

Authority IV

How Authority is Expressed

I. God's Right to Rule:

- A. Jer. 18:5-6 – God's rights as a potter
- B. Rom. 9:19-21 – Shall the thing formed...
- C. Heb. 12:7-9 – Father of spirits
- D. Acts 17:29-31 – Offspring of God
- E. 2 Cor. 5:10 – We must all be made manifest...

II. Divine Authority Expressed:

- A. Father: Exod. 19:5 - Supreme
- B. Son:
 - 1. Heb. 1:1-3 – Spoken unto us...
 - 2. Eph. 1:20-23 – Given all authority
- C. Holy Spirit: Jn. 16:13-15 – Take... declare
- D. Apostles:
 - 1. Jn. 13:1-2; Lk. 22:13, 14 – Background
 - 2. Jn. 14:26; 15:16, 27 – “you”
 - 3. Apostles are ambassadors
 - a. Jn. 13:20 – Whomsoever I sent
 - b. Jn. 17:6-10, 14, 18, 20 – through
 - c. 2 Cor. 5:18—6:1 – Ambassadors
 - d. 1 Thess. 2:13 – The word of God

E. Scriptures:

- 1. Jn. 20:30-31 – Written
- 2. Eph. 3:1-5 – Perceive
- 3. 1 Jn. 1:1-4 – Write
- 4. 1 Cor. 14:37 – Commandment of...
- 5. 2 Pet. 3:16 – Warning
- 6. Scriptures are call:
 - a. Heb. 4:12- “word of God”
 - b. Col. 3:16 – “word of Christ”
 - c. Eph. 6:17 – “sword of the Spirit”
 - d. Acts 2:42 – “apostles’ doctrine”
 - e. 2 Tim. 2:15 – “word of truth”



Feng Shui

New arrivals to an early morning coffee shop group: They invite you to “join them” and you do. However, you soon figure out it is a lot like going to church, i.e., “you are welcome to sit any-where you like.” It is not long after until you realize the seat you occupy has an invisible name plate attached. Some folks take it with a grain of salt, with a “well, it is just this once. I will arrive earlier next time and reestablish my place in the greater scheme of things.” To others it is a disruption in their Feng Shui (Chinese: 風水), i.e., traditional practice originating from ancient China, which claims to use energy forces to harmonize individuals with their surrounding environment). Taking the practice to a greater height, each participant begins to arrive earlier and earlier, until both parties are standing at the door anxiously awaiting the turning of the lock signaling the opening of the establishment. Who gets to go in first? Well, the one who arrived first, and so pops the weasel. So, what about the “grain of salt”? When an individual

first arrives at an established gathering, it is like a grain of salt, i.e., one grain of salt will go undetected. However, if you add a grain of salt everyday it is just a matter of time until the original healthy meal is over-seasoned, and your blood pressure is high. Once you come to the realization of what has happened, great strength of self-control is essential to return to the original “lack of seasoning.” kind of like sin, one granule at a time. When the affects of sin are considered, it is well established that beginning something is a whole lot easier than stopping. The body can assimilate whatever is required. I heard tell, “If you eat something ten times you will develop a liking.”

Maybe you have experienced this in your life: peer pressure may have motivated you to inhale a good bit of smoke into your lungs. The first few times the throat and lungs rebel, then over an extended period of time, the body develops a need. Then the day comes when you are ready to “quit.” Well, the mind may say quit, but the body says, “Not so fast!” and so goes the story. People, and we are all people, when left to the natural man, have battled with the “just this once” scenario: “I can quit anytime I’m ready.” The problem is that folks are not ready until the habit has been well seated, so to speak. It will take self-control. Self-control requires priorities, i.e., love this more than that: “Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good” (Rom. 12:9). Thus, “Great peace have they that love thy law; And they have no occasion of stumbling” (Psa. 119:165). What does this have to do with the coffee shop, the Feng Shui, or finding a new place to sit when assembling with the brethren? Probably nothing: just cut back on the salt and choose your habits well.

