

The Authority of the Scriptures: Lesson 6
The Authority Of Christ, the Law and the Apostles

I. Leading Questions

- A. Are the laws of diet and of Jewish festival observance as binding upon the believer today as are the Ten Commandments?
- B. Are the Ten Commandments as authoritative today as is the Sermon on the Mount?
- C. Do Paul's (and other apostles') writings carry as much authority as do the teachings of Jesus?
- D. To whose authority must the Christian answer most directly?
 - 1. All authority is given to Christ by His Father (Matt.28:18/Eph.1:22/Phil.2:9-11)
 - 2. All other rightful authority is derived from (delegated by) Him (Mk 13:34/Luke 10:19/19:17)
 - 3. Like any other authority, every writer of Scripture, in order to be binding upon the believer, must receive its authorization or endorsement from Christ (Matt.7:22-23/2 Cor.10:5).

II. The Old Testament

- A. Jesus acknowledged its inspiration (Matt.19:4f/22:31/Mark 7:10-13/12:36)
- B. Declared His mission to be the bringing of the Law and the Prophets to fulfillment (Matt.5:17-18)
 - 1. He fulfilled in His person the things predicted or foreshadowed in the Law and the Prophets (Luke 4:21/24:44/Col.2:16-17)
 - 2. He brought the "fulness" or the inward part of the moral law to light through His teaching (e.g, Matt.5:21-48/7:12)
 - 3. He inaugurated the eternal, spiritual realities that were anticipated by the ceremonial laws (Phil.3:3/1 Pet.2:5/Heb.4:9-10)
- C. His authority preempts that of the Old Testament, lending authority only to those parts of it that He specifically reintroduces and endorses for His disciples (Rom.7:1-4/Gal.3:24-25/1 Cor.9:19-21/ The meaning of the Transfiguration: Mark 9:7).

III. The writings of the Apostles (especially Paul)

- A. The apostolic office (John 20:21-23/13:20)
- B. Paul's claim to be an apostle (e.g. Rom.1:1/Gal.1:1/Acts 26:16 [13:2ff])
- C. Why should this claim be taken seriously?
 - 1. Acknowledged by the other apostles (Gal.2:9/ 2 Pet.3:15-16)
 - 2. Signs of an apostle (2 Cor.12:12)
 - 3. Christian Character (Acts 20:33-36/2 Cor.6:4-10)
 - 4. Endurance of suffering (Acts 15:25-26/2 Cor.11:23-29)