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**Messenger**

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## Article 1

# “Your Prayer Has Been Heard”

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Prayer is an integral part of the Christian faith. It is the way God has provided for His people to communicate to Him. Yet, despite the wonderful thought of being able to communicate with the almighty God, people often question whether their prayers are heard. So, let’s learn some encouraging lessons about prayer from Zechariah in Luke chapter 1.

**1) Zechariah’s prayer was heard.** Zechariah was a priest whose wife was Elizabeth. One day when he was serving God as priest, he was chosen to enter the sanctuary of the temple and burn incense. When he went to perform this duty, Luke 1:11-12 records that an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense and Zechariah became terrified. The angel (Gabriel) told him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John” (Luke 1:13). It is an encouraging thought indeed that God hears prayers and that He has the power to answer those prayers! This is just as true for us as it was for Zechariah (James 5:16; 1 Peter 5:7). No matter who you are, you have the potential to communicate to God through prayer!

**2) Zechariah was a righteous man.** When Luke introduced Zechariah and Elizabeth, he said, “Both were righteous in God’s sight, living without blame according to all the commands and requirements of the Lord” (Luke 1:6). The Scriptures demonstrate in various places that although God knows what every person does and says, God’s ears are open to the prayers of the righteous and that the fervent prayers of the righteous are powerful – while God’s face is against the wicked (James 5:16; 1 Peter 3:10-12)! Therefore, whatever promises God makes about prayer and how we see prayer working with Zechariah should be understood in light of what God has said about the prayers of the righteous.

**3) Zechariah's prayer was apparently not immediately answered.** The context demonstrates that Zechariah had been praying for a son. Luke 1:7 says, "But they had no children because Elizabeth could not conceive, and both of them were well along in years." You can just imagine the years of prayer that had likely been poured out to God. Notably, when Gabriel said Zechariah's prayer had been heard, the following promise was that Elizabeth would bear a son, who would be named John (Luke 1:13). And, later, Zechariah asked how he could know this since he and his wife were old (Luke 1:18). Although I do not know how long they had been praying for a son, it seems reasonable to believe that it had gone on for quite some time. It is even possible that they had stopped praying for a son by this time due to their old age. However, even when it may not have seemed like God was listening, Gabriel assured Zechariah that God had heard! We must always remember that God has promised to hear the prayers of the righteous, even when we may not feel like He does!

**4) God granted Zechariah's prayer in the proper time.** No matter how long it had been since Zechariah prayed for a son, Gabriel said that his words about having a son would "be fulfilled in their proper time" (Luke 1:20). Although Zechariah and Elizabeth may have had a different timeline in mind when they prayed, God would answer in His own time and according to His own purpose! Similarly, we must always remember that our prayers are not like wishes made to a genie that are granted upon our request. Rather, prayers are taught as being powerful whenever they are offered in faith and according to God's will (James 1:5-8; 1 John 5:14-15). So, do not get discouraged and think God does not hear your prayers just because He does not answer how or when you wanted Him to answer!

Like Zechariah, God hears the prayers of the righteous today! We must never forget this promise He has made. Rather than becoming discouraged in prayer, we should be emboldened to approach the throne of God in full faith through Jesus Christ!

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## Article 2

# Calling On The Name Of The Lord

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We read about people calling on the name of the Lord various times throughout the Old Testament. Then, we even read about the need to call on the name of the Lord in the New Testament. For example, Romans 10:13 says, “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” But, many do not understand what is involved in doing such or have developed false ideas about it.

### **1) More than just professing Jesus as “Lord.”**

Unfortunately, some believe that calling on the name of the Lord amounts to little or nothing more than saying that you believe in Jesus or asking God to save you through prayer. Yet, Jesus indicated that such is *not* sufficient for salvation in Matthew 7:21. He said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.” There will be many such people who will be told to depart from Him on the Judgement Day because they were not obedient to God!

**2) Expresses dependence on God through faithful obedience.** Since you cannot save yourself, you call on His name (His authority, power) for salvation. For, there is no salvation in any other but in God through Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12)! Yet, God has made it abundantly clear throughout Scripture that truly calling on the name of the Lord involves obedient faith (Hebrews 5:9). When you recognize your need for God and obey what He commands, you are calling on His name for salvation.

