

From Heaven Or From Men?

Lesson 4: Attitudes Toward Bible Authority



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

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Learn some right and wrong attitudes toward Bible authority so that you can always have the right attitude

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: DGW136

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About the author: My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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From Heaven Or From Men?

Lesson 4:

Attitudes Toward Bible Authority

In the first three lessons of this study, we have identified the need for authority in both the physical and spiritual realms, identified the source of all authority, and challenged ourselves to consider whether the authority that we have for anything comes from Heaven or from men. Then, we evaluated some important principles concerning how we can rightly interpret the Scriptures and the three ways Bible authority can be established (direct command, approved example, and necessary inference). Finally, we have considered what we should do when God is silent, the two types of authority that can be established (generic and specific), and how we should view expedients.

Once again, we must consider what is taught in Colossians 3:17. “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” This passage identifies the right attitude that we all must have toward Bible authority. It recognizes that Jesus Christ is the one who has been given all authority and that whatever we do must have His authority in order to be pleasing to God.

Unfortunately, there are many who are not interested in establishing authority for everything that they do in life. So, let’s carefully evaluate some attitudes in this lesson in order to challenge our thinking and develop attitudes toward the subject of

Bible authority that will result in a life that pleases God.

Wrong Attitudes Toward Bible Authority

In Jeremiah 36, the prophet Jeremiah wrote the words of God on a scroll and had it taken to Jerusalem and read in the temple. Eventually, these words of warning and rebuke toward the people of Judah were read before Jehoiakim, the king of Judah. After about three or four columns, Jehoiakim used a knife to cut the words of God and then threw the scroll into the fire so that it was consumed. Yet, he was not afraid. Still, this did not change the words of God. Unfortunately, there are many people today who, like King Jehoiakim, are not reverent toward the words of God in the Bible and will ignore God’s word. Although they may not physically tear pages from the Bible and cast them into a fire, their wrong attitudes toward Bible authority have the same kind of results as Jehoiakim’s attitude toward God’s word. Therefore, let’s consider some wrong attitudes toward Bible authority that must be avoided in order to please God.

“Authority is no big deal”

Perhaps you have studied the previous three lessons in this series, but you believe that everything we have studied is insignificant. Perhaps you reason that God permits us to live our lives according to whatever standard we desire to follow. Perhaps you believe that “right” and “wrong” is determined by our own personal feelings and interpretations. Perhaps you feel that God will save everyone because of His great love for us. Regardless of your reasoning, perhaps you simply do not think that establishing Bible authority for the things that you do in life is relevant to the salvation of your soul.

Yet, I encourage you to again consider the need for authority. Is authority a “big deal” in your home? Is it OK for your children to do whatever they want because you love them? Is authority in government a “big deal”? Can you act in whatever

way you desire and expect no consequences? Is authority a “big deal” to your employer? Is it OK for you to work whatever hours you desire to work and expect to get paid as much as you feel is right? Is authority “no big deal” in education? Can 3+3 equal whatever a person feels it should equal? Now, if authority is significant in every other area of your life, why should it be any different with God? In fact, God tells you that you need His authority in order to live your life in a way that pleases Him. Jeremiah 10:23 indicates that it is not possible for man to direct His own steps in a way that is always pleasing to God by himself. Proverbs 14:12 states that the ways that often seem (feel) right to us will result in death. And, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 states that it is in the God-inspired Scriptures that we learn about everything that is pleasing to God. Therefore, you must recognize that authority *is* a big deal!

“The end justifies the means”

Perhaps you agree with many of the principles we have considered in this study. Perhaps you agree that Bible authority is important. Perhaps you agree that there are three ways of establishing Bible authority. But, perhaps you are willing to overlook the lack of Bible authority for a thing *if* it results in a good work. This is the thinking that is commonly referred to as “the end justifies the means.” That is, the final outcome/result makes the entire process right, regardless of whether the process was authorized. This thinking believes that if God approves of the end result, He is pleased by the work that was done.

