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Howard Studer,
P. O. Box 718,
Lorenzo, Texas 79343

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ALL AUTHORITY

When we look at the title of this article is does not seem very important, but the important question is WHO HAS IT, God or man?

Matt. 28:18, Jesus said all Power, is given unto me in heaven and earth. That being true there is not the slightest bit of authority left for man. Heb. 5:9, Paul said that Jesus was the author of eternal salvation to all them that obeyed him.

Not man but Christ, and since he has all power he has a right to demand obedience, but are men obedient? No, we see thousands that are not obeying Him; can we obey him by doing things he has not commanded or required of us? Again I say no, obedience is doing the things He commanded or required of us. After Jesus told His deciples He had all power in heaven and earth, he told them to go teach all nations baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe al things whatsoever he had commanded them.

Would the apostles have been obedient if they had left off any command? No.

Would they have been obedient if they had taught more or done more than Jesus commanded them?

I think everyone would say no, then why will man do such things? If the apostles had added to His commands they would have disobeyed the Saviour. The apostles would not have obeyed had they taught more than they were commanded, and in so doing we condemn ourselves when we do.

Should we go one step further than Jesus commanded us to we would not be obeying his commands. Who has the authority Christ or man?

Brethren we cannot obey by going beyond or doing less than we can read.

If we can go beyond what is written then Christ doesn't have all power, we have. A divine pattern has been given by Divine authority, and to make a different pattern would be by man's authority, and not Christ's. This is true of every command Christ gave.

PROCLAIMERS OF HIS WORD

There is no nobler calling than that of a minister of the gospel. And no calling carries with it more responsibility. The three books of the Bible that preachers should especially study and really learn are the two letters to Timothy and one to Titus. They contain certain instructions that are especially for all preachers. Paul told Timothy to commit to faithful men the things that Timothy had learned of Paul so that those men might teach others also. Thus showing that those instructions are for all preachers. 2 Tim. 4:2 "Preach the Word, be instant in season out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to! themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

When the Holy Spirit says for the preacher to, "Preach the word," That forbids him to speak something else than the word, that some will not endure sound doctrine should not suprise the men who believe the Bible is God's word. If God had not known that people in the world would turn his wrod down and turn to fables he would not have said so. But is is surprising that people who profess to believe God's word will bslieve and teach fables instead of the word. Webster defines fable as, "An idle story of falsehood." He defines idle as, "Useless, vain, futile." All preaching and religious teachings that are not endorsed by Christ and his apostles consists of fables. Those teachings are vain, futile, useless. Christ says, Matt. 15:9, "But in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrine the precepts of men."

If a religious teaching is not found in God's word it is false. Christ said to his apostles in John 16:13, "How be it when he the Spirit of Truth is come, he will guide you into All truth. "Now if it guided the apostles into All truth, then any religious teaching into which it did not guide the apostle would not be the truth. And if not the truth it would be a falsehood or a fable. Are you one whose ears have been turned from God's word to fables?

Suppose all preachers would do what the Holy Spirit commands them to do, "Preach the word," what would be their result? Let us illustrate. Suppose twenty farmers planted wheat; how many of them would harvest oats or corn? Not one of them. Why? Because God ordained that each seed should produce after its kind.

Hear Christ in Like 8:11. Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. When we preach the word we sow the seed. As there is only one right seed for the true preacher to sow there will be only one kind of crop produced by that seed. That crop will consist only of Christians. The right seed will not

produce any other kind of church members.

What will become of preachers who fail to preach the word? Rev. 21:8 says, "----and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death." In my dictionary of 1938 Webster defines, Lie: to represent falsely. If you keep back the truth when people have a moral right to know the truth, it is a lie Webster says in his 1906 edition.

Preachers you profess to preach God's plan of salvation. Your audiences have a moral right to know just what that plan embraces. If you keep from them the truth Webster says you are liars; and Rev. 21:8 says you will go to hell. If you are talking on the subject of baptism does not your audience have a moral right to know that when the apostles baptized people they went down into the water and the person was buried? Acts 8:38 and Romans 6:4.

When you are talking on the subject of the Church have they not a moral right to know that the Bible teaches only One true church? Read in connection Eph. 4:4, Eph. 1:22-23 and I Cor. 12:27.

When you are discussing what is safe for members to do in their religious work, or worship have they not a moral right to know that if we go beyond the teachings of Christ we have not God? 2 John verse 9-10 "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ hath not God. He that abideth in the teaching of Christ hath both the Father and the Son. "It is a serious thing for people not to have God in their worship. Preachers have you neglected to warn your congregation against going beyond the teachings of Christ? If you have not you need to change now. Can you truly say as Paul said, Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsels of God?"

