

Introduction:

1. This morning we will be studying Bible authority. Paul reminds us about the importance of authority, Colossians 3:17. Many questions concerning worship, salvation, the church, are authority ?????
2. We will seek to look at establishing Bible authority this morning.

The Lesson:

I. God authorizes direct statements (commands), examples, and implication.

A. *Let's first consider Direct Statements. This is when God tells us what to do or not do.*

1. Matthew 6:25. Jesus says, "Do not worry."
2. 1 Corinthians 7:3: The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife and likewise the wife..."
3. Ephesians 5:22: "Wives, be subject to your own husbands as unto the Lord..."
4. Acts 22:16: Ananias told Paul to, "Arise and be baptized..."
5. These are things we must do!

B. *God authorizes through Approved Apostolic Examples.*

1. We're talking about the actual practice of the church in the New Testament under the guidance of the apostles. When God shows us what He wants us to do through an approved apostolic example.
2. Consider Acts 20:7.
 - a. We find Christians gathering on the first day of the week (Sunday).
 - (1) This is an approved example for us to follow. Another example of Christians gathering on Sunday is in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.
 - (2) There's also great significance to the first day of the week. It's when Jesus rose. It's when the church was established. It's when the saints gathered to worship. Second Century Christian Justin Martyr wrote, "Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly... Jesus Christ on the same day rose from the dead (Apology I. 67)
 - b. We find Christians gathering to break bread (the Lord's Supper) on Sunday. "Bread" is a synecdoche (the part for the whole) and refers to the bread and fruit of the vine.
 - c. To take it the Lord's Supper on any other day would violate this scripture.
 - d. To not take the Lord's Supper on the first would also violate this example.

C. *Implication. This is where God has not spoken by command or example.*

1. This is where He authorizes by an implication contained in the scripture.
2. We sometimes call this "Necessary Inference." For there to be Necessary Inference, there has to be necessary implication. We can't infer whatever we want. Only what the Scripture demands. This isn't a hunch, guess, or opinion, but something demanded by the text.

3. The speaker “Implies...” and the listener “Infers.” To infer is to “Derive by reasoning, to conclude.” Therefore, careful Bible study is important. What might this look like?
 - a. A great example is Mark 1:9-10. Jesus was baptized by John. He came up out the water. The scripture never say that He went down into the water. But we can infer He did from the language in the text.
4. Another example is John 4:16-19. The Samaritan woman properly inferred or came to the conclusion that Jesus was a prophet. How? From what information? Jesus knew her life.
5. Another example is Acts 16:9-10.
 - a. Paul received a vision from the Lord: “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”
 - b. Paul concluded (inferred from what the speaker said) God wanted them to preach.
6. Think about your soul for a moment. There’s no text that explicitly is for me (Ben Lee). Yet, there’s implication in the text and when I correctly infer, then I can draw the proper conclusion that I’m supposed to believe and obey Jesus like Paul did.

II. Aids and Additions

A. This is where a lot of confusion in

1. Our treasures are to be laid up in heaven, Matthew 6:19-24. The parallel account in Luke 12:32-34, gives us a good practical way of seeing where our treasures and trust is in our wealth or in God. We should be givers with our treasures on earth. God will provide.
2. We are not to be distracted by the cares of the world, 2 Corinthians 11:28-29.
3. When we are, it demonstrates a faith issue.

B. Jesus says, “Don’t be like the Gentiles who eagerly seek after these things.”

1. This is how people without God live, without faith live. They have lives full of worry!
2. They don’t seek the kingdom, Matthew 6:33. They don’t turn to God for their needs, Matthew 6:7-8. Don’t be like them! Be different. Put your energy on seeking God instead of worry.
3. How? Prayer, Matthew 6:9-14. Ask. Prayers centered on the kingdom.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus tells us who we are to be! He wants to rule in our hearts.
2. Will we let Him? Or will we be like the world who reject Him? Don’t be like them.