

Introduction to Bible Authority

Bible Authority—I

Introduction

1. Bible authority is one of the most important subjects discussed in the Bible.
2. Few people even know what it is.
3. Fewer people know how to apply it in such a way as to understand the will of the Lord.
4. In this lesson we are going to study examples that teach us the importance of respecting God's authority in the Scriptures.
5. We will emphasize the need to *"do all in the name of the Lord"* (Col. 3:17).

Discussion

I. God's Faithful People Respect His Authority

- A. Abel offered a better Sacrifice: Heb. 11:4; Gen. 4:1-5
 1. Rom. 10:17: Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.
 2. Abel offered his sacrifice by faith; therefore he did it according to the word of God.
 3. Abel's sacrifice was accepted because he believed God and respected the authority of His word and obeyed accordingly.
- B. Noah did all that the Lord commanded: Gen. 6:22; Heb. 11:7
 1. By faith Noah moved with godly fear.
 2. He believed the word of God, respected what it said, and obeyed.
 3. Because of his respect for the authority of God's word, Noah *"did according to all that the Lord commanded"* (Gen. 6:22).
- C. Abraham obeyed all of the Lord's commands: Gen. 26:4-5; Heb. 11:8
 1. He respected the authority of God's word when he left his home and father to wander in a strange land.
 2. He respected the authority of God's word when God told him how to establish the covenant.
 3. He respected the authority of God's word when God told him to offer his son. Even when it did not make sense to him, Abraham trusted in the word of the Lord and obeyed.

II. Consequences of Disrespecting God's Authority

- A. Cain's sacrifices was rejected: Gen. 4:1-5
 1. We don't know what Cain did wrong.
 2. But the fact that it was not according to the will of God meant that it was not by faith, and therefore not accepted by God.
- B. Nadab and Abihu: Lev. 10:1-3
 1. God gave a specific command, which meant that He wanted it done a certain way.

2. Nadab and Abihu did it differently than the way God commanded.
 3. They offered “*strange fire*” which the Lord had not commanded.
 4. He never said not to do it the way they did, He just did not command it. But that was enough that they should have refrained from using it.
 5. Death was the consequence of their disrespect for authority.
- C. Uzzah: 2 Sam. 6:1-8; Num. 4:4-6, 15; 7:9
1. David was a righteous man, but forgot to consult the law of God as to how to carry the ark.
 2. God was specific: the sons of Kohath were to carry the holy things on their shoulders.
 3. But David and the people put the ark on a new cart.
 - a. The cart was new, but it was not right.
 - b. The people rejoiced and were happy (2 Sam. 6:5), but they were not pleasing to God.
 4. As a result of their failure to respect God’s authority, the cart tipped, Uzzah touched it and he died.
 5. David later repented of his sin and turned to do it the right way (1 Chron. 15:1-3).
- D. King Saul: 1 Sam. 15
1. God was specific about what He wanted Saul to do with the Amelekites (1 Sam. 15:1-3).
 2. Saul did not fulfill all that the Lord commanded (1 Sam. 15:7-9).
 3. He was happy; he thought he had done well, when he had not (1 Sam. 15:13-14).
 4. When brought to his attention he tried to blame the people (1 Sam. 15:15).
 5. He tried to justify his disobedience by saying it was for the Lord.
 - a. We must emphasize this point.
 - b. God is not mocked; we cannot fool Him when we disobey (Gal. 6:7).
 6. The lesson Saul failed to learn, which we must learn from his example, is that God is more interested in how well we obey Him rather than how great or elaborate we can make our worship: 1 Sam. 15:22-23

III. “Do All In The Name Of The Lord” (Col. 3:17)

- A. “In His Name” means by His authority
1. We have the Old Testament to teach us how the Lord wants to be obeyed.
 2. The New Testament teaches us what we must obey: It contains the commands of God for us (1 Cor. 14:37).
- B. Disobedience of past generations recorded that we may learn not to follow that path.
1. 1 Cor. 10:6, 11—written so that we may see the consequences of disobedience.
 2. Cain, Uzzah, and Saul are warnings for us to humble us and teach us about the need to respect God’s commandments.
 3. If we choose to go beyond and to add to what God said like Nadab and Abihu, or to alter the way we fulfill the command like Saul, we will face the same consequences as they did.

- C. Obedience recorded so we may learn how to respect God's authority (Heb. 11, 12:2).
1. We have men like Able, Noah, and Abraham to teach us the meaning of true obedience.
 2. They also teach us of the blessings God gives to those who respect His authority.
 3. *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”* (Heb. 11:6).
 4. If we are going to learn anything from these people, let us learn to search out all that God commands us to do, and let us avoid anything God has not commanded us to do.
 5. In so doing, the Lord will be with us: 2 John 9

Conclusion

1. If we want to please God we must learn to do all in His name.
2. We must search the scripture to find out all that God wants us to do.
3. Whatever God does not tell us to do, we must learn to leave it alone—not add to His word.
4. Those who obey in such a manner are promised a great reward.

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