

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

04 July 2010

VOLUME 10; ISSUE 27

**Floral Heights
Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan
Wichita Falls, Texas
76309
(940) 322 - 1650**

In This Issue:

Establishing Authority .. 1-2
Local News 2
Sermon Outline 3
**The Book of Psalms – Back
Cover**

Our Elders:

Mike Chancellor
(322 – 6374)

Tom Witherspoon
(923-6479)

Deacons:

Joe Cronin

Jim Hall

David Witherspoon

Preacher:

John C. Robertson

Establishing Bible Authority

Old Testament Review

This article is the first of two that shall examine the subject of establishing Bible Authority. A study of both the first and second covenants will yield a greater understanding of how authority works. There are members of the body of Christ who continue to be confused about various questions such as marriage divorce and remarriage, the two covenants, who is a false teacher, and more recently the A. D. 70 Doctrine. The objective of this study will not be to answer all your Bible questions and solve all the "brotherhood issues." The objective is rather to remind us all of the initial direction we must take when seeking out answers to Bible questions. As one studies both the first and second covenant laws an interesting fact comes to the surface. Though the laws change God's founding principles revolving around authority remain the same. No matter what my approach or attitude is toward those founding principles they remain. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"Howbeit the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, the Lord knows them that are his: and, let every one that names the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness"* (2 Timothy 2:19).

To properly understand how to establish Bible authority for all that we practice and teach we must lay some groundwork beginning with the Old Testament. First, the solid rock of our faith, Jehovah, does not change. God's expectation of man does not change either. Man is to be perfectly aligned with Jehovah's standard. Those not in line with that divinely revealed standard are in sin. Man has been given a divine responsibility to reverentially fear and obey the words of God. My attitude and approach to the Lord's commands must be "not my will but thine." Those who reject God's divine standard, for whatever reason, will face the fierce anger, wrath, and indignation of the Lord. Once these founding principles are laid we are ready to establish Bible authority. Please remember that this first article is dealing with establishing authority in the **Old Testament!**

Jehovah God

The word authority is defined as, "The power to command, enforce laws, exact obedience, determine, or judge" (AHD 142). One may foolishly asks, "What gives God the right to exercise supreme authority over me?"

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

New Bible Class Quarter Begins Today:

We begin our new Bible classes today for all ages. The adult class for both Sunday and Wednesday will remain the same: "Bible Authority."

Summer Gospel Meeting:

Mark August 22nd through the 27th on your calendars for our 2010 summer gospel meeting.

Dennis Scroggins of Lometa Texas will be doing the preaching. The elders have set the time for each nightly meeting (i.e., Monday through Friday) at 7:00 PM (Normal times on Sunday). There will also be a daily Bible study with Dennis at 9:30 AM Monday through Friday.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home)

Ila Belle Windham
(at home but request no calls at this time).

Jehovah God occupies the supreme position within all that man knows and does not know. Inspired writers proclaimed Him to be the creator and potentate ruler over all creation (Joshua 3:11-13; Jeremiah 10:12; Nahum 1:1-6). There is absolutely nothing that is not subject to His divine will (Genesis 18:20; Exodus 5:1-2; Joshua 3:11-13; Jeremiah 32:27; Ezekiel 18:4). There is no other divine creator that mankind is to give answer to (Isaiah 43:11; 45:18). God created man and the universe by His divinely spoken word (Psalms 33:6-9). The entire physical universe is subject to His divine will (Joshua 10:12-13; Psalms 24:1-2; 90:1-2). The Bible tells us how that even the plants (Haggai 2:18-19) and animals (Jonah 2:10) obey His divine will. Jehovah's name is the seal of highest authority that demands man's absolute obedience (Leviticus 18:30; 19:4, 10-12, 14, 16, 18; Deuteronomy 28:58-59). All flesh must thereby be silent before the Great Jehovah God and listen to His divine will (Deuteronomy 27:9; Isaiah 41:1; Habakkuk 2:18-20; Zephaniah 1:7; Zechariah 2:13).

Jehovah's Standard of Truth (Divine Revelation)

When all flesh is silent they are ready to receive divine guidance for their lives that they may be just, holy, and absolutely perfect as God (Leviticus 11:44; Psalms 82:6 / John 10:34; Amos 5:24; Micah 6:8). God is the standard that man must meet (2 Peter 1:4). God speaks absolute truth that is not subject to change (Psalms 111:9; Zechariah 1:5-6; Malachi 3:6). God's standard is identified as a pattern (Exodus 25:9, 40), a scale (Daniel 5:27), landmark (Hosea 5:10), and plumb-line (Amos 7:7-9). Jehovah's standard gives man an exact spiritual direction to follow (Isaiah 28:16-17; Jeremiah 6:16-17; 10:23). Those who do not follow the exact pattern, landmark, or plumb-line are weighed in God's balance and found to be in sin (or transgression) (Genesis 18:20-22; Leviticus 5:17; 16:16, 30; 18:30; 22:9, 21; Joshua 7:10-13; etc.).

