

# **From Heaven Or From Men?**

## *A Study Of Bible Authority*

### **Lesson 1: The Necessity And Source Of Authority**

What two elements are essential to having authority?

#### **1. The Need For Authority**

Demonstrate the need for authority in the physical realm.

Demonstrate the need for authority in the spiritual realm.

#### **2. God, The Source Of All Authority**

How and why does God have all authority?

What authority has been given to Jesus Christ? Explain your answer.

How has God's word been made known today?

#### **3. From Heaven Or From Men?**

What question did Jesus ask in Matthew 21:23-27? Explain the context of this question and the continued importance of this question today.

Is authority derived from within mankind? List some common standards of authority mankind often appeals to. Explain why they are either appropriate or inappropriate as standards of authority.

Where must we get all authority? Why must our authority come from this source?

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### **Lesson 2: How To Establish Bible Authority**

Does God want us to understand the will of God and understand it alike?

#### **1. The Need For A Hermeneutic**

What is the connection between the need to understand God's word alike and the need for a proper hermeneutic?

Identify some important principles of Bible interpretation

How can we establish authority for anything? How can we establish Bible authority?

#### **2. Direct Command**

How did Jesus establish authority by direct command?

How did the apostles establish authority by direct command?

List some examples of direct commands.

#### **3. Approved Example**

How did Jesus establish authority by approved example?

How did the apostles establish authority by approved example?

List some examples of approved examples.

#### **4. Necessary Inference**

How did Jesus establish authority by necessary inference?

How did the apostles establish authority by necessary inference?

List some examples of necessary inference.

#### **5. God's Perfect Law Of Liberty**

Why is it important to recognize that God's word is perfect?

Why it is important to recognize that God's word contains a law?

Why is it important to recognize that God's word offers liberty?

Why is it important to recognize that you must be a doer of God's perfect law of liberty?

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### **Lesson 3: God's Silence, Types Of Authority, And Expedients**

How do you establish Bible authority?

#### **1. God's Silence**

Why is God about some matters? Is it accidental or by choice? Explain why this is significant.

What are the two different interpretations of God's silence? Which one is the correct interpretation?

What does the Old Testament teach about God's silence?

What does the New Testament teach about God's silence?

#### **2. Types Of Authority**

What is "generic authority"? Give some examples.

What is "specific authority"? Give some examples.

### **3. Expedients**

What is an expedient?

What are the rules for an expedient to be pleasing to God?

List some examples of expedients.

Are additions, subtractions, or substitutions acceptable as expedients? Explain.

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#### **Lesson 4: Attitude Toward Bible Authority**

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" –

I. "We cannot know the truth" –

J. "There is no absolute truth" –

K. "The Bible is just a love letter" –

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" –

D. "I must diligently study and apply God's truth" –

E. "I must humbly submit to God's teaching" –

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

G. "Hold fast the pattern" –