

Principles of Restoration

- **Christian Standard – 9-27-1919**
- **Notes by W. H. Woolery**
- The sufficiency of the Scriptures as a rule of faith.
- The New Testament contains the will of God concerning our duty in this age of the world. God has spoken to us by His Son.
- Faith must have Jesus Christ as its object, and not opinions and speculations of men.



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Principles of Restoration

- **Christian Standard – 9-27-1919**
- There must be a “thus saith the Lord” for every article of faith and item of practice
- Sinners now must be told to do just what they were told to do in the days of the apostles to obtain pardon of sins
- Plead for a complete restoration of the ordinances as they were in the beginning



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Principles of Restoration

- **Christian Standard – 9-27-1919**
- Protest against sects and sectarianism
- Deplore the divisions in the body and plead for Christian union
- Demand the largest liberty of opinion, but ask for unity in matters of faith
- Entire reproduction of the apostolic church, its doctrines, its simplicity, its practice, without change



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Restoring
The New Testament Church
Restoring the
Authority

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Authority in Religion

- **Scripture Text: Romans 1:18-32**
 - Romans 1:20 – For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
- Ever since the creation of the world and men have existed, they have been enabled, by means of the works of creation, to arrive at the apprehension of certain traits of the Almighty, otherwise undiscoverable among them.

Moses Lard, Commentary on Romans (Des Moines: Christian Board of Publication, 1914), p. 51.

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Authority in Religion

- Every culture has had some form of religion
- Men follow their own appetites and passions
 - Romans 1:24-32
- Natural religions which men devise from their own conceptions of the workings of nature will lead to failure
- These religions are of human origin, not of God and His authority

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Religion

- Religion is essentially a relationship to a divine Person, to whom the soul surrenders in loving obedience, and from whom it receives blessing and salvation
- Worship is the outward expression of our “religion”
 - Acts 17:22
 - Acts 25:19
 - Acts 26:5
 - Galatians 1:13
 - James 1:26-27

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Authority

- Authority is the right to command and enforce obedience; the right to act by virtue of office, station or relation
- Sources of authority divided into two classes
 - Primary authority
 - Authority inherent by virtue of its being the very fountain-head of all authority in a given realm.
 - Delegated authority
 - Authority vested in another by the party holding primary authority

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Perfect Authority

A perfect religion must have perfect authority; and perfect authority presupposes perfect love, perfect wisdom and perfect justice. Perfect love, wisdom and justice must be inherent in perfect authority.

CC Crawford, Sermon Outlines on the Restoration Plea (Murfreesboro: Dehoff Publications, 1956), 136.

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False Authority

- Conscience
 - “Just let your conscience be your guide”
 - Conscience can be hardened
 - I Timothy 4:2
 - Conscience can be weak and defiled
 - Titus 1:15
 - Conscience can be misdirected
 - Example of Saul of Tarsus – thought he was doing right



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False Authority

- Conscience
 - Conscience is a creature of education
 - It does not determine right from wrong – it merely approves what we believe to be right; and disapproves what we believe to be wrong.
 - Conscience can be educated by the law of God
 - Romans 9:1
 - I Timothy 3:9
- Conscience cannot be the authority, as it depends on the knowledge of a higher authority.

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False Authority

- Religious Experience or Feeling
 - People do not do right because they feel good; they feel good because they have done right.
 - We do not serve the Lord because we are happy; rather we are happy because we serve the Lord
 - People have all kinds of feelings and experiences - how does one know it is a “religious” experience?
 - This places final authority on man’s judgment – but man’s judgment is liable to error
 - We must reject feelings as a source of authority.

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False Authority

- A Direct Revelation of the Holy Spirit
 - If God speaks today directly to an individual, how is one to know that it is God who is speaking to him?
 - There is NO proof that God speaks to man directly in the Christian age, after the apostles.
 - Inspiration ended when the apostles had completed their work and had embodied the doctrine of Christ in the words of the New Testament.
 - ANY and ALL alleged special revelations of the Spirit MUST be rejected today as a source of authority!

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Rejecting False Authority

- We MUST reject all sources of authority, which come from man, as it is incomplete, inadequate, and liable to error:
 - Man is morally and intellectually imperfect
 - Man's "authority" leads to religious anarchy
 - Man's "authority" leads to self worship
 - Man cannot rely on his own feelings to think he is pleasing God
 - Man has numerous failures in social, political and industrial worlds showing that he is incapable of being the ultimate authority.

