



Standard of Authority – Part 3

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In this series on authority, we have established that Jesus Christ has all authority in matters of religion (Hebrews 1:1-2, Matthew 28:18 and Ephesians 1:22-23), and not man (Isaiah 55:8-9; Proverbs 14:12, 28:26), and Jesus placed that authority in His words (John 12:48). Let us now notice that Jesus delegated authority to His apostles, which He did by two methods.

First, Jesus gave His all-authoritative Word to His apostles by His personal teaching to them while He was with them on earth. Jesus said, “For I have given to them the words which You have given Me...I have given them Your word...As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world” (John 17:8, 14, 18).

Second, Jesus gave His apostles His all-authoritative word by the Holy Spirit. In John chapters 14 through 16, Jesus instructed His apostles (and His apostles alone, not everyone): “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever” (John 14:16). He then told them what the “Helper” (Comforter – KJV) is: “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 things that I said to you**” (John 14:26). Jesus told them the Holy Spirit would teach them all things as well as bring to their remembrance what He had taught them. Jesus also instructed them, “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority...” (John 16:13). If the Holy Spirit guided the apostles “into all truth,” then it must be the case there is no more truth to be revealed; therefore, there is no modern day revelation (II Peter 1:3).

In Acts 1:8, just prior to His ascension, Jesus recalled to the minds of His apostles of the coming of the Holy Spirit on them (also read Luke 24:49). On the day of Pentecost, the apostles

(and the apostles alone) were “baptized” (or more literally, overwhelmed) by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). It was by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the apostles could preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time.

When giving the apostles His all-authoritative word, Jesus gave them certain instructions concerning this word. First, they were to write it down (I Corinthians 14:37) and second, they were to teach it to others (Matthew 28:18-20). Therefore, those who receive this word (the New Testament) are obligated to obey it exactly as Jesus had commanded.

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