

Why Only Bible Authority

Text : **Deut. 10: 12-18 ; I Tim. 6: 11-16**

S#1.

A. This should have been the first lesson in our current series.

1. One's concept of the bible and its authority determines his religious world view.
2. The Christian's concept of the bible and its authority is the thesis of this lesson :
God is the only authority in religion and the bible is God's way of making His will known to man in this Christian age.

B. The United States of America is the most independent nation in the world. S#2.

1. The American people are the most independent people in the world.
2. Each generation raises its children to be more independent than the one before.
3. Americans just don't like to be told what to do and don't like to be dependent.
4. Typically, Americans want what they want and they want it now.

C. Naturally, this independent world view has been carried over into their religion.

1. Americans are unsuccessfully trying to mold God into their own image.
2. Many seek to amend God's law to conform to their social standards. (*PC religion*)
3. Worship has become all about what pleases the "worshippers." (*designer Christianity*)
4. Thus, for most, right and wrong are no longer factors when selecting a church.

D. God is and always has been repulsed by religious independence. S#3.

1. 50% of the very first worshippers were rejected.
 - a. Cain's sacrifice was not accepted. **WHY !**
 - b. Cain obviously very much desired to be accepted by God.
 - c. Cain did not conform to the standard; he offered no blood. (*A death is required.*)
2. Nadab and Abihu were burned to death for improper worship.
 - a. They were only told where to get the fire NOT forbidden to get it elsewhere.
 - b. They worshipped according to their own conscience or convenience.
 - c. Their story is in the scriptures for a reason. (**Rom. 15: 4**)
 - * d. This same concept is taught in the New Testament. ... **Matt. 7: 21-23**

E. To this very day men are still trying to govern God's church, to make the rules.

1. Creeds and Confessions
2. Councils and conventions
3. They have their catechisms, their disciplines, and even their own translations.

F. What has been the result ?

1. Competing authorities have led to **chaos**, disunity and eventual judgment.
2. We all know that there must be an agreement on authority before there can be unity.
 - a. Children make up their own rules when playing games. (*sand lot sports, card games*)
 - b. Competitive sports require that everyone accepts the same set of rules .. preseason.
- * 3. The most significant result is that God has rejected many who desire to please Him.

I. God is the ultimate authority in the universe, the one and only sovereign. S#4.**A. What is sovereign authority ?**

1. Definition : S#5.
Authority : the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience a) power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior
2. Definition :
Sovereign : possessing supreme or ultimate power. (*no power is above*)

B. In all creation God alone is sovereign.

1. The mightiest king on earth was forced to acknowledge God's sovereignty.
 - a. **Dan. 4: 25b** – seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes. S#6.
 - b. **Dan. 4: 35** – All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?' S#7.
2. This concept was taught to God's people of Old.

Deut. 10: 17 – For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. S#8.
3. This same concept is repeated in the New Testament.
 - a. **I Tim. 6: 15b** – ... He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,
 - b. God will reign sovereignly through all eternity. S#9.
Rev. 19: 6 – Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, ...

II. God the Father delegated all authority to God the Son.**S#10.****S#11.****A. On the Mt. of transfiguration the sovereign God commanded us listen to Jesus.****Mark 9: 7** – Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!”**B. God has sent His Only Begotten Son to be His spokesman, His ambassador. S#12.****Heb. 1: 1-2** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **2** in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.**C. Jesus Himself claimed to have the authority of God.****S#13.****Matt. 28: 18** – And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, ...**D. The words of Jesus have the authority of God.****S#14.****John 12: 48** – He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.**III. Jesus gave His authoritative word to His Apostles to proclaim.****S#15.****A. Jesus gave them the Holy Spirit to teach them what to proclaim.****S#16.**

- John 14: 25-26** These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. **26** “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

- John 16: 13-14** But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. **14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. **S#17.**

B. God now speaks to mankind through the Apostles which Jesus ordained. S#18.

- The words which Jesus gave to the Apostles were the words of God.
John 17: 7-8 Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; **8** for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.
- The Holy Spirit brought the words to their memory but Jesus had already given them
John 17: 14 – I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, **S#19.**
because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

3. **John 17: 18, 20** As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ... **20** I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

C. The Apostles were inspired by God to write down what they received. S#20.

1. **Rev. 1: 11** – saying, “Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches:
2. The things written by the Apostles are the authoritative commands of God.
I Cor. 14: 37 – If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment.

D. Man’s eternal salvation depends upon his receiving, obeying and remaining faithful to the words of the Apostles. S#21.

1. The Apostle taught what he was inspired by God to teach.
I Cor. 15: 1-2 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
2. Freedom from sin occurs only after faith causes one to OBEY a form of teaching.
Rom. 6: 17-18 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

S#23.