Yet, I encourage you to consider that this is faulty human reasoning. This is evidence that mankind often feels that something is right, but still fails to please God. The error of this logic is plainly seen in 1 Samuel 15. King Saul was commanded by God to go and utterly destroy the Amalekites and all that they had. Yet, Saul and the Israelites spared Agag (king of Amalek) and the best the Amalekites had. The rest they utterly destroyed. Saul thought he had obeyed the voice of the Lord and fulfilled the mission he had been sent on. Part of the way he attempted to justify his disobedience was to claim that the best of the Amalekites had been spared in order to sacrifice to the Lord (see verses 15 and 21).

Yet, although sacrifices (the end result) was something that pleased God, this did not justify (make right) the entire process. Saul’s actions were unauthorized by God and God was not pleased with him. In the same way, God wants everything that we do to be done with Bible authority (see Colossians 3:17). He wants us to use authorized means to accomplish authorized works.

“Traditions are just as binding as Scripture”

Perhaps you view the Bible as being authoritative. But, perhaps you view man-made traditions as also being authoritative. For instance, perhaps you view the traditions of your church to be on par with the Scriptures in authority. Or, perhaps you view family traditions as justification for certain actions. Perhaps you think that because you’ve always done something in a particular kind of way, this is authority enough for it.

Yet, I encourage you to consider the Scripture’s teaching relative to man-made tradition. And, as we do this, understand that there are two kinds of man-made traditions. First, there are man-made traditions that are authorized by the Scriptures. For instance, a local church has likely established some traditions with regard to the order of services. The activities are all authorized, but God has left the order to our judgments. These kinds of traditions are permissible by God – but must never be viewed on the same level as God’s law. Second, there are many man-made traditions that are unauthorized by God or that directly contradict Bible authority. Regarding these, you must recognize that God does not approve of such activities simply because they are traditions. In fact, Jesus addressed an issue involving tradition in Matthew 15:1-14 with some of the Jews who attempted to bind man-made traditions on others. In part, He told them that they transgressed the commandment of God because of their traditions (see verse 3). Tradition, of itself, is simply not authoritative.

“If it feels right it must be right”

Perhaps you understand (intellectually) all of the things that we have been establishing in this study. But, perhaps you cannot get past your feelings. Perhaps you are allowing your feelings and

conscience to guide your decisions about what is right and what is wrong. Perhaps you are, sometimes, unwilling to change your actions because what you are doing feels right to you. Perhaps you are unwilling to correct someone else who is involved in error because you do not feel that God is displeased by them.

Yet, I encourage you to consider that your feelings and conscience are insufficient as standards of authority. Remember, there is often a way that feels right to man that results in death (Proverbs 14:12). God has said that our thoughts and ways are not the same as His – and that His are much higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9). In addition, you must consider that unauthorized things often feel right to us because they are the things we are used to seeing or doing. Perhaps our culture, our parents, etc. have taught us that they are right. Yet, as we see in the example of Saul, doing all things in “good conscience” can still fail to please God. For, Saul felt that he needed to kill Christians in order to please God (see Acts 23:1; Acts 26:9-11). While our consciences (if properly trained by God’s word) can help us serve God, they are not (of themselves) authoritative.

“The Old Testament is authoritative today”

Perhaps you agree with the principles of Bible authority we have been discussing in this study. But, perhaps you do not agree that the only pattern we are obligated to follow is found in the pages of the New Testament. Perhaps you also view the Old Testament Scriptures as a source of authority for your actions. Indeed, there are many who search for authority for particular activities in the pages of the Old Testament.

Yet, I encourage you to consider what the Bible teaches us about the Old Testament. First, please recognize that I do not believe and am not teaching that the Old Testament should never be studied and that applications cannot be made from it. Romans 15:4 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-11 teach that the Old Testament is useful in teaching us many valuable lessons. [In fact, I have referenced two Old Testament examples already in this lesson.] Second, please recognize that although there are lessons to be learned from the Old Testament, we are plainly

taught that the Old Testament Scriptures cannot be used as a source of law for today. Our religious practices simply cannot be authorized by the Old Testament. The Scriptures teach that the Old Testament system of law was only temporary (see Galatians 3:19-25). And, the Old Testament foretold that there would be a new and better covenant that would come to replace the Old Covenant (compare Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 8:7-13). Then, Colossians 2:14 plainly states that this Old Testament was nailed to the cross of Jesus Christ, taking it out of the way. The new and better law (revealed in the New Testament) came into effect in Acts 2 and continues today! The Old Testament, therefore, is obsolete as far as authorizing anything as being right or wrong. Its purpose is now only one of teaching, warning, and encouraging.