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Conclusions on Authority

- There can be only one true, perfect authority
- God is the only one who possesses perfect love, wisdom and justice – so He must be our source of authority
- Because God is the source of authority, to please God, we must follow His commands
- Two questions:
 - Has God ever directly revealed Himself to man?
 - Has God ever delegated this divine authority to anyone else, and if so, to whom?

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Folly of following False Authority

What utter folly it is for men to lean upon their own understanding in matters affecting the destiny of the soul! Massive volumes have been turned loose upon the unsuspecting world in the last few years to bolster up the theories of rationalism, or "modernism" or the "New Theology," whatever it may be called.

The authority which I appeal to you to accept at this time is the authority of the God of love!

CC Crawford, Sermon Outlines on the Restoration Plea (Murfreesboro: Dehoff Publications, 1956), 148.

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Authority in the New Testament Church

- Almost all questions underlying denominationalism are questions of authority, not simply interpretation.
- Example: Baptism by immersion (Catholics)
 - Many leaders in the Catholic church believe that baptism was by immersion in the New Testament times
 - Pope Stephen II substituted sprinkling or pouring and the Council of Ravenna ratified this in 1311
 - They believe immersion was the "primitive" act of baptism, but the Pope has the **authority** to change it.

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Authority in the New Testament Church

- Almost all questions underlying denominationalism are questions of authority, not simply interpretation.
- Example: Baptism by immersion (Protestant)
 - While they deny the authority of the Pope, they practice the "authorized" substitutions
 - "So long as the spirit of the act is right – the form is a matter of secondary importance"
 - The question of baptism by immersion is NOT a question of interpretation – but **authority**!
 - **The authority of Jesus verses the papal authority!**

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Authority in the New Testament Church

- The teaching of Christ is central to Christianity
 - Christianity and Christ are inseparable!
 - As a kingdom – Christ is King
 - As a church – Christ is the Head
 - As a system of doctrine – Christ is the Teacher
 - As a system of law – Christ is the Lawgiver
 - As a life – Christ is the perfect Exemplar

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Authority in the New Testament Church

- The teaching of Christ is central to Christianity
 - As a system of reconciliation – Christ is the Savior
 - As an army – Christ is Captain
 - As a structure of faith and works – Christ is the Cornerstone
 - As a system of revelation – Christ is the Word of Truth
 - As a means of reunion with God – Christ is the Way

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Authority in the New Testament Church

- Two kinds of authority in Christianity
 - **Primary authority**
 - God
 - I Corinthians 3:21-23
 - Galatians 1:1
 - God is the creator God
 - He has the absolute right to command and our absolute duty is to obey Him
 - God has chosen, as a rule, to exercise His authority through chosen vessels

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Authority in the New Testament Church

- Two kinds of authority in Christianity
 - **Delegated authority**
 - First – from God the Father to God the Son
 - Hebrews 1:1
 - John 5:19-23; 37
 - Matthew 28:18-20
 - The Son stands nearest to the Father in delegated authority
 - Colossians 1:15, 19; 2:9
 - Hebrews 1:3

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Authority in the New Testament Church

- Two kinds of authority in Christianity
 - **Delegated authority**
 - Second – from the Son to the apostles
 - While Jesus was on earth, He exercised His authority personally – forgiving sins
 - Matthew 9:6
 - Luke 23:43
 - Before He ascended, Jesus delegated that authority to the apostles

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Authority in the New Testament Church

- Second – from the Son to the apostles
 - Jesus promised the apostles the guidance into all truth
 - John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15
 - The delegation of authority was granted to the apostles in John 20:21-23

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Authority in the New Testament Church

- Second – from the Son to the apostles
 - The apostles were the ambassadors for Christ
 - II Corinthians 5:20
 - Their teaching was His teaching!
 - Their authority was His authority!
 - Matthew 10:40; 25:40
 - John 20:21
 - The apostles' authority was first oral, then written, through the inspiration of the Spirit – completion of the New Testament

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Authority in the New Testament Church

- ALL things pertaining to life and godliness have been given through the Jesus and the apostles
 - II Peter 1:3
- There is NOTHING essential to Christianity which they have not written with authority! There is NOTHING that needs to be added to, or taken away from this COMPLETE revelation
- With the completion of the New Testament, ALL necessity for special revelation or illumination by the Spirit came to an end!