Created Man

Jehovah God created man in His own image (Genesis 1:26). Man is created "upright" (Ecclesiastes 7:29), with an understanding that eternity exists (Ecclesiastes 3:11), to naturally be receptive to truth (Ezekiel 12:1-2), and to pick ourselves up when we fail to do as the Lord commands (Jeremiah 8:4-7). Man's created or natural place in this universe is to be in subjection and perfect obedience to Jehovah's divine will (2 Peter 1:4; Genesis 6:8; 17:1; Exodus 19:4-8; Leviticus 11:44; Deuteronomy 18:13; 27:26; Judges 2:1-5; 1 Samuel 6:19-20; Micah 6:11; Habakkuk 1:4; Zechariah 3:6-7; 6:15; Malachi 3:8-10; Galatians 3:10). Man's objective is to obtain unto a divine nature as God (2 Peter 1:4). We are, thereby, representatives of His divine image on this earth (2 Samuel 12:14). Jehovah publicly struck down those who did things contrary to His divine standard (Genesis 18-19; Leviticus 10:3; 2 Samuel 6:6ff etc.).

(Continued Next Week)

John C. Robertson

How to Establish Bible Authority

Introduction:

The objective of this lesson will be to examine the Old Testament scriptures that expose man's actions in relation to God's commands. That which determined whether an action or word was right in Old Testament days was none other than God's divine revelation. Let us first lay some groundwork regarding how authority works and then we can look to the topic itself.

I. Jehovah God

- A. He is the potentate creator of all that man knows and does not know (Nahum 1:1-6).
- B. All things are subject to His divine will (Genesis 18:20; Jeremiah 32:27)
- C. Jehovah's name is the seal of highest authority (Leviticus 18:30; Deuteronomy 28:58-59).
- D. Let all flesh be silent before Him (Habakkuk 2:18-20).

II. Jehovah's Standard of Truth (Divine Revelation)

- A. The pattern (Exodus 25:9, 40), scale (Daniel 5:27), landmark (Hosea 5:10), and Plumb-line (Amos 7:7-9).
- B. The Lord's standard does not change with the times or whims of man (Zechariah 1:5-6).

III. Created Man

- A. Created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26)
- B. "Upright" (Ecclesiastes 7:29)

IV. Man's Divinely Appointed Responsibility

- A. Man must know their divinely appointed place in this universe.
- B. Humble, fearful, reverential, and subjection through Obedience (Jeremiah 6:16-20)

V. Man's Divinely Appointed Attitude toward Authority

- A. Utterly detest and abhor sin (Deuteronomy 7:26; Amos 5:15).
- B. Shame, embarrassment, and sorrow when in sin (Ezra 9:5ff; Jeremiah 3:25; Hosea 9:10).
- C. View sin as a horrible thing (Hosea 6:10).
- D. We ought to be bothered by sin (Ecclesiastes 7:4, 19-20).
- E. Righteous indignation directed at sin (Exodus 32:20; Numbers 25:6ff).

VI. Man's Divinely Appointed Approach to Authority

- A. God's standards stand alone and there is none other to save (Hosea 13:10; 14:3).
- B. Man must approach God as "just" and "righteous" (Ezekiel 18:5-9).
- C. Man must not turn to self for spiritual guidance (Proverbs 16:2, 25; 23:4 etc.).

VII. Consequences for Disobedience

- A. Subject to God's fierce anger, wrath, and indignation (Isaiah 11:4; 66:24; Amos 4:12-13).
- B. No amount of earthly treasure will save one from God's wrath (Zephaniah 1:18).

VIII. Establishing Bible Authority though the Old Testament

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| A. Direct Command | D. Specific Commands | E. Expediency |
| B. Examples | E. General Commands | |
| C. Inference | F. Authority in Silence | |

Conclusion:

This study bears out the importance of having authority for all that is said and practiced. Those who do not "live by faith" will forever experience the wrath of God (Habakkuk 2:4). Though man may convince himself of the validity of other doctrines the firm foundation of God will always stand and it alone will be the judge of man (John 12:48).