



## Standard of Authority – Part 1

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We all understand the concept of having a standard of authority. We would look at a tape measure to determine the length of a board, or a measuring cup or spoon to determine the correct amount of an ingredient to put into a recipe. When it comes to matters of religion, do we have or need a standard of authority?

In Hebrews 1:1-2, we read, “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds” (NKJV). God, in times past, spoke to His people by the prophets, such prophets as Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, and many others. However, for us “in these last days” (which began on the first Pentecost after Christ’s resurrection, cf. Acts 2:16-17), God has spoken by **His Son**, Jesus Christ.

In an unknown mountain, Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James and John and a voice out of a cloud was heard saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**” (Matthew 17:5). After masterfully teaching the disciples in the Sermon on the Mount, it is said the people were amazed because He “taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Matthew 7:29). Just prior to His ascension into heaven, Jesus told His disciples, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18). Thus the apostle Paul could write to the Ephesians that God has “put all things under His [Christ’s] feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:22-23).

When it comes to matters of religion, it is clear from the teachings of the New Testament that Jesus Christ has all authority. Concerning the authority of Jesus Christ, Peter said, “For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people’” (Acts 3:22-23). We, as God’s creatures, have two options: we either accept the authority of God by accepting the teachings of His Son, or else we reject them. However, one must be aware of the consequences of doing such (II Thessalonians 1:8-9).

Our prayer at the West Jefferson church of Christ is that you will read, study and accept the teachings of the New Testament. If you desire to study with us, we offer either a free in-home, open Bible study conducted at your pace and convenience or a free correspondence course by mail, please print & return this coupon to: Back To The Bible; 221 Barnett Street; West Jefferson, NC 28694 or visit our website @ [www.wjchurchofchrist.org](http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org).

- ☐ Yes, I am interested in a correspondence course by mail.
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