

## BIBLIOLOGY (9)

### **False Authority Base #5 - Instructorism**

This is the false source authority base that makes one's Priest, Teacher, Instructor or Pastor the absolute authority. Those caught up in this type of authority source will blindly follow the instruction and the instructor even when it is not Biblical.

There is no doubt that a Pastor or Teacher can be used greatly by God to influence people. There is no doubt that God wants such men "highly esteemed" (I Thess. 5:12-13). The Apostle Paul expected that the churches of Galatia would be loyal to him and defend him and his teaching (Gal. 6:17). However, God's people must realize that the Instructor who is to be viewed this way is one who is giving careful attention to the study of and the rightly dividing of the written word (II Tim. 2:15). The Teacher **is not** the final authority; God's word is the final authority. Therefore, if the instruction does not line up with the "whole counsel of God" it is the Word that is to be followed and not the instructor. The authority for a true teacher is the Truth of the written word. Certainly when one is devoted to carefully handling of God's written word, that Teacher may be trusted and followed. However it is **always** the word that is the real authority and the Teacher has authority only so long as he lines up with the word.

We are warned as we near the end of the Church age that many false teachers and teachings will abound (I Tim. 4:1-3; II Tim. 3:1,6-7; I John 4:1-3). Instruction and Instructors are only authoritative to the extent that they are accurately expounding the Bible. It is **not** the Instructor who is the actual authority; it is the Bible that is the actual authority. Any Teacher, any Instructor, and any Pastor is still finite and sinful. The real authority that God honors is His word. When a gifted Pastor/Teacher is carefully and prayerfully studying God's word so that he may be precise in what is written, he will be authoritative.

The weight of accurately handling the Scriptures falls to the Teacher and that is exactly why James said, "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment." (James 3:1)

### **False Authority Base #6 - Commentatorism**

This is the false source that makes a particular writing or commentary one's authority rather than the Bible. We certainly need to recognize the importance of reading and studying and learning from men who especially have written wonderful books that help us understand God's word. However, we must **always** realize that the value is found as the writing **accurately** communicates God's word. The value of a book or commentary, that is religious, lies in its ability to give a true understanding of a text and in its presentation of sound doctrine. Any book or commentary that goes beyond this objective is very dangerous and in fact is forbidden (i.e. Rev. 22:18-19). This Teacher considers it a privileged blessing of God to be able to pick up books and study from men such as Martin Luther, Charles Spurgeon, Lewis Sperry Chafer, H.A. Ironside or Dr. McGee. However we must always remember it is **not** their writings which are our final authority, it is God's writing that is our final authority.

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Even the very best commentaries ever written have been written by sinful, finite men. It is **not** the commentary that is inspired, it is God's written Word that is inspired.

Any writing or commentary is valuable and important **only** as it gives a true and accurate understanding of God's Word and God's doctrines. To blindly follow the teachings of any human, when it can be clearly demonstrated from the Bible that those teachings are in error, is to actually bring a sentence to one's own self of ignorance and judgment.

The authority for our faith, for our doctrine and for our practice **must always** be the Bible. However, as Dr. Ryrie observed: "Sometimes in practice, though not in theory, conservatives can and do deny that the Bible is their sole basis of authority.

(1) In practice, some traditions or denominations give their creeds coordinate authority with the Bible." ...

(2) In practice, some groups give tradition and accepted practice coordinate authority with the Bible." ...

(3) In practice, some conservatives make religious experience authoritative."

(Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, p.22)

The believers authority must **always** be the Bible. God will see to it that the more we are making His word our authority, the more authoritative He will allow us to be. We are not the authority, God's word is the authority so our authority lies in our ability to rightly understand God's word.

**QUESTION #7** - What does the Bible claim about itself?

This particular area of study is called the internal evidence. Internal evidence explains what is stated inside the Bible, without any confirmation from any outside source.

When it comes to a book that has been put into writing, any book has a right to make any claim about itself, its purposes and objectives. Freedom of speech permits a book to make such claims. It is only logical that when we examine the contents of any book, we should seek to discover the true meaning or purpose from its own statements. When examining the internal claims of the Bible, one is **immediately and instantly** confronted with the reality that it both implies and directly states that it is the Word of God! This claim is made time and time again throughout the 39 books which comprise the O.T., and the 27 books which comprise the N.T.. All sixty-six books, both the O.T. and the N.T., contain inferences and direct statements that the Bible is the Word of God, and some of these statements are absolutely remarkable.

The purpose of this part of Bibliology is to examine many of the internal statements the Bible makes concerning itself. Whether or not one believes the Bible to be the Word of God is a matter of faith. However, the claim that the Bible is the Word of God is a matter of fact. One may choose to deny that the Bible is the Word of God, but one may not

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choose to deny that the Bible claims it is the Word of God, for this point is internally emphasized and stated time and time again.

