

Understanding God's Message Hebrews 1:1-4

Authority

Right to command or direct and enforce obedience or administer punishment
To authorize is to empower to act or direct by authority

Test: "Whence Was It" Must Be Applied To All Teaching

Must not be from men - **Matthew 21:23-27; 1John 4:1**
Must not be from Old Testament - **Galatians 5:4**
Must not be from traditions and creeds of men - **2Timothy 4:2**
Must not be from mind of elders - **Acts 20:28-32**
The source must be from heaven - **John 12:44-50; Colossians 3:17**

ALL authority begins and ends with God

We must have authority (in the name of) - **Colossians 3:17**
We must determine what is authorized and what is not
God-Christ-Apostles-New Testament - **Hebrews 2:1-4**
God gave Christ authority - **Matthew 28:18; John 17:1-2; Romans 1:16-17; Colossians 3:17; Ephesians 1:22-23**
Christ has Words of eternal life - "To Whom Shall We Go?" **Hebrews 1:1-4**
Christ's Word delivered to inspired men - **John 14:26; 16:13-15**
New Testament contains that Word - **2Peter 1:12-15; 3:14-16; 1John 2:1-2; Jude 3**

How To Establish Authority From Scripture

How are we shown what we must and/or are allowed to practice
Way we understand any instructive text - Constitution - Instructions - Mortgage - Driver's License
By PRECEPT - direct command or statement
By EXAMPLE - approved by apostles
By NECESSARY IMPLICATION - that necessarily implied by clear import and meaning of the language
The Apostles illustrate **Acts 15:6-21**
James - statement regarding inclusion of Gentiles - **Acts 15:15-18**
Peter - example of God's acceptance of Cornelius - **Acts 15:7-10**
Paul and Barnabas - necessary implication God pleased with teaching given to Gentiles - **Acts 15:12**
Illustrate by the Lord's Supper
Precept or command - act commanded - **1Corinthians 11:24-25; Matthew 28:20**
Approved Example - time (day) the act to be performed - **Acts 20:7; Matthew 28:20; John 14:26; 16:13**
Necessary inference - HOW OFTEN
First day of week - **Acts 20:7; Implies EVERY - Exodus 20:8**
Remember Sabbath, if one means every, both mean every, this is necessarily implied

Generic And Specific Authority

All authority is either one or the other
Generic authority illustrated (God did not specify)
Go: How - walk, ride, sail? - **Matthew 28:19**
Teaching: How - private, public, radio, TV, classroom? - **Matthew 28:20**
Assemble: Where - home, rented building, buy or build? - **Hebrews 10:25**

Specific authority illustrated

Gopher wood excludes all other kinds - **Genesis 6:14**
Ashes of a RED heifer - kind and color - **Numbers 19:2,9**
Sing - excludes all other kinds of music - **Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**
Only two kinds vocal, instrumental - Melody in heart; Pluck heart strings
Lord's Supper Elements - unleavened bread, fruit of vine excludes any other - **1Corinthians 11:23-25**
Elders' jurisdiction - "Flock among you" excludes all other - **1Peter 5:2**

Note the distinction between AIDS (expediency) and additions

Song book helps singing - Piano adds to singing

Baptistery helps to baptize - Sprinkling substitutes for baptism

God's Message

Knowing the message is from God should impress upon us a desire to understand

Understanding comes from study and investigation

This understanding guides our authority to taking action

We must abide by and practice what is authorized or else worship is vain - **Mark 7:7; Matthew 15:9**

Daniel Lee Henderson