

Do We Need Scriptural Authority?

Introduction:

- A. Several have said to me, “We do lots of things without Bible authority.”
- B. The Jews and the Lord recognized the need for divine authority. - Luke 20:1-8
- C. Do we need divine authority for what we believe, teach, and practice?

I. What is authority?

- A. “authority” (*exousia*): 3. *the power of authority (influence) and of right:... Lk. xx.2.... 4. the power of rule or government. (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed, [generally translated authority.]); a. univ. Mt. xxviii.18.... (Thayer. 225)*
- B. All authority is one of two kinds:
 - 1. inherent (primary) - Acts 17:24; e.g., When children ask, “Why do we have to do this?”, mother replies, “Because I said so!”
 - 2. delegated (secondary) - Matthew 28:18; e.g., One child says to others, “Mother said, ‘Come in and wash your hands for supper.’”
- C. All legitimate authority has as its ultimate source God. - Luke 20:4; Matthew 15:1-9

II. Open contempt for authority of all kinds is a chief characteristic of our society.

- A. home: divorce and remarriage, rebellious children
- B. government: crime, riots, corruption in government
- C. business: bank corruption, cheating on taxes
- D. religion: “We do lots of things without Bible authority!”

III. Do we need divine authority?

- A. We see the need for authority in every day affairs: business: Bureau of Weights and Standards; government: Constitution; sports: rules
- B. We need divine authority as the ultimate standard because:
 - 1. We are not capable of guiding ourselves. - Jeremiah 10:23
 - 2. Results of rejecting divine authority tragic. - Judges 17:6; 19:30; 21:25
 - 3. Divine authority is necessary for unity. - 1 Corinthians 1:10
 - 4. Divine authority is essential to guide us to God. - 1 Corinthians 1:21
 - 5. We must walk by faith. - 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17
 - 6. God demands we follow His authority. - Colossians 3:17; 2 John 9

Conclusion:

- A. Now, what do you think of the statement, “We do lots of things without Bible authority”?
- B. We need divine authority, Bible authority, for everything we believe, teach and practice.