### **3) How to call on the name of the Lord for salvation.**

Consider what people were told to do to call on the name of the Lord for salvation in the New Testament. In Acts 2, Peter explained that the prophecy of Joel was being fulfilled at that time. This prophecy involved the statement, “Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (verse 21). Certainly, it would be

unthinkable for Peter to introduce this prophecy as being fulfilled and then for Peter not to give people any idea how to call on the name of the Lord. As we keep reading, we find that after some believed in Jesus through the message Peter and the other apostles preached and some asked what they needed to do (verse 37). Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (verse 38). Look at the perfect parallels between verses 21 and 38 (the prophecy and the fulfillment). Everyone – each of you. In the name of the Lord – in the name of Jesus Christ. Be saved – for the forgiveness of your sins. Calls – Repent and be baptized. Therefore, Peter has just demonstrated that calling on the name of the Lord for salvation today requires people to obey what He has commanded to be saved. This is to hear God’s word (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus (John 8:24), repent of sin (Acts 17:30), confess Jesus (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (Acts 2:38). As another example, Saul (Paul) was told, “And now, why are you delaying? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name” (Acts 22:16). Thus, baptism is involved in calling on the name of the Lord for initial salvation – as an act of faithful obedience that expresses dependence on the Lord for salvation!

**4) How to continue calling on the name of the Lord.** Calling on the name of the Lord is not a one-time thing. Rather, there are New Testament passages that demonstrate the Christian must continue calling on the name of the Lord. But, how a Christian calls on the name of the Lord will be different than how he/she called on the name of the Lord to become a Christian (i.e. he/she does not have to be continuously baptized). For example, Acts 9:14, 21 refers to Christians as those who call on the Lord’s name. And, 1 Corinthians 1:2 records Paul’s greeting to the Corinthian church as “saints” and being among those who “call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.” As God requires His people to live faithfully for Him (Revelation 2:10), the Christian continues to call on the name of the Lord through daily worship, obedience, and service. And, this certainly includes seeking God’s forgiveness through repentance,

confession, and prayer whenever the Christian sins (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).

Calling on the name of the Lord is not just a profession of faith in Jesus. Rather, it is a deep dependence on God for salvation. This dependence is manifest through faith-filled obedience to God both in seeking initial salvation and through daily Christian life!

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### Article 3

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## We Can Understand The Bible Alike!

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It is common to hear people claim, “We cannot understand the Bible alike.” So, since they believe we cannot understand the Bible alike, they claim that the divisions that exist in the religious world are acceptable. They say that one opinion is just as good as another because it is impossible to understand the Bible alike. Yet, the Bible **was** written so that it could be understood and applied by all in the same way.

**1) God only revealed “one faith.”** Ephesians 4:5 says that there is only “one faith.” Now, this does *not* mean that everyone must just believe in Jesus in order to be saved (though that is part of it). Instead, this phrase means that there is only one system of religious belief, teaching, and practice that is acceptable to God. And, this faith has once for all been revealed in the pages of the Bible. For instance, Philippians 1:27 commands Christians to stand “firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel” Jude 1:3 wrote to exhort Christians to “contend for the faith that was delivered to the saints once for all.” Therefore, the entirety of the New Testament’s teaching forms the “one faith” God has revealed – and that true Christians must stand firm in.

**2) God condemns division.** If it is impossible to understand the Bible and to understand it alike, then division would be a necessary thing – simply because people would be incapable of agreeing on the Bible. Yet, God condemns division. For instance, Jesus prayed in John 17, for unity among those who would believe

on Him. The degree of unity He prayed for unity is seen in verse 23 when He said, “that they may be one as we are one.” Then, in 1 Corinthians 1:10, Paul commanded, “Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction.” Notice that they were to be perfectly united, have no divisions, speak the same thing, be of the same understanding, and have the same convictions. Now, if it is impossible to understand the Bible alike, then God has commanded something that we are not capable of obeying. Therefore, the implication is that it is possible to all be united in the faith of the gospel of Christ!

