

Home Bible Study

by

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Home Bible Study

We are happy to have you study with us for the next few weeks. These *Home Bible Study* lessons are simple and Scriptural. They do not contain the wisdom of men, but the wisdom of God. They have been prepared, with great care and concern, for the salvation of the souls of men.

Please take your Bible, look up the Scriptures listed, fill in the blanks, and answer any questions. These lessons are based on the King James Version of the Bible. Remember that the Bible is the word of God and that we can only be saved by studying it, believing it, and doing what it teaches us to do.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).

If you have any questions or comments to make, write them in the appropriate place so you can remember to mention them at the right time. Write your name on your material as you will want to keep it to use for further study later.

Name

Date and Place of Study

Material Prepared By:
Johnie Edwards

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A Suggestion As To The Use Of This Material:

1. It is recommended that a time be set for teaching the Home Bible Study either in your home or the home of your student(s).
2. It is good to cover only one lesson per week and that you stay with the material.
3. The study is designed for class participation.
4. Suggest an area like the dining room table for this study.
5. A novice in the word may have difficulty locating Bible passages. We suggest that you provide each student with a Bible (perhaps a pew Bible) and give them the page numbers as you call out the Bible verses.
6. Seasoned Christians would do well to study this material, in preparing to teach others (2 Tim. 2:2).

Authority in Religion

Introduction

1. Most of the religious division is caused by a lack of respect for the word of God and the authority of Christ.
2. The purpose of this lesson is to pinpoint the true standard of authority today.

Discussion

I. Christ Has All Authority

- A. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All _____ is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Mt. 28:18).
- B. God speaks to us today through Christ. “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his _____, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Heb. 1:1-2).
- C. Christ’s authority is revealed to us in the New Testament. “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I _____ unto you are the _____ of the Lord” (1 Cor. 14:37).
- D. The Bible is God’s final and complete revelation to man (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jude 3).

II. Strictness In God’s Law

- A. God means what He says and says what He means! “Ye shall _____ add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye _____ ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you” (Dt. 4:2).
- B. John said, “Whosoever transgresseth, and _____ not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son” (2 Jn. 9).
- C. Examples of God’s strictness:
 1. Adam and Eve ate of the fruit and were driven from the garden of Eden (Gen. 2:16-17; chapter 3).
 2. Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire which they had no authority to do and were killed (Lev. 10:1-2).
 3. Moses struck the rock and was not allowed to enter the promised land (Num. 20:7-12).
 4. Uzzah touched the ark of the covenant, that was not to be touched, and died (2 Sam. 6:6-7).

III. God’s Will Can Be Understood

- A. Many think that the Bible cannot be understood. But we are commanded to understand

- it. “Whereby, when ye read, ye may _____ my knowledge in the mystery of Christ” (Eph. 3:4). “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but _____ what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:17).
- B. Do you think that God would give us a book to read, believe, and obey and then make it too hard to understand? _____
- C. This does not mean that the Bible reads as a first grade reader. It simply means that with study you can understand what God expects of you without some special anointing of God.

IV. **False Standards Of Authority**

- A. Let’s take a look at some false standards of authority that many appeal to in religion.
1. **Conscience.**
 - a. In religious matters, many people just let their conscience be their guide. Conscience is that which tells us whether we are doing right or wrong, based upon what we have been taught.
 - b. Personal experiences and feelings can lead one astray, yet many are guided by them. Solomon said, “There is a _____ which _____ right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of _____” (Prov. 14:12).
 - c. The apostle Paul was guided by his conscience (Acts 23:1), but he did many things which were religiously wrong. “I verily thought with _____, that I ought to do many things _____ to the name of Jesus of Nazareth” (Acts 26:9).
 2. **The wisdom of men.**
 - a. Men can be wrong! Our faith must not be in our own thinking, nor in the wisdom of others. “That your _____ should not stand in the wisdom of _____, but in the power of God” (1 Cor. 2:5).
 - b. God’s ways and man’s ways are different. “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by _____ knew _____ God...” (1 Cor. 1:21). “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is _____ in man that walketh to _____ his steps” (Jer. 10:23).
 - c. This will eliminate all man-made creed books that about every denomination has. God’s only creed is the Bible!
 3. **The majority.**
 - a. The majority of people can be wrong.
 - b. Just because the majority may do a thing does not make it right. There were only 8 persons saved in the ark (1 Pet. 3:20).
 - c. “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and _____ there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and _____ there be that find it” (Mt. 7:13-14).
 - d. The Lord’s people have always been the few (Dt. 7:7).
 4. **Parents.**

- a. Many want to follow tradition handed down by their parents. Belonging to a church simply because one's parents did is going by a false standard.
 - b. "He that loveth _____ or _____ more than me is not worthy of me..." (Mt. 10:37).
 - c. Christianity is an individual thing. You must examine the Bible for yourself and do what it teaches.
 - d. Paul was involved in religious error because he followed tradition. "...I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it...being more exceedingly zealous of the _____ of my fathers" (Gal. 1:13-14).
5. **The law of Moses.**
- a. Many fail to realize that the law of Moses is not our standard of authority in religion today. It served its purpose and has been done away.
 - b. The law was added because of transgressions, _____ the seed should come (Gal. 3:19). Who is identified as the seed? _____ (Gal. 3:16).
 - c. "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and _____ it _____ of the way..." (Col. 2:14).
 - d. See also Galatians 3:23-25; Ephesians 2:15; Hebrews 8:7-9.
 - e. This is the reason we do not keep the Sabbath, burn incense, offer animal sacrifices, and do other things they did under the law of Moses.
 - f. It was the death of Christ that took the law of Moses away and put into force the New Testament (Heb. 9:16-17).
 - g. The Old Testament is still beneficial for us today. We learn how God deals with people and receive many moral lessons from it (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11). It is inspired of God and we believe what it says. We just do not live under the same specific laws they did.
- B. False standards of authority keep people from understanding the Lord's will for us today.

Conclusion

- 1. The standard of authority for today is Christ's will or the New Testament.
- 2. In the judgment to come, we will be judged by the gospel of Christ (Jn. 12:48; Rom. 2:16).