Causes of Apostasy

In the last issue, the there was a focus on the “Cycle of Apostasy:” In like manner, Christ (Matt. 24:9-10), Peter (2 Pet. 3:17), John (1 Jn. 2:18-19), Paul (2 Thess. 2:3-5, 1 Tim. 4:1-3), Jude (1:6), and the Hebrew prophet (Heb. 6:4-8) warned about the impending cycles of apostasy: “a falling away, a withdrawal, a defection” (ISBE). The question that needs to be addressed: what were/are the causes of apostasy? Here are just a few:

- 1) False teachers: Matt. 24:11; 2 Pet. 2:1-3
- 2) Temptation: Lk. 8:13
- 3) Lack of Diligence: Heb. 6:11-12
- 4) Evil heart of Unbelief: Heb. 3:12-14
- 5) Unwise companionship: 1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:14-18
- 6) Forsaking assembled exhortation: Heb. 10:25
- 7) Worldly living: Matt. 13:22

Understand the Cycle of Apostasy: From...

- 1) Bondage to spiritual faith: 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Rom. 6:5-6
- 2) Spiritual faith to great courage: Heb. 10:32-39
- 3) Courage to liberty: Rom. 6:15-18
- 4) Liberty to abundance: Rev. 3:14-17
- 5) Abundance to arrogance: 1 Tim. 6:3-10
- 6) Arrogance to wickedness: 1 Pet. 2:16
- 7) Wickedness to bondage: 2 Pet. 2:17-22 ret

Authority IV

S	U	O	E	T	H	G	I	R	Y	B	E
W	P	I	H	S	W	O	L	L	E	F	L
O	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	L	R	T	P
R	I	A	H	T	J	N	I	A	I	R	I
D	G	P	U	K	E	N	P	N	G	E	C
Q	N	P	O	T	R	E	J	E	H	T	S
E	I	O	T	A	H	U	S	V	T	H	I
R	N	I	W	K	D	O	C	I	R	I	D
O	R	N	M	G	O	N	R	G	M	S	O
W	A	T	M	H	J	I	P	I	Y	D	C
S	W	E	C	E	P	O	A	R	T	A	T
H	N	D	V	S	K	U	O	G	H	Y	R
T	E	R	Y	U	M	L	U	C	U	J	I
R	E	L	I	P	G	I	A	R	N	I	N
S	O	N	U	R	D	E	C	R	U	L	E
H	N	T	R	E	T	K	O	K	U	O	C
T	E	I	F	M	P	D	M	J	E	M	N
U	V	U	S	E	S	T	F	A	T	H	E
R	A	R	J	S	S	P	O	K	E	N	I
T	E	F	A	T	H	E	R	W	O	R	D
L	H	B	H	T	U	R	T	M	E	H	E
L	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	H	E	M	B
A	E	V	I	E	C	E	R	M	Q	N	O

SUPREME	FATHER	SPOKEN
GIVEN ALL	AUTHORITY	AMBASSADOR
GUIDE	ALL TRUTH	HOLY SPIRIT
SON	JUDGMENT	RIGHTEOUS
GLORY	TRUTH	TEACH
COMFORTER	APPOINTED	FRUIT
COMMAND	MESSAGE	RECEIVE
DISCIPLE	WRITTEN	WARNING
WORD	SWORD	DOCTRINE
RIGHT	RULE	HEAVEN
MEN	CHOOSE	THIS DAY
SERVE	OBEDIENCE	FELLOWSHIP

Authority IV

With Him is

Plenteous Redemption

Psalms 130:7

Web www.jonescoc.org Phone 405.916.4723		Church of Christ meeting at 12812 E Britton, Rd P. O. Box 596 Jones, OK 73049		ASSEMBLIES SUNDAY: Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Assembly: 10:30 a.m. Assembly: 5:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY: Bible Study: 6:00 p.m.			
Volume I		2025		03.09		0004	

Weekly Reading

Proverbs 4:1-27 — Psalms 119:9-16

John 8:12-20 — 1 Cor. 10:1-13

John 6:1-15; John 6:16-40

Jude 1-25