

## THE CHALLENGE TO JESUS' AUTHORITY

During Jesus' earthly ministry the Jews were constantly challenging His authority. The Jews **claimed** to believe the Old Testament Scriptures, and yet they rejected and refused to follow the very One (Messiah) for whom they looked. There was no reason for Jewish believers to not recognize the Son of God. Jesus observed, "*These are my words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must needs be fulfilled, which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me*" (Luke 24:44). Sufficient information regarding the Christ had been revealed in the Law of Moses, the psalms, and by the prophets. It did no good to claim to honor Moses and then refuse to believe what Moses said about the Christ.

The Jews ask Jesus, "*By what authority doest thou these things? or who gave thee this authority to do these things*" (Mark 11:28)? Jesus knew that these Jewish rulers would not believe His claim of Deity or being the Messiah. A debate or further dialogue would be useless. If Christ claims His authority comes from heaven the Jews will accuse Him of blasphemy. If the Lord claims Rome as His source of authority, the Jews will have turned Him over to the Roman authorities. Such being the case, Jesus says to these rulers, "*I will ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or from men? answer me*" (Mark 11:29-30). This question caught the Jewish rulers by surprise and caused them quite a dilemma. Thus, "*they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; He will say, Why then did ye not believe him? But should we say, From men – they feared the people: for all verily held John to be a prophet*" (Mark 11:31-32).

Think about this question as you ponder the Jewish ruler's dilemma. "Tell me, have you stopped beating your wife?" A "yes" or "no" answer to this question simply points to one's guilt. If the Jews said John's baptism was from Heaven, then why had they not obeyed God? If they said John's baptism was of men, they feared the people (even being stoned to death, Luke 20:6). Thus, these Jewish leaders who took great pride in their knowledge answered, "*We know not*" (Mark 11:33). What an answer! They presume to sit in judgment on Jesus, and yet cannot reach a simple conclusion regarding John the Baptizer and his baptism. Failure to accept the undeniable truth of God's Word does not change the facts.

The authority of Christ is challenged today just as it was by the Jews of Jesus' day. The Scriptures make it clear that Christ has **all** authority "*in heaven and on earth*" (Matt. 28:18). Although Christ has ascended back to the Father (Col. 3:1), His Word remains as our guide (Col. 3:16). The Lord reminds all today of the power of His word in saying, "*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day*" (John 12:48). No one has the right to add to or take from the Word of God (Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19).

Neither must the gospel be ignored (2 Thess. 1:8-9) or perverted (Gal. 1:6-9). Let us now observe how many today who claim to believe in Christ and His Word challenge His authority. People say:

1. I believe in Christ, but I don't believe I have to attend church services to be saved. Answer: One does not believe the Lord who **willfully forsakes** assembling with the saints (Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 11:18-20).

2. I believe in the one Christ, but I do not believe in just one body. Answer: Christ, as head of the church, has **only** one body (Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:4).
3. I believe the blood of Christ saves me, and it does not matter which denominational church I attend. Answer: Christ promised to build **only** His church (Matt. 16:18), and to save **only** His church (Eph. 5:23) [the one blood bought body, Acts 20:28].
4. I believe in Christ, but I feel that I can worship as I please. Answer: One **must** worship "*in spirit and truth*" (John 4:24) if such worship is acceptable to God. God's Word is true (John 17:17) and not necessarily what man thinks.
5. I believe in Christ, but I do not believe baptism is necessary for salvation. Answer: The Lord said, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned*" (Mark 16:16).
6. I believe in Christ, but I believe that women can serve as elders or leaders in the Lord's church. Answer: Only men (1 Tim. 3:1) who are "*the husband of one wife*" (1 Tim. 3:2) can serve as elders. Women are not to teach men or assume a leadership position in the church (1 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 14:34).

To **profess** to believe in Christ and then reject and ignore His authority never honors the Lord!

**Marvin L. Weir from Bonham St. Beacon**

## BIRTHDAYS

Judith Anderson, 04-29; Leah D. Thrasher, 04-30.

## ILL

**Sunday:** Taylor Nemechek (PM); Millie Robertson (PM); Debbie Schleif (PM).

**Wednesday:** Millie Robertson.

**Those battling cancer:** Ledgia Campbell, David Cole, Shauna Heck, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

## HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## OUT OF TOWN

Chelsea Nelson visited relatives in Newton, KS last Sunday. Erin Stillwell visited friends in Oak Grove, MO last Sunday. Ted Thrasher was in Dyersburg, TN for the Phillips Street Lectures.

## GOSPEL MEETING

Our Spring Gospel Meeting with Bill Goring of the Chipman Road congregation in Lee's Summit starts today and continues through Thursday night. Make every effort to be here and invite others to come with you!

## MEETING DINNER

Our Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, April 25 to coincide with our Gospel Meeting. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the great food and company!

## WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON

The ladies will provide a luncheon following the Wednesday AM lesson at 10 AM by brother Goring. All are invited to come and enjoy the lesson and hospitality!

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 46; Sunday PM, 28; Wednesday PM, 34.

## Those To Serve

April 25, 2010

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek**

### MORNING WORSHIP

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Stanley Anderson**  
**SONG LEADER..... George Thomas**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jared Nelson**  
**PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**ASSIST..... John Cody Carter**  
**ASSIST..... Steven Schleif**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Trent Thrasher**

### EVENING WORSHIP

**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Dodson**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Chris Edwards**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek**

### WEDNESDAY 28th

**SONG LEADER..... George Thomas**  
**INVITATION ..... Gospel Meeting**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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