

BY WHAT AUTHORITY?

It's only fair to assume that most religious people are sincere. All use some basis or rationale to establish what they believe. However, the existence of differing beliefs are evidence that not all see the Bible alike. In this lesson various viewpoints are contrasted.

BOTH OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT VS. N.T. ONLY

Law of Moses was given to Israel only. Deu. 5:1-3

Law was added until Christ came. Gal.3:16-19

Law was "nailed to the cross". Col.2:12-14, 16-17

Believers are free from the Law. Rom.7:4-7

New Testament only is the proper view.

AUTHORITY INVESTED IN THE CHURCH VS. INVESTED IN CHRIST

Christ has all authority. Mat.28:18, Eph.1:20-23

Apostles had delegated authority.

There is no mention of any officer, board or delegation having authority.

Authority invested only in Christ is the proper view.

BIBLE IS COMPLETE VS. CONTINUED COMMUNICATION FROM GOD

Jesus promised the Apostles they would be "guided into all truth."

The Scriptures furnish us "unto every good work." 2Ti.3:16-17

Jude 3 says that "the faith" (system of doctrine) "once for all delivered."

Complete revelation found only in the Bible is proper view.

INCLUSIVE VS. EXCLUSIVE

All not specifically prohibited vs. only what is authorized.

Unauthorized fire caused the death of priests. Lev.10:1-3 (16:12)

In 2Jo.9 a teacher is limited to what is authorized.

Only what is authorized (general/specific) is proper view.

SUBJECTIVE VS. OBJECTIVE

Based on personal feelings v.s. based on established facts)

"I think" v.s. "it says."

Bible contains facts to be believed. 1Ti.3:16, Joh.20:30-31

Our thoughts are not on par with God's. Isa.55:8-9

Peter thought wrong. Act.12:9

Paul thought wrong. Act.26:9

Objective is the proper view.

ACTUAL WORDS VS. SUPPOSED THOUGHT

Words express what was meant (only). 2Co.1:13

If they don't mean what they say, we have no way of knowing what was meant.

Actual words is the proper view

ALL TO BE BELIEVED VS. PARTS CAN BE REJECTED

“Every word” is to be considered. Mat.4:4

“All Scripture is inspired.” 2Ti.3:16

All prophecy given by inspiration 2Pe.1:21

If one can be selective, there is no end as to what each person can reject.

All to be believed is the proper view

IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE PROPER VIEW

Only “truth [can make] you free” Joh.8:32

A different set of beliefs cannot save.

Personal views that are different are powerless. “Buy the truth and sell it not.” Pro.23:23