

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

## The Crucial Issue Of Authority

Every thinking person realizes that authority plays a very significant role in all of our lives. Before we may drive a car, we must have the authority of a license. A doctor must have a diploma from a reputable medical school before he can practice. A policeman must have a badge which authorizes him to carry out his duties. To get married, we must have a license. There is little that we can do in life without proper authorization.

Especially in the realm of religion must we have proper authority for all that we do. In the worship and service of God we must do that which we are authorized to do and nothing else.

The question Jesus once faced, "**By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?**" (Matt. 21:23) is a good one for all of us.

**Possible Sources Of Authority**— Final or ultimate authority in religion rests in one of three possible sources. First of all, there are those who believe that final authority rests in the church. Councils, conclaves, and synods meet and make decisions. From these human deliberations such doctrines as purgatory, the adoration of Mary, the seven sacraments, papal infallibility and others have come.

It was Martin Luther who pointed out the problem of such human authority when he said, "...I cannot trust either the decisions of Councils, or of Popes, for it is plain that they have not only erred but have contradicted each other..." (Friedenthal, Luther: His Life and Times, p. 278).

Second, others conceive final authority to rest in the reasoning power of men. One's own conscience, inner feelings, or reason is the final arbiter. Saul of Tarsus demonstrated this view to be erroneous. In spite of his honesty of purpose and intensity of zeal, he was wrong. Many a person, guided by his own inner feelings, believes and practices what is contrary to the will of God.

The whole blight of denominationalism is a result of man's trusting his own views, rather than conforming his convictions to God's teaching. Liberalism makes the mistake of thinking that man's reason is the infallible authority in religion.

The third possibility, as the absolute source of authority, is the Bible, the inspired word of God. God the creator of the universe and of man is the only ultimate, final source of authority. He has spoken in his word. It is our responsibility to read the scriptures, understand them and obey them. Let us say, as Samuel did, "**Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.**" (1 Sam. 3:10).

**Never With Men**— Authority always rests with divinity. "**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth**" (Gen. 1:1), and in so doing established his ultimate supreme authority. Later, when Jesus was upon the earth he said, "**All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth.**" (Matt. 28:18). - (continued on page 3)

**KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013**

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 39, NUMBER 18 May 12, 2013

### SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: ED KELLEHER

Peter—Fisherman to Fisher of men

PM: ED KELLEHER

Peter—Lessons for the church today

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." - Ephesians 3:20,21

**KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013**

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

The Bulletin  
(USPS-994-500)  
Periodicals Postage Paid  
West Columbia, SC  
Published Weekly By:  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
West Columbia Church of Christ  
1701 Augusta Road  
West Columbia SC 29169

JOIN US IN  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY!

### SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study  
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly  
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study  
Office Phone (803) 794-5320  
Nursery provided  
Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

To be announced

EVANGELIST

### BULLETIN EDITOR

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858  
E-Mail: [Ed@macro-inc.com](mailto:Ed@macro-inc.com)

## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.*
- **Stephanie Rigney** had to go to the ER with complications from chemo. Chemo is very taxing on the body; it kills cancer cells—mostly. Remember **Stephanie** in your prayers, and those helping her, as she continues the course of chemo.
- Prayers are requested for:
  - **Ed Gamble**, Jones' brother
  - **Edwin Crawford** who is battling cancer (his father is a friend of Jones Gamble)
  - **Rick Porter**, recovering from surgery
  - **Steve Hutchinson** who is serving with military in Afghanistan
  - **Kathleen** a friend of Tommy White's who is ill
- Keep all these, and **the church here**, in your prayers. Our thanks and gratitude to those who watch, and work and pray for the church here. To those faithful in visiting and attendance, encouraging others by talking with them. To those quietly doing the many jobs necessary to keep the congregation functioning.

**"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." - 2 Timothy 1:12**

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **TJ Bolen** and his family arrive on May 31st and will be preaching for us the first Sunday in June, Lord willing.
- Thanks to the Mancuso's for cleaning the building last week, and the baptistry. We still need families to sign up to clean.
- **BULLETINS BY EMAIL** sent each Friday. To subscribe, send email address to Ed.
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors!**
- **LADIES DAY!** St. Andrews Road, Saturday May 18, 9am-1pm
- **SINGING!** Windsor Lake church of Christ, Sunday afternoon, not sure when though.

**"I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." - Revelation 3:8**

## **“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15**

- **Courtney Dunbaker** graduated from USC on Saturday with a Masters degree in Counselor Education. **Martha** said **Courtney** is looking forward to being able to take a break. We're all happy for Courtney, KC and the family.

**KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013**

## **The Crucial Issue Of Authority—(continued from page 1)**

Jesus further announced to his apostles that when he left the earth, the Holy Spirit would come in his place and **"...shall guide you into all truth." (John 16:13)**. Authority has always rested with the Godhead, and never with men. The prophets, the apostles, and others miraculously guided by God were simply spokesmen. God's word has always been the final authority among men. Our Only Guide

The Bible is our guide — our only guide. For this reason, it is encouraging to hear people say, "Let us have a 'thus saith the Lord' for all that we do in our religious faith and practice." Still, another way of saying it is "Let us speak where the scriptures speak, and be silent where the scriptures are silent." Each of these is a statement indicating the acceptance of the authority of the scriptures.

At this point let us examine two opposite positions on the matter of the authority of the scriptures. Martin Luther championed the idea that, "Whatever is not expressly prohibited in the scriptures is permissible." (History of the Great Reformation of the Sixteenth Century, by D'Aubigne, Book II, p. 297). Luther's view opens the door to all kinds of innovations, such as the burning of incense, the lighting of candles, the use of images, instrumental music, and even adding other elements to the Lord's Supper.

Huldreich Zwingli championed the second view which said, "Whatever is not expressly authorized in the scriptures is prohibited." (History of the Christian Church, by W. Walker, 1959, p. 322). This is the view set forth in the scriptures themselves. In Galatians 1:8, Paul wrote, **"But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema."** The apostle John said the same thing in these words: **"Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."** (2 John 9).

**Three Avenues**—In determining what the scriptures authorize, there are three avenues through which we may receive guidance. First, there are direct commands, such as Acts 2:38. In the second place, there are approved apostolic examples, such as the apostle Paul's eating of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week. (Acts 20:7). And, finally, there is necessary inference. Each command of God authorizes whatever is necessary to carry it out. When the Lord commanded Christians to meet for worship, he necessarily authorized the providing of a place for Christians to assemble for worship.

Our religion — our relationship to God — is our most important relationship. We must be absolutely certain about everything that we believe and practice.

- Batsell Barrett Baxter, 1916-1982, Preacher, teacher, elder, church of Christ

## **CHURCH RESIDENCE:**

We're getting a new roof put on. The old one has been in place for at least 20 years, and is leaking in some spots. There's other work for people to do also:

- **INTERIOR PAINT** - After the new roof, we need to repair and paint bedroom walls which have some water damage
- Paneling on back porch needs replacing.
- The old blue outdoor carpet needs to be replaced on the front porch

Others are already cleaning and repairing the bathrooms.

See **Jones Gamble, Jamie Sheppard, or Dawn Gamble** to help in this.