



Standard of Authority – Part 4

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As we conclude this series on authority, we have noted when it comes to matters of religion, Jesus has all authority (not man), He placed that authority in His words (John 12:48), and delegated that authority to His apostles (John 17:8, 14, 18). Let us notice two final things.

First, the all-authoritative Word (Bible) is all we need. In John 20:30-31, we read, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but **these are written that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” The things recorded in the New Testament provide us enough evidence to produce faith (Romans 10:17). Peter said God “has given to us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness...” (II Peter 1:3). Paul told Timothy, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God [the Christian] **may be complete, thoroughly equipped** for every good work” (II Timothy 3:16-17). If there are revelations of truth still being spoken today (outside of the New Testament), then God incorrectly spoke through Paul. Jude said the gospel had been “once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). We have all we need in the God-inspired Bible.

Second, having revealed all truth (John 17:17), God demands we respect His truth! “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (I Peter 4:11). Paul told the Corinthians not to go beyond what the Word of God has said (I Corinthians 4:6) and warned the churches in Galatia of the dangers of another or perverted Gospel (Galatians 1:6-9; also II John 9-11; Rev. 22:18-19). The consequence of not respecting God’s Word can be seen in Adam and Eve eating

the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3); Nadab and Abihu in offering strange (unauthorized) fire (Leviticus 10); Uzzah touching the Ark of the Covenant (II Samuel 6).

Respect for God's Word can be seen in Jesus Christ when He said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that **I do nothing of Myself**; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things" (John 8:28; also 5:19; 6:38; 12:49-50). Respect can be seen in the Holy Spirit when Jesus said: "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He [Holy Spirit] **will not speak on His own authority**, but whatever He hears He will speak..." (John 16:13). Respect for God's Word applies to the angels, apostles (Galatians 1:6-9) and us today (Hebrews 2:1-4). In order for us to please God, we **MUST** respect His Word as it is revealed in the Bible!

What standard of authority do you follow in matters of religion? At the West Jefferson church of Christ, we only follow God's all-authoritative Word. We earnestly plead for you to come "Back to the Bible." If you would like to study further with us from God's Word by either an in-home open Bible study or correspondence course my 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.

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