**3) Some examples.** In reality, there are many people who claim that it is impossible to understand the Bible alike when it comes to doctrinal matters and matters of personal preference, but are inconsistent in their beliefs. For instance, consider the creation of the world. Is one opinion just as good as another when determining how this world began, what God made on each day of creation, what the first man and woman were named, etc.? Or, consider the birth of Jesus. Is one interpretation of the Bible just as good as another when determining who Jesus’s mother was, where Jesus was born, etc.? Of course not! We all understand that we can turn in the Bible and locate the exact answers to these questions. So, one opinion is not just as good as another. Instead, we must accept the true Bible answers! Now, recognize that the same thing is true throughout the Bible. Whenever the Bible gives a definitive answer, that is the truth! It is not subject to varying opinions or interpretations any more than the examples just given.

We can all understand the Bible alike! In His great wisdom, God has revealed the perfect message of salvation that everyone can follow in a united way. Unfortunately, many people have allowed their prejudices and preconceived ideas to cloud their ability to understand the Scriptures in the way God has revealed them. This has resulted in great religious division. But, if we will simply search the Scriptures diligently and rightly apply what is written, we can all be in agreement in one faith!



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## Article 4

# What Does It Mean For God To Be Severe?

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When you think about the characteristics of God, perhaps you first think of God's love, patience, goodness, mercy, and grace. Yet, it is impossible to have a completely accurate picture and understanding of God without God's severity. For, this is who God has told us He is. So, rather than trying to change God into someone we would rather Him be, we must simply understand His true nature – including His severity.

**1) God is kind and severe.** God demonstrated He is a vengeful God throughout the Old Testament. However, some people believe that God no longer is vengeful after Jesus's sacrifice. This is a claim that, though it may sound appealing, lacks the support of the New Testament Scriptures. Consider Romans 11:22. "Therefore, consider God's kindness and severity: severity toward those who have fallen but God's kindness toward you – if you remain in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off." There is room in God's perfect character for Him to be both kind and severe in just the right ways (Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 2:5-11; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9)!

**2) God's severity is fair.** God is not mean that He is out looking to punish and hurt people just for the sake of doing so. Rather, God shows us that His severity is only experienced by those who rebel against Him, as a fitting punishment for sin. For, God's holy nature means that God cannot just sit idly by and do nothing whenever people reject Him and His laws. Romans 2:5-11 teaches us that those with "hardened and unrepentant" hearts store God's wrath up for themselves in "the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment is revealed." He promises that "He will repay each one according to his works." This means eternal life for those who do what is right but "wrath and anger to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth while obeying unrighteousness."

And, “there is no favoritism with God.” So, you must know that experiencing God’s severity is always connected with sin.

**3) God severity should be feared.** Knowing that God is a severe God who punishes those who sin against Him should impact how you live every day! For example, Philippians 2:12 says, “Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in presence but even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” God’s severity should provide a huge deterrent to sinning against God. For, you know that God’s severity will be experienced in eternal punishment in Hell and you will stand no chance of overpowering it (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Nahum 1:2-6)! God even warns that it “is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (in the context of sinning deliberately, Hebrews 10:31).

**4) God’s severity can be avoided.** Although we are all sinners who deserve to experience the wrath of God (Romans 3:23), God has provided an opportunity for us *not* to experience His wrath. This is how God’s love, grace, and mercy work with God’s severity. Romans 5:8-9 says, “But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. How much more then, since we have now been declared righteous by his blood, we will be saved through him from wrath.” God loved the world so much to send His Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). He does not want to punish anyone and offers everyone the opportunity to be saved through Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 6:23). But, to be saved from the wrath of God, we must believe and obey Him (Acts 2:38; Romans 11:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Hebrews 5:9).

God is severe! Rather than denying this characteristic of God’s nature, you must embrace it and allow it to deeply impact your life. And, without understanding how God’s holiness requires Him to punish those who sin against Him, you can never appreciate the love, grace, and mercy of God through Jesus Christ as you should. Now, allow God’s severity to motivate you to live for Christ and to help others do the same (2 Corinthians 5:9-11)!