“My church tells me what to do”

Perhaps you agree with the principles of Bible authority. But, perhaps you choose to listen to the doctrines of your church, your preacher, your church leaders, the pope, etc. Perhaps you have placed so much trust in these men and women and your denomination that you trust that they will never go against the authority of the Scriptures.

Yet, I encourage you to listen to the Bible’s warnings about placing your trust in men. The apostle Paul, for instance, warned the Christians in Galatia who were turning away from Christ’s gospel and following those who distorted its teachings, “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:6-9). Therefore, Paul even warned people about following the apostles or angels if any of them were teaching a gospel that was a perversion of the truth. Jesus also warned about this kind of danger in Matthew 7:15-20. In verse 15, He said, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.” So, there would be people who looked harmless and gained trust in others as they claimed to speak the words of God. Yet, they would actually be spiritually dangerous to those who followed them. So, Jesus said that we need to examine their fruits (i.e. what they teach) to see whether they are truly

teaching the words of God or not, rather than just blindly following after them.

“The Bible is an outdated book”

Perhaps you understand what the Bible teaches. But, perhaps you believe that the things written therein are too outdated to be followed today. Perhaps you believe that man and society have become too sophisticated to follow a nearly 2,000 year old collection of writings (speaking of the New Testament). Perhaps you think that times have changed so much that the Bible is no longer relevant. Therefore, perhaps you think that some other source of authority must be found.

Yet, I encourage you to recognize that the Bible is a timeless book that continues to contain God’s law for mankind to apply today. You see, the Bible is not an ordinary book. It is a book that contains words directly from the God who is perfect in wisdom and knowledge. 1 Peter 1:22-25, therefore, teaches that the “word of God...lives and abides forever,” and that “the word of the Lord endures forever.” This, Peter says, “is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.” Furthermore, Jude makes it clear that there is no new modern-day revelation from God to mankind. In Jude 1:3, Jude wrote to exhort Christians to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” Therefore, the words of the Bible are timeless!

“Demanding book, chapter, verse is too legalistic”

Perhaps you have been considering all of the points made throughout this study. But, perhaps you reject the conclusion that we must have Bible authority (book, chapter, and verse) for everything that we do in life in order to please God. Perhaps you do this because you view such strict adherence to the Bible as legalistic.

Yet, I encourage you to consider that the terms “legalism” or “legalistic” are nowhere to be found in God’s word. Still, people commonly use these phrases as if they were condemned as part of Divine revelation. While some of the Jews who taught strict conformation to the requirements of the

Old Testament law were rebuked by Jesus, they were not rebuked for keeping the commandments of God. Instead, they were rebuked because they were hypocritical. Sometimes, they commanded others to obey laws they would not obey themselves. Sometimes, they strictly adhered to some laws and then disobeyed others. Sometimes, they went beyond God’s requirements and forced others to obey their man-made commands and traditions (see Matthew 23). Still, the New Testament is clear in stating that God requires obedience – and a failure to obey is lawlessness/sin (see Matthew 7:21-23; Hebrews 5:9; 1 John 3:4). In fact, James wrote, “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10). Therefore, there are no laws given by God that are insignificant to keep, and violating any of them makes us guilty of sin!

“We cannot know the truth”

Perhaps you think that all the things we have been considering in this study would be helpful if we were able to understand what God wants from our lives. Perhaps you consider that the Bible is just too difficult to be understood. And, if you believe that the Bible is too difficult to be understood, it follows that you would believe that establishing Bible authority for everything you do in life is impossible.