IV. Today many who accept the inspiration of the scriptures debate its authority.

A. Some believe that whatever the scriptures do not expressly forbid they allow.

1. Being under the law of faith, Christians do have considerable freedom.
2. We are not given a list of commandments like Israel of old.
3. Even so, Christians are expected to seek the will of God in all things.

B. We understand from men of old that a “Thou Shalt Not” is not required if a positive command has been given. S#24.

1. **Gen. 4** ... Cain would not have been upset at rejection if he had violated a command
2. **Lev. 10** ... Nadab and Abihu were not given a list of places NOT to get fire.
3. **II Sam 6** ... Uzzah was trying to do a good thing when he touched the ark.
 - a. **Deut. 10: 8** ... The Levitical priests were to carry the ark.
 - b. King David was afraid of the Lord because his error, but blessed upon repentance.
- * 4. A positive command eliminates all else.

iii – When you send your husband to the store for a gallon of 2% milk, **S#25.**
it eliminates a quart, a half-gallon, and it's understood to be cow's.

C. The scriptures must be understood in the culture to which it was written. S#26.

1. The scriptures are given in a narrative format rather than lists of commanded.
 2. There is not a command given to cover every situation, but there is a principle.
 - a. **iii** – There is no command not to use drugs like heroin or meth,
but there is a principle ... **Eph. 5: 18** ... **Be not drunk with wine**
 - b. There is no specific dress code given because it is different in every culture.
 - 1) Women are to dress modestly ... **II Tim. 2: 9-10** , **I Pet. 3: 3-4**
 - 2) Christians are to dress appropriate to their gender ... **Deut. 25: 5 (1-30)**
 3. One who seeks a command to cover everything is forced to extremes.
 - a. They often try to make an example into a command.
 - b. Such mislead brethren have formula that says if the is a background command and a N.T. example of how it was done, the example becomes binding.
 - c. A couple examples will readily prove the folly of this error.
 - 1) There are some brethren who will only partake of the Lord's Supper upstairs.
Their reasoning : There is a command to partake of the Lord's supper.
Every time it was taken it was in an upper room.
 - 2) Likewise, there are brethren who will only partake of the Lord's Supper at night.
(*Their reasoning is the same as above.*)
 - * 4. Being a Christians requires that we use the scriptures properly.
II Tim. 2: 15 – **Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman S#27.**
who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.
 - * 5. We all have the ability to read and to understand the scriptures.
Eph. 3: 3-4 **that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery,**
as I wrote before in brief. 4 By referring to this, when you read
you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,
 6. The scriptures provide all the information one needs to be saved and to please God.
II Pet. 1: 2-3 **Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God S#28.**
and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted
to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true
knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
- D. The scriptures establish boundaries that limit what we can do. S#29.**
1. **I Cor. 4: 6** – **Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to S#30.**
myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may
learn not to exceed what is written, ...

Note : *It is my personal belief that those who seek to bind examples violate this verse.*

2. **II John 9** – Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

CONCLUSION :

- A. We are seeking to understand WHY we accept the bible as our only source of authority in matters of faith and practice. **S#31.**
- B. What have we learned ? We've seen that : **S#32.**
1. God alone is sovereign so He alone can command us.
 2. God the Father delegated authority to God the Son (Jesus).
 3. The teachings of Jesus came from God the Father.
 4. Jesus taught the commands of God to His Apostles.
 5. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to make sure the Apostles remembered what Jesus taught.
 6. The Apostles wrote all the teachings we need to know to be saved and to live godly.
 7. We are responsible to learn what they wrote and apply it properly.
 8. The bible tells us we all have the ability to understand the scriptures. **S#33.**
- C. We have also seen that God does not accept all worship that is offered to Him.
1. We observed O.T. examples. (*Cain, Nadab & Abihu*)
 2. The death of Uzzah taught us that good intentions do not excuse violations.
 3. Jesus warned us that some believers who think they are serving Him will be lost.
 - a. **Matt. 7: 21-23** Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter **22** Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name 'cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' **23** And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.' **S#34.**
 - b. If one is not obeying the revealed will of God, nothing he does is acceptable. **S#35.**
- D. We want our worship and our lives to be pleasing to God so we seek His will. His will is found only in His revealed word ... the scriptures ... the bible.

INVITATION :

If you have not surrendered your life to His will, we invite you to do so now. **S#36.**

S#37. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Deuteronomy 10: 12-18**

12 " Now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, **13** and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? **14** "Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. **15** " Yet on your fathers did the Lord set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day. **16** " So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer. **17** " For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. **18** "He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing.

I Timothy 6: 11-16

11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **13** I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, **14** that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which He will bring about at the proper time — He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, **16** who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.