

# *The Bible As Sole Authority*

## *Part 2*

The Bible as Sole Authority is our first distinctive and the foundation of our faith: *the doctrine of the Bible as sole authority for faith and practice* is the foundation of which Biblical \_\_\_\_\_ rest... ALL BIBLE DOCTRINES rest on this one distinctive, without it nothing will stand and the idea of 'being' a Christian without adhering to this very premise is an impossibility. Holding to this truth, removes opinions, private interpretations and exposes false teachers as well as the doctrines they teach.

- What does it mean the Scripture is authoritative for the Christian's faith and practice?
  - Historic Bible believing Christians, believe in the verbal and plenary inspiration of the Old and New Testaments. They believed, the Bible is a direct revelation from God and it (Bible) is infallible, inerrant and God's words written to mankind.
    - \_\_\_\_\_ *Inspiration*: The Holy Spirit guided and controlled the men whom He used to author the Scripture; not only the ideas of God were conveyed, but the actual and complete words came from God. God so directed the hand of man in written them down, in this they are His words!
    - \* \_\_\_\_\_ *Inspiration*: The entire Bible is the Word of God. Every part of the Bible is equally inspired of God and the Scriptures we have now are all of God's intended revelation. There are no new or further revelations today or tomorrow.

Remember, the Bible DOES NOT ‘contain’ the Word of God, but rather IT is the Word of God!

- *I \_\_\_\_\_*: The every guideline and/or instruction given to us by the Scriptures is true and proper, none are outdated, improper, archaic or to be set aside for the times. We are to obey the complete Word of God as written.
- *\*I \_\_\_\_\_*: God has kept His Scriptures from error (in other words, if there is an error, It is NOT His Scriptures). All parts have been perfectly purified and preserved, whether it be theological, philosophical, moral, historical or scientific.
  - *II Timothy 3.16-17* “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: *17* That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
  - *I Peter 1.23-25* “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. *24* For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: *25* But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”
  - *II Peter 1.20-21* Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. *21* For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy



- Scripture teaches God has given us \_\_\_\_\_ human authorities with certain areas of control over our lives (*Romans 13.1-7* and *I Peter 2.13-16* **Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. 15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: 16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.**). Obedience to human authority (*as expressed in its limited arena*) is obedience to the will of God such as to:
  - Pastors (**Hebrews 13.7, 17**) “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. 17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”
  - Civil government (**Romans 13.1-7; Titus 3.1**)
    - *Romans 13:1-7* “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the

power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: **4** For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. **5** Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. **6** For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. **7** Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.” *Titus 3:1* “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,”

- Parents (**Ephesians 6.1**; **Colossians 3.20** et.al)  
*Ephesians 6:1* “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.” *Colossians 3:20* “Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”
- Employers/Employees - *Titus 2.9-10* “Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; **10** Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.” *Ephesians 6:5-9* “Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; **6** Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the

**will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. 9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.”**

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- The doctrine of sole authority leads directly to the doctrine of separation of church and state. If the Word of God is our only authority for faith and practice, then the state cannot become a spiritual authority over the affairs of the church or the spiritual lives of individual Christians.
  - Peter and John made this truth clear:
    - ***Acts 4.18-20* “And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”**
  - Peter and the Apostles soon reaffirmed this truth to the local rulers
    - ***Acts 5.27-29* “And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high**

priest asked them, *28* Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. *29* Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

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It is clear the Bible teaches we CANNOT get our source of spiritual authority from any other place than the Word of God:

**But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.**

*Matthew 15:9*

We are taught by Scripture, that the State does have authority and a role in society “...**Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's...**” (*Matthew 22:21a*) But it also teaches we must give the Lord His proper place as well “...**and unto God the things that are God's.**” (*Matthew 22:21*)

- It is impossible to overestimate the importance of this one concept – the sole authority of Scripture.

**“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”**

*Matthew 16:18*