ONE OF THE GREATEST NEEDS IN THE CHURCH IS RESPECT FOR BIBLE AUTHORITY

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. We live in a day when many want to deny God is . . .
   (1) "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God" -- Psa. 14:1.
2. We live in a day when many want to deny the Bible is the Word of God.
3. We live in a day when men want to abandon rational thinking; people want to believe what "feels good" -- Jer. 10:23.
4. There is the call by many to abandon the COMMAND, EXAMPLE and NECESSARY INFERENCE to establish authority for what we do.
5. Men want to get away from a RATIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE SCRIPTURES:
   (1) Prov. 3: 5 - 6
   (2) Eph. 5:17
   (3) Psa. 119: 104 - 105, 130
6. We are seeing the "Cultural Church" arise:
   (1) People are affected by our "culture", not the Word of God -- Rom. 12:1-2.

I. MAN NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND GOD HAS AUTHORITY OVER MAN

1. By "Authority" we mean: "the power to command, enforce laws, exact obedience, determine, or judge" (The American Heritage Dictionary).
2. God has the power to tell man HOW he is to live, and demand that he be OBEDIENT to His will.
3. Why God has this authority over man (Deut. 32:4):
   (1) He is God.
      1. He is Eternal -- Psa. 90:2; Ex. 3:14.
   (2) He is Creator -- Gen. 1:1.
   (3) He is Infinite in Wisdom; He knows the hearts of men -- Heb. 4:13; I Chron. 28:9.
      1. Isa. 55:8 - 9
      2. Acts 15:18
      3. Isa. 46:10 "Declaring the end from the beginning"
      4. Rom. 11:34
   (4) He gives all men life -- Acts 17:28
   (5) He will judge man in the end -- Act 17:31; 2 Cor. 5:10

II. GOD SPEAKS TO MAN TODAY THROUGH HIS SON

3. Christ is the One Lawgiver -- James 4:12.
III. THE WORD OF GOD IS INSPIRED

1. INSPIRATION is that miraculous power which the Holy Spirit exercised on speakers and writers, enabling them to speak and to write without error as they gave the message of God to man.

2. Paul said, "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God" -- 2 Tim. 3:16.
   (1) Literally the idea is "God-breathed".
   (2) The scriptures are "God-breathed".

3. Inspired men were taken up by the Holy Spirit and brought by His power to the goal of His choosing -- 2 Pet. 1:21.

4. The Word of God is verbally inspired:
   (1) Paul said the Holy Spirit chose the words -- I Cor. 2:13.
   (2) Jesus said they were to "take no thought ... what ye shall speak" -- Matt. 10:19.
   (3) The Bible is perfect to the smallest detail -- Matt. 5:18.

5. The Bible claims to be inspired:
   (1) David said, "The Spirit of the Lord spake by me and His word was in my tongue" -- 2 Sam. 23:2.
   (2) Paul -- Eph. 3:3-5; I Tim. 4:1; I Thess. 2:13

IV. WE WILL BE JUDGED BY THE WORD OF GOD

1. In the end of time we will give an account to Christ for how we have treated His word -- John 12:48.

2. We will be judged by the Word of God -- Rev. 20:12.

V. WE MUST FOLLOW THE PATTERN OF GOD'S WORD

1. God had a pattern in the Old Testament:
   (1) Noah had a pattern for the Ark -- Gen. 6: 14 - 16; 6:22.
   (2) Moses had a pattern for the Tabernacle -- Heb. 8:5; Ex. 25: 8 - 9.

2. The New Testament is the Pattern TODAY (II Tim. 1:13).
   (1) We must WALK BY FAITH -- 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17.
   (2) We must NOT ADD TO God's Word -- Rev. 22:19.
   (3) We must NOT TAKE AWAY from God's Word -- Rev. 22:18 - 19.
   (4) We must NOT GO BEYOND God's Word -- 2 John 9; I Cor. 4:6.
   (6) "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" -- I Pet. 4:11.

VI. SOME FALSE CONCEPTS ABOUT AUTHORITY

1. "We don't need authority"...
   (1) Jesus said we do -- Matt. 7: 21 - 23; Matt. 28: 18.

2. "We are not under "law" today"...
   (1) We are under the law of Christ -- Gal. 6:2; I Cor. 9:21; Rom. 8:2; James 1:25
   (2) If we were not under law, we would not be guilty of Sin -- I John 3:4.

3. Some say "I feel I am right"...
   (1) Man is not directed from within but from without.
   (2) Jer. 10:23.
4. Some say "The majority are doing it" . . .
   (1) The majority will be lost -- Matt. 7: 13 - 14.
5. Some say "We should go by the creeds of men" . . .
   (1) Matt. 15:9

CONCLUSION
1. We must respect the authority of the Gospel.
2. The gospel is the most powerful message man ever heard -- Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:12.
3. The gospel is God’s power to save because it is a revealer:

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