Yet, I encourage you to consider that the all-knowing God who revealed His word to mankind was able to reveal it in such a way that it can be understood – and understood alike. For instance, in Ephesians 3:3-5, the apostle Paul states that God had made known the mystery of salvation through Jesus Christ to him and the other apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit. And, he says, “when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ.” Then, in Ephesians 5:17, Paul instructed these same Christians to “not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” Both of these statements clearly indicate that God considers it to be possible to understand what He has revealed in the Scriptures. Furthermore, the fact that God commands unity among those who desire to follow Him also implies that it is possible to understand the Bible in a common way (see 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 1:27). Indeed, if you will be diligent in your study of the Scriptures, you

will be able to understand God's word (2 Timothy 2:15)!

"There is no absolute truth"

Perhaps you still believe that "truth" is subjective. Perhaps you view "truth" as being open to many different interpretations. Perhaps you view "truth" as something that changes with the times and the circumstances. Perhaps you view "truth" as something that is only to be found within an individual. Perhaps you believe that "truth" is not the exact same for two people. Or, perhaps you view "truth" as something that is the result of a lifelong journey.

Yet, I encourage you to consider that a concrete standard of truth really does exist and is available to be known by all mankind. Just consider, you certainly recognize that there is concrete truth that exists in science and mathematics. For instance, 3+3 is not 6, 8, and 12. It is only 6. You can recognize this to be absolute truth because you understand the principles behind it to be true. So, if you believe in the God of the Bible, you must recognize that He is the one who possesses all authority (as discussed in lesson 1). And, since this God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), everything that this God says is absolute truth. Thus, Jesus acknowledged to the Father, "Your word is truth" (John 17:17). And, it is only this truth that will set us free from the consequences of our sins (John 8:31-32) and judge us on the Last Day (Revelation 20:11-15).

"The Bible is just a love letter"

Perhaps you have considered all of this discussion about Bible authority to be irrelevant because you believe that the Bible does not contain a law for us to follow today. Instead, perhaps you view the Bible only as a "love letter" from God. Perhaps you view the Bible as only telling us about how much God loves us and contains only suggestions about how we ought to live our lives on this earth.

Yet, I encourage you to recognize that the Bible's instructions claim to be more than just a book that tells us about God's love (though it certainly does tell us about His love, see Romans 5:5-11). Please recognize that it is not my idea to do

everything by the authority of Jesus Christ. It was God's, as recorded in Colossians 3:17. And, as we have discussed already in this series, the New Testament does claim to contain a law that must be followed. For instance, James 1:25 (as discussed in lesson 2) says that it is God's "perfect law of liberty." Paul acknowledged that he also was "under law toward Christ" (1 Corinthians 9:21). In addition, the Bible plainly warns us about the consequences of disobeying the laws of God and acting without Bible authority. For instance, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 warns that those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ will "be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power." And, while the Bible tells us of God's love for mankind, it also teaches us that we only truly love God if we keep His commandments. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). 1 John 5:3 says that the love of God is to "keep His commandments" and that "His commandments are not burdensome." Therefore, the Bible contains a law that we must obey in order to be saved.

"The Bible doesn't say not to"

Perhaps you agree that you should be following the commandments of God. So, perhaps you will agree with God on subjects directly addressed by the Scriptures. However, perhaps you still do not agree that God's silence is restrictive. That is, perhaps you believe that you are authorized to do anything that is not directly forbidden by God's word.

Yet, I encourage you to consider the fundamental nature of establishing Bible authority. Again, Colossians 3:17 instructs that you do everything in the name of (by the authority of) Jesus Christ. This means that you must be able to prove authority (through the principles we have established) for everything that you do. God's book simply does not directly condemn every single thing that God does not approve of. If He had directly condemned every single thing, we could never study the Bible all the way through. There would simply be too much to read. So, while God has directly condemned some things, He has also told us exactly what He desires. And, He has made it our

responsibilities to find out if He has granted authority for a thing. Recall (from lesson 3), the example given about ordering a meal in a restaurant. You do not expect to tell the waiter everything you do not want and will not pay for. You only tell him/her what it is you authorize to be brought to you and charged to your account. The waiter is expected to act within that authority that you grant. It is the same way with God, who tells us exactly what He wants from our lives – in every area. It is our responsibility to make sure that we are acting within that authority!

