

## HOW TO ESTABLISH DIVINE AUTHORITY

Text: Numbers 22:18

INTRO: The Gentile prophet Balaam had a right concept of the importance of Divine authority. The fact that he did not live up to his high ideal does not reduce the value of the principle he espoused.

### I. MAN HAS ALWAYS NEEDED TO BE GOVERNED BY DIVINE AUTHORITY.

#### A. In patriarchal times.

1. Adam & Eve suffered because they ate the one fruit God had forbidden them to eat, Gen. 3:3.

2. Cain's worship was unacceptable because he did not do well, Gen. 4:4, 7.

#### B. Under the Law of Moses.

1. The sons of Aaron were destroyed for offering a form of worship God had not authorized, Leviticus 10:1.

2. Uzza was struck dead for touching the ark, trying to help God out, 1 Chron. 13.

3. No doubt, in our day of laxity & permissiveness many have trouble seeing the seriousness of disregarding God's instructions. We wonder at the severity of God. But we need to remember that all God's commands were for man's benefit, Deuteronomy 6:2.

#### C. Likewise today it is imperative that we recognize & submit to Divine authority.

1. God has given all authority to Christ.

Matt. 28:18-20; Heb. 1:1-2; Matt. 17:5.

2. Jesus promised to send the H.S. to make His will known to His apostles & prophets.

John 16:13; 14:26

3. These inspired men wrote Christ's revelation in the N.T. John 20:31; Eph. 3:3-4; Gal. 1:11

4. We dare not reject the words of the inspired writers.

He who hears you hears Me, & he who rejects you rejects Me, & he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me. (Luke 10:16).

Gal. 1:6-8; Rev 22:18-19; 2 Pet 1:3; 2 Tim 3:16

## II. THERE ARE 3 WAYS GOD'S WILL IS INDICATED BY HIS WORD.

A. By precept, that is, direct statement or command.

And He commanded us to preach to the people & to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be the Judge of the living & the dead (Acts 10:42).

B. By example.

Imitate me just as I also imitate Christ (1 Cor 11:1).

Those things, which you learned & received & heard & saw in me, these do, & the God of peace will be with you. (Phil. 4:9).

C. By necessary implication. Some things are neither expressly stated nor specifically exemplified yet are necessarily inferred by what is stated or exemplified.

Upon the 1st day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper that there be no collections when I come (1 Cor 16:2).

THEY ASSEMBLED ON THAT DAY.

## III. THERE ARE 2 CLASSES OF AUTHORITY: GENERAL AND SPECIFIC.

A. General.

1. Go authorizes walk, ride, fly, float, etc.
2. TEACH authorizes a place, methods, arrangement, aids, supplies, etc.
3. SING authorizes soprano, alto, tenor, bass, from memory or book, loud, low, fast, slow...

B. Specific.

1. There are 2 elements in the L.S.--unleavened bread & grape juice, Matt. 26:26-29. The command to eat & drink involves incidentals: plates, cups, trays, tables, a place to assemble...
2. The command to sing & to make melody in the heart specifies the KIND of music God wants. Does not authorize humming, drumming, strumming.
3. God commanded Christians to finance the work of the church by giving on the 1st day of the week into a common treasury, 1 Cor 16:2. To aid in the collection, they might use a box, a hat, a collection plate--they would still be doing what God commanded--giving. But there was no authority to make money with bingo, pie sales, car washes, etc.

CONCLUSION: Obviously, in making application of these principles, we have barely scratched the surface, but it is hoped that such lessons as this will help us to remember the absolute necessity of Divine authority, & will help us better understand how to know what God wants us to be and to do.

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