

**Speak Where the Bible Speaks, Be Silent Where the Bible is Silent.
(Slide 1)**

Reading: Hebrews 8:1-6 Emphasize Verse 5

Jesus said in Matthew 28:18-20 **(Slide 2)**

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, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

What is Jesus telling his disciples, who would later become His apostles?

First, He has all authority in heaven and on earth-therefore the words, All and Authority work hand in hand.

(Slide 3) The Greek term for authority comes from the word "exousia." It is used in Greek with wide ranging ability. It can indicate jurisdiction, (which would align with his authority or jurisdiction over heaven and earth), privilege, capacity, freedom, influence, force, right, and power. The KJV translates authority as "power."

In other words, the territory in which Jesus has authority to rule is heaven and earth. This is His jurisdiction. He has the power to enforce his rule by force, if He wishes to do so. But he has appointed apostles and delegated his authority to them for the purpose of bringing his message to people at the time. That is a message God intends to be carried until the end of time. As we know, the apostles established the church as we know it and delegated the authority of using the revealed word to carry the message today.

One that has been given authority in anything must have someone who has the ability to give such authority. In the first case, God gave Jesus authority

over heaven and earth. On many occasions, Jesus refers to God as His Father and the One who sent Him.

(Slide 4) John 6:35-40

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. **36** But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. **37** All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

(Slide 5) **38** For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. **39** This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. **40** For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

Therefore, Jesus was given His authority by His Father.

The second point in which to observe is when Jesus was given this Authority. Jesus only makes this statement in verse 18 after His resurrection. Paul, in the first part of 1 Corinthians 15, outlines the facts of the Gospel and then later describes when the authority that Jesus talks about in Matthew 28 was given to Him.

(Slide 6) 1 Corinthians 15:25-28

25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. **26** The last enemy that will be abolished is death. **27** For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. **28** When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

God gave Jesus this authority. When did He officially gain “All Authority?” At His death and upon His resurrection. It was finished. He completed what He was sent to do.

How extensive is this authority?

(Slide 7) Colossians 1:13-20

13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **(Slide 8)** **16** For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. **17** He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **18** He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. **(Slide 9)** **19** For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, **20** and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

He is the firstborn of all things! That doesn't allow room for any other than Jesus. His authority and rule is over all things. He is the first Peacemaker that went before us, facing the wrath of God and by obedience to the Father rescued us from the domain of darkness. It is because of his fulfilling the Old Law and establishing a New Covenant through his shed blood, that we can say He is deserving of “All Authority!” Amen

Thirdly, what has Jesus delegated the Apostles and his disciples authority in His name to do?

(Slide 10) Matthew 28:20a

“teaching them to observe all that I commanded you”

Shall we then teach anything else other than what we are commanded?
God forbid!

He told His disciples who would later become apostles, that the Comforter would come. He spoke about Him in:

(Slide 11) John 14:16-17

16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; **17** *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

Then in:

(Slide 12) John 14:25-26

25 “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.

More authority and more teaching came to the apostles, particularly on the day of Pentecost in the book of Acts and this authorization was from Jesus. The Comforter, the Spirit of Truth was sent by Him. We see His Heavenly authority in action. What was it that they taught? Only what was given them to teach and to do.

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(Slide 13) 1 Corinthians 4:1-6

1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. **2** In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. **3** But to me it is a very small thing that I may

be examined by you, or by *any* human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. **4** For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. **(Slide 14)** **5** Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

Examine this passage and understand that, teaching something such as opinion or speculation, brings trouble.

Paul told Timothy:

(Slide 15) 1 Timothy 4:1-5

1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. **(Slide 16)** **3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, **4** and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. **5** But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

He said Preach the word, not an opinion, speculation, or something you think people want to hear. They will turn to that soon enough. The religious world today looks like the languages created during the tower of Babel because each man has turned to his own understanding.

(Slide 17) Hebrews 8:5

5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned *by God* when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, “See,” He says, “that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.”

There was no room for opinion or speculation. You follow the pattern, that is, what is revealed.

(Slide 18) Deuteronomy 29:29

29 “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

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I have heard this statement for years in the church. In fact, it is almost as if it is the church of Christ mantra. Should it be? Absolutely! It really means, “Preach what is revealed.” Sometimes people don’t want to hear what is revealed. It doesn’t fit their narrative.

(Slide 19) 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10** nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

We can’t preach or teach or abide by what some may say, “I just couldn’t help myself” or “I was born that way” or worse yet, “God made me that way and we are all God’s children.” Who said that? God didn’t! We just read what was revealed! But those things get twisted by man’s opinions and desires. In many religious organizations, men and even women come

together to concoct their doctrine. Because they speak where the Bible is silent. That's obvious to us in this situation but is it in all situations.

We learn about Nicodemus in:

(Slide 20) John 3:1-2

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; **2** this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

(Slide 21) What is revealed regarding Nicodemus?

1. He was a Pharisee
2. He was ruler of the Jews
3. He came to Jesus by Night

Using the principle of speaking where the Bible speaks, be silent where the Bible is silent, let's analyze this circumstance.

(Slide 22) Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus by night?

Was he using darkness as a means of secrecy?

Was he afraid that other Pharisees would find out?

Was he just too busy to come during the day?

Perhaps he wanted to avoid the multitudes of people that crowded around Jesus during the day.

We simply aren't told. We can speculate or have an opinion, but we are to be unified in Spirit, we must all see the passage alike. Certainly one can wonder, perhaps have an opinion, but to teach or preach it as fact would be wrong.

Here's another example.

(Slide 23) Exodus 3:1-4

1 Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. **(Slide 24) 3** So Moses said, "I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up." **4** When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

We can all agree that the bush was burning and that the voice of God came from a burning bush. We agree because we have what is revealed. But some might say it was a pine bush, others rose bush, still others might say it's cedar bush. Why the differences? Because we are speaking where the Bible is silent.

One last example. We're all in agreement that Baptism (Baptizo) means immersion into water. Why do we agree? Is it because we've always done it that way? Is it because we were baptized that way?

No! We base what we believe on what's revealed. Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12, Acts 8:26ff and many other passages using the word Baptizo.

Now some say pouring or sprinkling constitutes baptism. This is because they speak where the Bible is silent instead of using what is revealed for a variety of reasons. And accordingly, they're souls are in jeopardy.

We can use this same principle and apply it to many topics that have different views. The Bible cautions us to speak only what is revealed.

(Slide 25) 1 Peter 4:11

1 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.

God will not be praised through speculation or our opinion.

(Slide 26) 2 John 9

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

(Slide 27) Revelation 22:18-19

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

We can all see that adding anything to what is revealed is wrong. We cannot speak where the Bible is silent. And we certainly cannot bind our opinions on others. The revealed word is our guide.

(Slide 28) Let's teach it, preach it and follow it.

Invitation