Right Attitudes Toward Bible Authority

In Acts 17:11, those in the city of Berea were described as being “more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.” Consider some of the attributes that made these individuals so commendable. First, they had open minds. While this does not mean that they would accept anything as being true, they were willing to evaluate what they heard by the standard of truth (the Scriptures) to see whether the things they were being taught were accurate or not. Second, they had open Bibles. They consulted God’s word as truth. Third, they had open schedules. They recognized their need to search the Scriptures so that they could live according to its teachings – and made time for their Bible study as a result. Likewise, we must possess these same worthy attitudes these people of Berea had. So, in contrast with the previous attitudes toward Bible authority that did not have God’s approval, let’s consider some attitudes that are necessary in order to please God.

“God has all authority”

As we established in lesson 1 (and have briefly addressed already in this lesson), we must acknowledge that God is the one who possesses complete authority and that He has given all authority over to His Son, Jesus Christ. After all, God is the one who created this world and everything in it (Genesis 1:1). He is, therefore, Lord of Heaven and

earth (Acts 17:24). Remember that God is the only one who has complete power and right over everything. This includes authority over the things in Heaven, the things in the universe, the plants, the animals, the seas, and mankind.

Specifically focusing on mankind, we have been created in the image of this God and given a book of instructions from Him. Only He is qualified to tell us the ways that He desires to be served, the commands He wants us to obey, and the way in which He desires to be worshiped. Yes, God’s complete authority over all things pertains to mankind and every aspect of the ways in which we live our lives! Therefore, we must all learn to recognize the authority that God possesses over us and over all things.

“The Bible contains God’s perfect revelation”

Because God is the one who possesses all authority, we cannot find authority in anything or anyone else (unless God has given authority to them). And, as we considered in lesson 1, the Bible is the only book that perfectly reveals God’s will. This was the work of Jesus Christ whenever He was on the earth. And, this was the work of the Holy Spirit, who inspired the apostles and prophets to write the words of God.

Today, this written revelation from God serves as the way that God communicates His will to us. It is the only way that we learn God’s absolute standard of right and wrong. It is the only way that we can know what pleases Him and what displeases Him. And, because it is God’s perfect revelation of His will to mankind, it must not be changed in any way. Listen to Revelation 22:18-19. “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” Additions, subtractions, or substitutions that are made to God’s perfect revelation will result in our being in error.

“I will be judged by God’s revealed word”

The one who desires to please God must recognize what’s at stake in living according to Bible authority. This is not just a subject to discuss so that we can tell who is right and who is wrong on certain subjects. There is much more at stake than just being right or wrong!

God’s word plainly teaches us that the word of God, recorded in the pages of the Bible, will be the standard by which God will judge us all (as discussed in lesson 1, go back and review John 12:48 and Revelation 20:11-15). On the Last Day, you (and all mankind) will stand before the Judgment seat of the one who has been given all authority (Jesus Christ). After being warned in the Scriptures to do all things in the name of Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:17), He will judge you and determine whether you have lived your life according to His authority in all areas or not (see 2 Corinthians 5:10). Then, we are warned that our eternities hang in the balance of this judgment (see Galatians 6:7-8). Those who have lived contrary to Christ’s authority will spend eternity in Hell (see Matthew 25:41 and 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). But, those who have lived according to Christ’s authority will spend eternity in Heaven (see Matthew 25:34 and 1 Peter 1:3-9). So, your eternity will be impacted by whether or not you choose to live according to Christ’s authority revealed in the pages of the New Testament.

“I must diligently study and apply God’s truth”

Recognizing that you will give an answer before Jesus Christ for everything that you do on this earth, you should certainly desire to make sure that you are living right. And, the only way you can be sure you are living right is if you are studying God’s word and making the appropriate applications of it.

