

Argo, 3/21

Authority

READING: Psalm 25:1-15

INTRO

“He Leadeth Me”

Does God care what we do?

Yeah; we’d agree on that.

Does He care how we live our lives?

Sure; we’d agree.

I’m not talking about grace, or faith, or works.

Not trick questions.

Examples

- Does God want me to help the needy? Yes.
- Does God want me to teach others about Him? Of course.
- Does God want me to worship Him? Absolutely.
- To be with other Christians?
- To “go to church?”
- To pray?
- Yes to all these

How does He want us to do these things?

I.e. what if someone had never heard of prayer, and hears me say, “God wants you to pray.”

Are they going to know HOW?

Does it matter *how*?

Does God care *how*?

I was once discussing music in worship with a Baptist friend. I asked him what he thought the significance was of the instructions to “speak,” i.e. “sing,” as opposed to using a mechanical instrument, and he said, “What, you think God is anti-piano?”

That’s not a bad question. It’s a worthy question.

If God wants me to worship Him--especially if I can play a piano--I’d like to know whether He’s anti-piano or not.

Think: if you were having someone to your house for dinner who was very important, and you respected a great deal, would you like to have some clue as to what they did or didn’t like to eat??

Even if they said, “You can fix whatever; I’m not picky!” How would you feel if you made Asian Chicken with Peanuts, and you found out after the fact that your guest was slightly allergic to peanuts?

And, even if you contacted them a few days later to say how sorry you were, and they say, “Don’t worry! I only had a mildly upset stomach the next day. It was nothing!”

No person thinking normally would be ok with that.

If that’s how we feel with people, do I really even need to ask, “Does it matter *how* we do things for the Lord?”

If we want to do God’s will, we’d better be asking lots of questions...

- When to assemble?
- How to worship?
- What does “Christ living in me” look like?
- How to pray?

- How do we use our money?
- “If you love me, keep my commandments.”
- What commandments is He talking about?
- Can we *read into* His commandments?
- How far do we take His commandments?

It comes down to *Authority*.

- What authority has God given us for the things we do in life?
- How much authority are we given?
- How much do we need?
- Where does it come from?
- Do we have the authority to do anything our hearts desire?
- Must we live within some bounds of authority?

MESSAGE

- I. Important? Does it matter?
 - A. Don't have to go far...
 - B. 1189 chapters in the Bible
 - C. Ch. 3 = Fall of Man
 1. Lesson on authority?
 2. Did God give Adam & Eve authority?
 3. Did He restrict them? That's called “not having authority.”
 4. That goes for us.
 - D. CLICK THROUGH OTHER EXAMPLES
 1. Genesis 4 – Cane & Abel
 2. Genesis 6 – Noah & the Ark
 3. Genesis 11 – Tower of Babel
 4. Exodus 12 – Passover
 5. Exodus 26 – The Tabernacle
 6. Exodus 37 – The Ark of the Covenant
 7. Numbers 20 – Moses Strikes the Rock
 8. Joshua 6 – Jericho
 9. 2 Samuel 6 – Uzzah & the Ark
 10. 1 Chronicles 21 – David's Census
 - E. All this happened so God's people would understand just *how* important authority is to God. He taught the Israelites with; and He teaches us today with it.
- II. Source of Authority
 - A. Jesus/God (DO S.”)
 1. Mat 28:18 ESV - [18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
 2. Jhn 12:49-50 ESV - [49] For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment--what to say and what to speak. [50] And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."
 - B. Bible (DON NS.”)
 1. Jesus is the Word
 2. Jhn 1:1-2 ESV - [1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God.
 3. 2Ti 3:16 ESV - [16] All Scripture is breathed out by God

4. Heb 4:12-13 ESV - [12] For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. [13] And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
5. Is the Bible enough?
 - a) 2 Pet. 1:3, "His divine power has given us **everything** required for life and godliness" (HCSB)
 - b) (back to) 2Ti 3:16-17 ESV - [16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be **complete**, equipped for **every** good work.
 - (1) "Breathed out by God"
 - (2) You afraid He left something out?

C. No other

1. 'But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel other than what we have preached to you, a curse be on him!' Galatians 1:8)
 - a) Angels unacceptable
 - b) "Even we" unacceptable
2. Mat 21:25 ESV - [25] The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?"
 - a) Only two options
 - b) Man unacceptable
3. Can't go beyond; must "remain in" it ('Anyone who does not remain in Christ's teaching but goes beyond it, does not have God. The one who remains in that teaching, this one has both the Father and the Son. ' 2 John 1:9)

III. Establishing Authority

A. Basic Communication--really simple

1. We're told.
2. We're shown.
3. We logically conclude.
4. That's "CENI."
5. although these are absolutely essential, and we have to realize each one, and how to apply, my problem with simply leaving it there...

B. Loopholes

1. I say, "clean up while I'm gone."
 - a) Get back, and one corner of one room is clean.
 - b) "You said, 'clean up,' & I cleaned that corner up."
2. I have come into your room and shown you how I expect a room to be cleaned--picking up the smallest things (pieces of trash & little beads).
 - a) I come in and see M&M's scattered on the floor.
 - b) "Why are there M&M's on the floor? I've shown you how I want little things picked up."
 - c) "You've never shown me you wanted M&M's picked up--just little pieces of trash and beads."

3. I say, "This house has to be clean top-to-bottom before company arrives at 7pm."
 - a) All day I see you reading.
 - b) Company arrives and your room isn't clean.
 - c) "You didn't tell me I had to clean my room."
4. Ananias & Sapphira, Acts 5, tried using a loophole; unsuccessful

IV. The Only Way to Truly Figure it Out

A. The Keys:

1. You must truly want to please God.
 - a) You have to want that ahead of following ANY kind of rules.
 - b) ...Before you even *think* about the commandments
2. Get rid of your preconceptions and selfish desires. (Ignore your own feeble human "wisdom.")

B. Those loophole examples? Didn't want to.

C. Naaman didn't want to.

1. Reminds me of people today.
2. He wanted to be cured; People today want a "relationship with Jesus."
3. Elisha told him how to be cured; The Bible tells anyone who listens how to be right with God.
4. Naaman didn't get the answer he expected, because his expectations were misplaced--they were based on his own ideas of how things should be. (2Ki 5:11 ESV - [11] But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.")
5. The Bible does not always tell us what we want to hear; God's ways are higher than ours, and has nothing to do with our ideas of how things should be.

D. I agree with Mark McCrary, Louisville, KY.

1. "We must approach God carefully...We ought to be looking for a way to please Him...That's what bible authority is all about."
2. He illustrates... fire raging all around...someone says, "I found a way out." Do we say, "I don't really like that way..." No, we'd say, "Lead the way. Tell me where to go, and what to do." "That needs to be the mindset of the one who desperately wants to please God; not "what *could* He be pleased with? Is there another way I can do this?" But, "Is this what He has said? That's what I'll do."

CONC.

I can THINK whatever I want. I can THINK that God's mercy will surely cover me, with all my shortcomings. I can THINK that "walking in the light" means that I...fill in the blank; and that definition may be different than your definition; and different than God's definition. I can THINK anything I like--anything I want; God gave me that ability, that choice, that right.

I can THINK it...but it doesn't matter what I--or you--THINK. What I THINK has NO bearing on God's will. God's will is eternal; His will does not change. What I THINK carries NO AUTHORITY.