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## Article 5

# How The Universe Came Into Existence

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One of the greatest questions people seek to answer is: How did the universe, the earth, and life on earth come into existence? Throughout the years, there have been many different theories offered as possible answers to this question. Certainly, the answer someone reaches is consequential in many respects. Yet, it is possible to know the answer with complete certainty.

**1) It couldn't just happen.** While there are many theories offered about what may have led to the formation of the universe, we must ultimately determine whether something so marvelous and complex as this universe and every living thing on earth could have been the product of random chances. In fact, it doesn't take degrees in science and physics to recognize that there are tremendously complex elements throughout the universe that result in everything working the way we can observe. So, you must ask yourself: Could all of this just happen? Or, does the great design in the universe demonstrate there is an even greater Designer? Consider this. If something like a computer (which is not nearly as complex as a single cell in our bodies) needs to be designed, how could the universe have happened by chance?

**2) "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."** That is how the first verse in the Bible reads (Genesis 1:1). This verse contains the only viable explanation for the creation of the universe and everything therein. Everything we can observe from science demonstrates this to be true. For example, the first law of thermodynamics, the second law of thermodynamics, the law of biogenesis, the law of cause and effect, etc. all prove that there must be an eternal and all-powerful God who created this universe! Romans 1:20 says, "For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse." Yet, many of the

theories offered to explain the universe require breaking the observable laws of science.

**3) Six days of creation.** Genesis 1 not only records that God created the heavens and the earth, but it also explains how God did this. As you read this chapter, you will notice that God created the heavens and the earth in six days. And, note that these were six literal, 24-hour days.

On day 1, God created light and separated the light from the darkness. On day 2, God created the expanse (the sky). On day 3, God caused the dry land to appear, separated the waters into seas, and created the seed-bearing vegetation. On day 4, God created the sun, moon, and stars. On day 5, God created the sea creatures and creatures with wings (i.e. birds). On day 6, God created the land animals and people. Then, on day 7, God rested from all He had made (Genesis 2:1-3).

While many people continue searching for the answers to the origin of the universe, God has revealed them to us in the Bible – if we will simply accept them! The Biblical account of creation is not a myth that is contrary to scientific evidence. Rather, when the claims of the Bible are fairly tested with scientific observations (instead of with presuppositions), they can be found to be the only possible explanation for the origin of the universe! Test these claims for yourself and let the truths God has revealed throughout His creation and in His word (the Bible) lead you to solid faith in God!

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## Article 6

# What Lamp Are You Using?

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Jesus pictured life on this earth like walking on one of two roads in Matthew 7:13-14. He said that one road leads through a narrow gate into life (eternal life in Heaven) and is difficult to walk on. Then, He said that the other path is broad and leads through a

wide gate into destruction. But, what lamp are you using to help you determine the path you should walk on?

**1) You will use a “lamp” to make decisions about your path.** You will have many decisions to make during your life. Think of the standard you use to make your decisions as a lamp. In every situation, you are going to evaluate your options and decide which is the “right” path to take. But, there are many “lamps” you can choose to use. And, they do not all cast the right kind of light on your decision and help you make the right choices.

**2) Lamps that take you in the wrong direction.** Listen to Proverbs 21:4: “The lamp that guides the wicked – haughty eyes and an arrogant heart – is sin.” So, there are some “lamps” that you hold in front of you as you journey through life that deceive you and hide the real consequences of your decisions. Specifically, this text speaks of some people using “haughty eyes and an arrogant heart” as their lamp. So, whenever they try to make decisions, they are focused on what is in it for them. Whichever path is shown to produce more immediate earthly treasures and pleasures is the path they will choose.

Then, there are other “lamps” that are used. For instance, some people evaluate the path they should take by the lamp of human tradition. Whichever path has been taken by their parents, they have taken in the past, or they have always been taught to take is the one that is determined to be the right path. Or, some people evaluate the path they should take by the lamp of the conscience. So, whichever path feels right to them is the one that will be taken. Or, some people evaluate the path they should take by the majority opinion of other people. They take the path that the most people are on, thinking that it will prove to be right.

Yet, all these (and other) lamps that are man-made fail to actually lead people in the right way. For, none of them are perfect and always leads people in the right way. They always have some flaw in their design (because they have not been designed by God)!