In exploring the internal evidence of the Bible, as concerning the claims that the Bible makes about itself, we may examine this under two categories of internal evidence:

**Category #1** - Internal general inferences that the Bible is the unique Word of God.

It is impossible for one to examine the Bible without immediately seeing that it infers it is God's word:

- Genesis** 1:3 - "Then God said..."  
1:6 - "Then God said..."  
1:9 - "Then God said..."  
1:14 - "Then God said..."  
12:1 - "Now the LORD said to Abram"  
26:2 - "And the LORD appeared to him and said..."  
46:2 - "And God spoke to Israel...And he said..."
- Exodus** 20:1 - "Then God spoke all these words, saying"  
32:16 - "And the tablets were God's work, and the writing was God's writing engraved on the tablets."  
35:1 - "Then Moses assembled all the congregation of the sons of Israel, and said to them, "These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do."
- Leviticus** 1:1 - "Then the LORD called to Moses and spoke to him"
- Numbers** 36:13 - "These are the commandments and the ordinances which the LORD commanded to the sons of Israel through Moses..."
- Deuteronomy** 4:2 - "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."
- Joshua** 24:26 - "And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God..."
- I Samuel** 3:11 - "And the LORD said to Samuel..."
- Isaiah** 1:2 - "Listen, O heavens and hear, O earth for the LORD speaks..."
- Ezekiel** 1:3 - "The word of the LORD came expressly to Ezekiel the priest..."

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<b>Hosea</b>	1:1 - "The word of the LORD which came to Hosea..."
<b>Joel</b>	1:1 - "The word of the LORD that came to Joel..."
<b>Amos</b>	1:3 - "Thus says the LORD..."
<b>Obadiah</b>	1:1 - "Thus says the LORD God..."
<b>Jonah</b>	1:1 - "The word of the LORD came to Jonah..."
<b>Micah</b>	1:1 - "The word of the LORD which came to Micah..."
<b>Zephaniah</b>	1:1 - "The word of the LORD which came to Zephaniah..."
<b>Haggai</b>	1:1 - "...the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai..."
<b>Zechariah</b>	1:1 - "...the word of the LORD came to Zechariah the prophet."

These are just a few of the O.T. references that clearly imply that what is written is in fact the Word of God. As we look into the N.T., we again see the claims are identical:

**I Corinthians** 2:7 - "but we speak God's wisdom..."  
14:37- "...let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandments."

### **II Corinthians**

12:1 - "...but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord."

**Galatians** 1:12 - "For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through revelation of Jesus Christ."

**Ephesians** 3:3 - "that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief."

**Philippians** 1:2 - "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

### **I Thessalonians**

4:15 - "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord..."

**Revelation** 1:1- "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His bond servants..."

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One cannot honestly examine these claims without recognizing that the Bible internally infers, time and time again, that it is the **Word of God**.

**Category #2** - Internal specific statements that the Bible is the unique Word of God.

There are some very remarkable claims that the Bible makes concerning itself, which are very specific in nature and deserve very careful consideration:

(Remarkable Claim #1) - II Timothy 3:16

Notice the remarkable statements made in this one verse:

1. "**All**" Scripture- This practically means every book, chapter, paragraph, sentence and word. Notice very carefully what is inspired is the scripture, not the men.
2. is "**inspired**"- The literal meaning of the word "inspiration" (theo-pneustos) is God-breathed. The claim is that "all" Scripture has the very life and breath of God. The Scriptures have the same perfections as God.
3. inspired by "**God**"-the Bible clearly claims that God is the author and originator of the inspired writing.
4. and "**profitable**"- The claim is that ALL Scripture is profitable for man, it contains the very life and breath of God and was given for man's benefit.

These are remarkable claims for a writing to make and when one thinks carefully about such claims, they must be either true or they are insane.

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(Remarkable Claim #2) - II Peter 1:21

As we look into this verse, there are some unique claims concerning the "prophetic word" (1:19) of God:

- 1) The Bible **was not** written because any man **willed** it. The Bible is not the product of men. This is a very unusual claim indeed because in any other book that man writes, the author writes the book because he, of his own volition, decided to write a book. The claim here is that the Bible is not like that. It is not a writing brought about by human will.
- 2) The Bible **was** written by men. God did use men to write His word.
- 3) The men were "**moved**" to write this prophetic revelation. The verb "move" means that God moved these men and carried them or brought them along so that what was written was actually His inspired word. God moved men to write His word. He carried them along so that what was actually written could be classified as the Word of God. This same verb is used in Acts 27:17- "driven along".

Dr. Charles Ryrie says of Acts 27:17- "This verse tells us as much as any single verse how God used the human writers to produce the Bible." ... "Just before the ship that was taking Paul to Rome was wrecked on the Island of Malta, it ran into a fierce storm. Though experienced men, the sailors could not guide it, so they finally had to let the wind take the ship wherever it blew. In the same manner as that ship was driven, directed or carried about by the wind, God directed and moved the human writers He used to produce the books of the Bible. Though the wind was the strong force that moved the ship along, the sailors were not asleep and inactive. Similarly, the Holy Spirit was the guiding force that directed the writers, who, nevertheless, played their own active roles in writing the Scriptures." (Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, p.69)

- 4) The men were moved by the "**Holy Spirit**." The member of the Trinity who moved these men to write, was the Holy Spirit. Both their prophetic writing and speaking were the work of the Spirit of God.

When one goes out to sea on a cruise, one has great freedom to go wherever he wants and to do whatever he wants as long as he stays on the ship. There is a certain freedom, but the freedom is carefully governed by the boundary limitations of the boat. When God moved men to write Scripture, He gave them freedom to use their personalities, vocabularies and styles of writing, yet He was carefully governing every word that was being written, so that the final product was the God inspired Word of God.