

March 14, 2021

By What Authority?

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff,
Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome

We offer Bible classes for all ages

We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

In **Mark 11:28**, some Jewish leaders asked Jesus, “***By what authority do you do these things? Or who gave you this authority to do these things?***”

Jesus indirectly answered this when talking to Pilate in **John 19:11**. There He said, “***Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from heaven above.***”

God is the original source of all authority. As the Creator of the world and all that is in it, He has the power to delegate authority as He sees fit.

God the Son has been delegated spiritual authority. The Father “***put all things in subjection under [Christ’s] feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all***” (**Eph. 1:22-23**; cf. **Matt. 28:18**). When it comes to religious matters, authority lies in the Godhead.

This should lead the sincere lover of truth to ask, “By what authority do I believe and practice what I do religiously?” Am I following the authoritative Law of Christ, or am I following the thoughts of men who think they know more than God?

In the letter to the churches at Galatia, the Holy Spirit through Paul dealt with problems caused by Judaizers (men

By What Authority?

(Continued)

who bound Jewish traditions as requirements of the Law of Christ). Paul distinguished between their “authority,” which was from men, and the authority by which he taught, Christ’s (**Gal. 1:11-12**).

Paul was not saying that he was given authority to decide doctrine. He was used by God, though, to teach God’s will at a time the complete written Word was not available. Like the other apostles, Paul was an instrument through which Jesus took the Gospel to the whole world.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles “**into all the truth**” (**John 16:13**). The apostles acted under Christ’s authority. God proved this by confirming the doctrine they taught “**by the signs that followed**” (**Mark 16:20b**).

At the point God’s written Word was made complete, there was no longer a need for men to be miraculously guided like the apostles were. This principle is taught in **1 Corinthians 13** (see especially **verses 8-10**).

If individuals claim to have God working through them to reveal new doctrine today, they must be deemed among the “**many false prophets [who] are gone out into the world**” (**1 John 4:1**).

What men teach when they try to establish doctrine without God’s authority is nothing more than commands of men. Like the Pharisees who worshipped God

in vain by “**teaching for doctrines the commandments of men**” (**Mark 7:7**), so too do those who establish religious creeds and rules from the minds of men. They deceive themselves and others into blatantly rejecting the commandments of God, like the Pharisees did.

Such apostasies are rooted in where one looks for spiritual authority. While God exhorts us to turn to the Scriptures (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**), mankind often turns to mankind. This is a recipe for error. Mankind will always come up with “bright ideas” that are proven foolish by a simple reading of God’s Word.

What God authorizes with regard to spiritual matters has been revealed in its entirety. There is no need for man to decide what new doctrines to adopt. There is only need for man to study and find out what God has commanded.

Instead of looking to creeds and councils of men for answers to spiritual matters, won’t we look to God’s Word, which is “**profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness**” (**2 Tim. 3:16**), and can be understood by everyone (cf. **Mark 7:14**)?

Doctrinal authority lies with the Godhead, and that is by what authority Christ’s followers should live.

Area Gospel Meetings

Casey Westside church of Christ:
March 17-21 (with Tim Stevens)
Wed-Fri: 7:00; Sun: 10:30, 6:00

Hazel Dell Church of Christ:
March 21-26 (with Ron Griffin)
Sun: 9:00, 10:00, 6:00; Mon-Fri: 7:00

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God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place for all generations. Before the mountains were born, before you had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.” – Psalm 90:1-2

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Barbara G (Cancer)
June H
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)
L.A. S (COVID recovery)
Justice G (Perthes disease)
Robert C

Daily Bible Reading

March 14 – Genesis 25-26; Matt. 8
March 15 – Genesis 27-29; Matt. 9:1-17
March 16 – Genesis 30-31; Matt. 9:18-38
March 17 – Genesis 32-34; Matt. 10:1-20
March 18 – Genesis 35-37; Matt. 10:21-42
March 19 – Genesis 38-40; Matt. 11
March 20 – Genesis 41-42; Matt. 12:1-23

“But he who looks into the perfect law of freedom and continues, not being a hearer who forgets, but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in what he does.”
– James 1:25

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, March 14, 2021

Bible Study: Michael

Worship: Dan H

Evening: Steve

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Roger

Assignments

Sunday, March 21, 2021

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Roger

Serve: Harold

Dan H

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Invitation: Dave

Clean Building

Patty

Prepare Communion

Julzy

Upcoming Reminders

April 18-23: Gospel Meeting

(with Wayne Walker)

Anniversaries

March 22 – Raymond & Maxine

March 28 – John & Cynde

Birthdays

March 15 – Anna

March 23 – Patty