**3) The lamp that always leads you in the right path.** For all the “lamps” people choose to live by, God has given us one that

*always* leads us in the right way that will result in everlasting life in Heaven. And, it is the *only* perfect “lamp.”

Psalms 119:105-106 says, “Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. I have solemnly sworn to keep your righteous judgments.”

God’s word will always tell you the absolute truth about any decision you must make in your life. And, it will only lead you to make decisions that will help you spend eternity in Heaven. It will expose the broad path as being dangerous by exposing the eternal fires of Hell that are waiting at the end of it. Therefore, you must determine to keep the righteous judgments of God concerning what is right and wrong that are outlined in the pages of His word!

What lamp have you been using in your life? What lamp have you used today? Do you always hold up the lamp of God’s word and accept whatever answer He reveals to you in the pages of His word as being true? You must recognize that only His word of truth will perfectly lead you to eternal life!

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## Article 7

# How To Have A Blessed Life

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Everyone wants to have a good life. While the ideas of what makes a life “good” is different from person to person, it is generally agreed that a good life is one that is pleasant and happy. The problem, though, comes whenever the things people decide are necessary for that good life are not things they can control. For example, if good health is required and you or a loved one gets sick, you are robbed of the life you seek. And, even if you do have those things you believe are required, you will often find them not very satisfying and that they leave you wanting more (Ecclesiastes 1:8). Yet, what if there was an even better life available – but that life challenged your ideas of a “good” life? This is the “blessed” life depicted in the Bible and God has made it available to you, if you desire to have it.

**1) What does it mean to be “blessed”?** The word “blessed” is used many times in both the Old and New Testament Scriptures, sometimes translated in various ways. Context is significant to properly understanding how the word is used in each passage. However, the general idea of being “blessed” as we are considering it is to be truly happy through the blessings God provides. So, by nature, the blessed life is one that is not dependent on the temporary physical things of this life. Rather, it enjoys spiritual blessings that have been provided by God! While I encourage you to consider every reference to being “blessed” made in Scripture, we will just consider a few to help us understand that the blessed life comes through different means than what we would ordinarily expect.

**2) The blessed life according to Psalm 1.** Verses 1 and 2 say, “How happy [blessed] is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.” The Psalm goes on to explain why this person is happy/blessed in that this one who lives according to the Lord’s instructions will experience good, while those who do wicked will experience destruction. Sometimes this is the case physically. However, it will certainly be true spiritually and in eternity, when God will welcome the righteous into Heaven and condemn the wicked to Hell.

**3) The blessed life according to Matthew 5.** When Jesus taught His “Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew 5-7, He began by teaching about the blessed life in the section often called the “beatitudes.” In verses 3-10, Jesus teaches by saying, “Blessed are [some characteristic of people], for [some blessing].” However, Jesus shows that true blessedness comes in the opposite way than most would expect. In these verses, Jesus shows that those who are blessed are: The poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and the persecuted. Certainly, these are not blessed because they experience the easiest and most physically pleasant life on earth. Rather, they are truly blessed

because they are the ones who receive God's spiritual blessings that cannot be taken from them and eternal blessings waiting in Heaven!

**4) The blessed life according to Acts 20.** Paul referred to a teaching from Jesus that is only recording here in the Scriptures, saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Paul gave up a lot physically to serve Jesus. But, he did this fully realizing there was surpassing value in knowing Christ (Philippians 3). Namely, he recognized that having the hope of eternal life in Heaven provided a far better life than living to please himself! So, if you want to be truly blessed, you must focus on giving yourself in service to God and others rather than seeking to gain earthly things for yourself!

While there are certainly many things you may be tempted to think will lead you to the good life, only Jesus can lead you to the blessed life! Jesus said, "blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it" (Luke 11:28). These are the only ones who will experience spiritual blessings like hope, joy, peace, forgiveness, and such things that do not depend on your physical circumstances. And, these are the only ones who will experience eternal life in Heaven! So, have you chosen to pursue the blessed life?

