authorized
 - c. There is no place in the Bible that says "Thou shalt not have 40 wives"
 - (1) Polygamy is sinful
 - (2) Bible authorizes one man for one woman until death - Matt. 19:1-9
 - d. The Bible does not say "Thou shalt not use instrumental music in worship".
 - (1) Nadab and Abihu were not told "Thou shalt not offer strange fire before the Lord" - Lev. 10:1-2
 - (2) When they did, their worship was rejected and God took their lives.
 - (3) The same violation is involved in bringing into worship today an unauthorized type of music - instrumental.
 - (4) It is simply sinful because it is not authorized

(5) We are commanded to sing !!!

Conclusion

1. The Bible is our one and only authority in religion and we must have Bible authority for all that we do
2. 1 Pet. 4:11 "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." "If anyone preaches, let him always preach as one who utters God's truth." M.N.T.
3. I I John 9 "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son."
4. We must have book chapter and verse, authority, for all we do in religion.

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