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Authority in the New Testament Church

- Source of Authority in Christianity
 - God is the **primary** source of authority
 - Jesus is the **mediate** source of authority
 - The apostles are the **executive** source of authority
 - The New Testament is the **permanent** source of authority
- ALL are in perfect agreement as they all come from the one perfect source!

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Authority in the New Testament Church

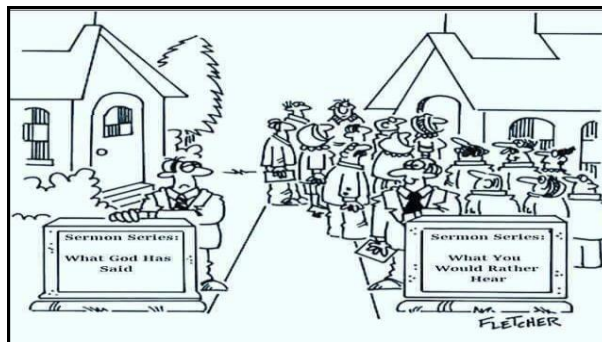
- What is the extent of the authority in Jesus' church?
 - Jesus, and His apostles, prescribe how we get into the kingdom
 - Jesus, and His apostles, prescribe how we conduct ourselves as citizens of His kingdom
- To surrender this authority in any one point, is to surrender it all!

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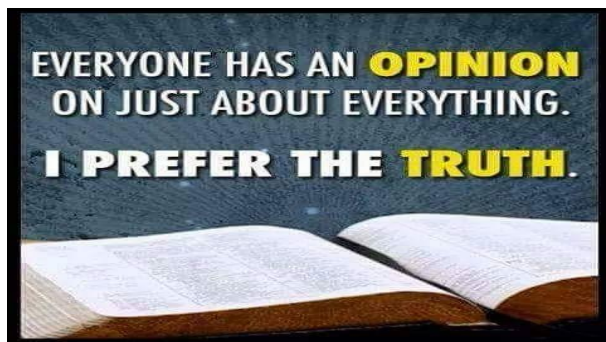
Authority in the New Testament Church

- What if the authority of Christ would be restored back to it's rightful place in the church:
 - Papal authority in Catholicism would be eliminated
 - Creedal authority in Protestantism would be eliminated
 - Man's "theology" would be eliminated
 - Man's opinions and interpretations would be eliminated
 - Christian unity would finally be reached

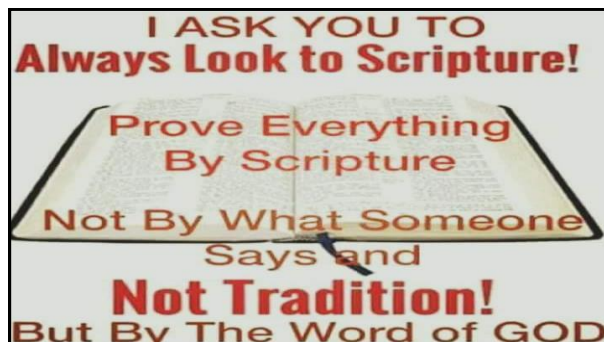
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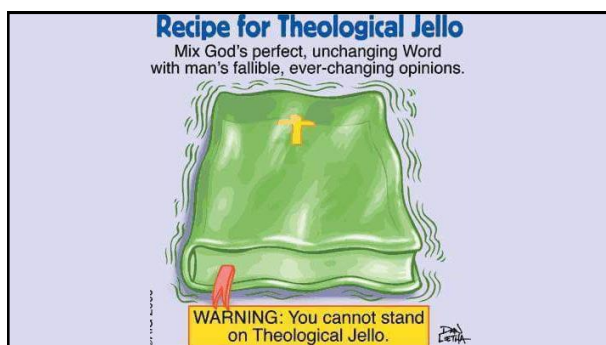
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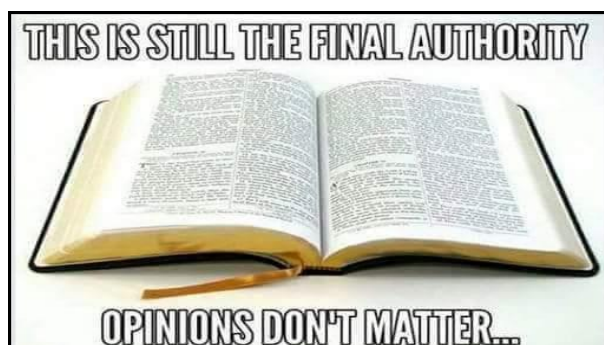
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