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## Article 8

# By What Authority Do You Live?

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Whether you recognize it or not, every choice you make in life demonstrates something about the authority you choose to live by. That is, you do the things you do because you believe you have the right (permission, approval) to do them. But, have you ever stopped to really consider how you arrived at your conclusion? By what authority have you concluded that what you do is actually the right thing to do? This is an important question that will impact your eternal salvation.



**1) Matthew 21:23-27.** This passage records an interesting interaction between Jesus and some Jewish leaders. “When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority?’ Jesus answered them, ‘I will also ask you one question, and if you answer it for me, then I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Did John’s baptism come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ They discussed it among themselves, ‘If we say, “From heaven,” he will say to us, “Then why didn’t you believe him?” But if we say, “Of human origin,” we’re afraid of the crowd, because everyone considers John to be a prophet.’ So they answered Jesus, ‘We don’t know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.’”

**2) Jesus recognized the need for authority.** Notice that Jesus did not reject the idea of needing approval for whatever people would do. Although Jesus did not answer their question about authority on this occasion (because they would not be honest in answering His question), even Jesus lived focused on the matter of authority. Particularly, Matthew 28:18 records Jesus stating, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.” And, Jesus recognized the need for John’s baptism to be done with the proper authority. Therefore, since Jesus recognized the need for authority, you must recognize the need to have authority for what you do during your life!

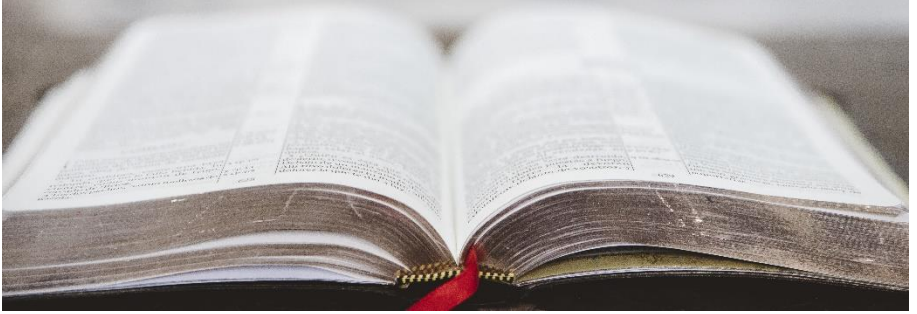
**3) There are only two possible sources of authority.** There are many different standards people will use to find approval for what they do. For example, some appeal to what they have been taught is right, some to their traditions about what is right, some to the popular opinion about what is right in their culture, some to what highly educated professionals say is right, some to what they feel is right, some to what their family members or friends think is right, etc. Yet, while there are many different things claiming to tell people what is right and wrong about how we should live, Jesus condensed all of this to only two options. Concerning John’s baptism, Jesus implied it was either “from heaven” or it was “of

human origin.” That is, it either was authorized by God or it was something that only had approval through some human source. Therefore, since Jesus recognized these are the only two possible sources of authority, you must evaluate whether the things you do have God’s approval or whether your approval only comes through human sources.

**4) The two sources of authority are not equal.** Although Jesus did not speak to which source of authority was the right one in this text, there is a clear implication. By their nature, God is far above people in all respects – in power, in knowledge, in wisdom, etc. So, it is unreasonable for anyone who recognizes who God is to believe any person or group of people know what is right better than God does (1 Corinthians 1:18-31)! And, Jesus addressed the issue in other places. For example, in Matthew 15, Jesus spoke of people who broke God’s commandment by their traditions, even saying that they were hypocrites who worshiped God in vain teaching as doctrines human commands (verses 3-9). Later, Jesus said, “Every plant that my heavenly Father didn’t plant will be uprooted. Leave them alone! They are blind guides. And if the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit” (verses 13-14). Only the words from God are completely true, will set us free from sin, and will be the criteria by which God will judge us (John 17:17; John 8:32; John 12:48)!

You must consider the authority by which you do everything you do. Do you find the approval for it through a human source of authority or does it truly come from God? No matter what people think about things, only that which has God’s approval is truly right and pleasing to Him. And, you can only find that approval today through the message God has revealed in the pages of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17)!

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