Therefore, like the people in Berea (Acts 17:11), you should devote yourself to searching the Scriptures every day in order to see whether the things you are doing are according to God’s will. 2 Timothy 2:15 tells you, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” This is truly not something that should be

done in a half-hearted kind of way. But, you must strive to dedicate time for Bible study every day that reflects the importance of living according to the teachings of the Bible.

“I must humbly submit to God’s teachings”

In many ways, the subject of Bible authority is a study in submission. You see, if you recognize that God has all authority and has provided a perfect set of instructions to govern our lives in the Bible, the issue is merely learning how to establish and apply authority – and then it is a question of whether or not we will submit to His authority. Please note that to submit to God’s authority is to yield ourselves and our desires to God’s desires.

Unfortunately, the majority of people who live on earth will choose to rebel against the authority God has given in the pages of the Bible. They decide to live their lives in their own ways rather than listen to and obey God. But, James 4:7 makes it very simple as to what God expects of us. “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” Rather than trying to justify unauthorized practices through human reasoning or rebelling against God entirely, we must humbly yield ourselves to Him in everything, trusting that He knows best and will reward those who do!

“I must do all things in the name of Jesus Christ”

Throughout this study I have been emphasizing Colossians 3:17. “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” I now want to emphasize the degree to which our subject of Bible authority applies. It applies to “whatever you do in word or deed.” Nothing is excluded in this! In fact, the Bible also instructs us, “Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

Everything about our lives and everything we are involved in must, therefore, be tested by God’s word to see whether it is approved of God (has His authority) or not. Those things that have His authority must be held to tightly, made part of what we believe, and made part of what we do. But, those

things that do not have His authority must be excluded from our lives, from what we believe, and from what we do. This applies to everything that touches our lives – the doctrines we believe, the words that we speak, the places that we go, the things we do with our money, the ways we spend our time, the clothing that we wear, the way local churches worship God, the works that local churches are involved in, the way that churches are organized, etc., etc., etc.

“Hold fast the pattern”

Another passage that I have emphasized throughout this study is 2 Timothy 1:13. Paul said, “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.” So, not only must I recognize that there is a pattern God has given me concerning every area of my life (found in the pages of the New Testament), but I must also hold fast to it, refusing to let it go.

I must accept whatever God’s word teaches as absolute truth and conduct my life accordingly. And, I must reject whatever God’s word does not authorize and refuse to practice those things. I must “Buy the truth, and do not sell it” (Proverbs 23:23). Buy it no matter the cost and refuse to sell it no matter the offer! I must hold fast to the pattern of sound words!

Conclusion

Are you living your life according to Bible authority? Are you doing all things in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ? I hope that this series of lessons has challenged your thinking about the subject of Bible authority and encouraged you to demand book, chapter, and verse for everything that you do and believe in your life (Colossians 3:17). Please recognize that your soul’s eternity will be impacted by whether or not you choose to do so. Make it your life’s goal to apply these principles to everything in your life so that you can please God!

Study Questions

What attitude toward Bible authority is described by Colossians 3:17?

1. Wrong Attitudes Toward Bible Authority

How did Jehoiakim demonstrate a wrong attitude toward Bible authority?

Identify why the following attitudes are wrong attitudes toward Bible authority.

- A. “Authority is no big deal” –
- B. “The end justifies the means” –
- C. “Traditions are just as binding as Scripture” –
- D. “If it feels right it must be right” –
- E. “The Old Testament is authoritative today” –
- F. “My church tells me what to do” –
- G. “The Bible is an outdated book” –

H. “Demanding book, chapter, verse is too legalistic” –

D. “I must diligently study and apply God’s truth” –

I. “We cannot know the truth” –

E. “I must humbly submit to God’s teaching” –

J. “There is no absolute truth” –

F. “I must do all things in the name of Jesus Christ” –

K. “The Bible is just a love letter” –

G. “Hold fast the pattern” –

L. “The Bible doesn’t say not to” –

2. Right Attitudes Toward Bible Authority

How did the Bereans demonstrate a right attitude toward Bible authority?

Identify why the following attitudes are right attitudes toward Bible authority.

A. “God has all authority” –

B. “The Bible contains God’s perfect revelation” –

C. “I will be judged by God’s revealed word”