Many of you have taught and explained to your audience 2 Thes. 1:8-9 "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." What is it to know God and obey the gospel of Christ? If we do not know, then we do not know whether we are bound for heaven or not. When has a person obeyed the gospel? Hear Paul Romans 6:17 "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. "They were made free from sin when they obeyed the gospel. What is the last act to free people from sin? Mk. 16:16 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and

wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Faith is the first act toward obeying the gospel and baptism is the last. The person who has not believed in Christ and allowed that faith to lead him to be baptized has not obeyed the gospel. And the Holy Spirit says Christ will take vengeance on the ones who do not obey the gospel. And the Holy Spirit speaks only truth. What is it to Know God? I John 2:3-4 "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith I know him and keepeth not his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

After we have obeyed the gospel and become followers of Christ we must continue to associate with him by doing what he commands us and thus we learn to know him. But again the Holy Spirit says if we do not know him we will be eternally lost from God. The Greek word, Appolesia is translated both Destroy and Lost. So the ones who do not obey the gospel and know not God will be eternally lost. Did you ever stop and consider that it takes no more time to preach the Word than it does to preach Men's precepts? It costs no more energy but it means the difference, heaven and hell for you and the ones who follow you. Hear the Holy Spirit, I tim. 4:16 "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee." This teaches the same as 2 John Verse 9 that we must continue in the Doctrine that the Holy Spirit taught in order to save ourselves and the people who hear us. Do you wish to save yourself? Do you wish to save the people who hear you? Why then not quit preaching the precepts of men and preach Just the word?

True, it is more popular to preach the doctrine of men and it is natural to wish to be popular. What Christ did and taught when he was here on earth was not popular. It so enraged the leaders who wished to be popular that they nailed him to the cross. When his suffering in the garden was so great that his sweat was as drops of blood falling upon the ground he still said, "Not my will but thine be done." If he had not been willing to DO God's will we would not have a chance of being saved. If we are unwilling to DO God's will as revealed in the New Testament, we have no promise of going to Heaven. Matt. 7:21-27.

Eternity is long. The treasures of Heaven are great. The punishment of hell can not be estimated.

Let us follow only God's word and let it lead us to a home in Heaven.

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STRIVING FOR OR AGAINST?

To all who are striving to gain eternal life, I would like to bring a few thoughts concerning the purpose and methods of striving.

By consulting Webster, we find the word (strive) to be an active word with a two-fold motive. One to

make effort to labor hard or earnestly. The other to struggle, dispute, or contend, imulation; thus leading to strife. For a Scriptural application we read in Luke 13:24: Strive to enter in at the straight gate; for many, I say unto you will seek to enter and shall not be able; shall we struggle, dispute, or contend in a scramble to enter in at the straight gate? Or shall we labor hard, earnestly in a sincere effort to obtain an entrance? In Paul's second letter to Timothy giving directions for a soldier of Jesus Christ, we read, 2 Tim. 2:5: And if a man strive for mastery, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully? So you see there is a lawful way to strive if we are to obtain a crown. He continues, by showing that the husband must first be partaker of the fruits; that is we must first be in Christ before we can labor in his vineyard, and be partakers of the fruits of the Spirit. Paul goes on in the 9th to 12th to show how he suffered and endured all things for the elects sake, that they may also obtain Salvation in Christ by the word of God, for if we be dead with him, (Christ), we shall also live with him; if we suffer, we shall also reign with him; If we deny him He will also deny us. Now verse 14, Paul tells Timothy: Put them in remembrance of these things, charging that they strive not about words to no profit to the subverting of them that hear. What are words to no profit? Reading on, Paul tells him to study and rightly divide the Word of Truth, that they might be a workman not ashamed, but approved of God. Then says Verse 16: But shun profane, and vain babbling; for they will increase to more ungodliness as an example. He says that some err by saying, the resurrection is past already, overthrowing the faith of some. But he assured, The Lord knoweth them that are his, and let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. Hence, no need to strive about the Lord's part.

In verse 20-21, we hear that along with the good, there are also the bad; some to honor, and some to dishonor, and therefore a man should purge himself from these that he should be a vessel to honor, sanctified and fit for the Master's use, prepared unto every good work. He names some good things we should follow, verse 22, then again verse 23-25, he says, but foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strife, and the servants of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient in meakness, instructing them that oppose themselves. Do we learn anything from the above? Scriptures that should make us a better servant of the Lord, among our brethren and fellow men? Now we listen to Paul Titus Ch. 3:8-9; After showing by the grace of God we are made heirs according to the hope of eternal life, he says: These things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might

be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men; but avoid foolish questions, and geanoligies, and contentions and striving about the law; for they are unprofitable, and vain. Brethren these are the profitable, or unprofitable things that we should affirm, or avoid. Jude after expressing a desire that peace and love be multiplied, exorted us to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints.

Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, 15:3-4, says, "For I delivered unto you first of all, that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures; those were the facts that were foretold in the Scriptures, have been fulfilled, and delivered to us through the Apostles. Without the shedding of his blood, we have no redemption from sin. Without his resurrection from the grave, we have no hope of a resurrection to that life eternal. This is the faith we should earnestly contend for, and obey from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered. You being then made free from sin, we become the servants of righteousness, and have our fruits unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

(Excerpts): Rom. 6: 17-22. In Philipian 1:27, Paul says, only let your conversation be as it becometh the Gospel of Christ, that ye stand fast in one Spirit with one mind, striving together for the one faith of the Gospel. Brethern, I hope the Scriptures I have given will help all to more fully understand how we should or should not strive and contend for in an effort to preserve the meager bit of unity that exists in the body of Christ today; and if possible to bring some together that are apart.

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L E T T E R S A N D N E W S

J. L. and EUNICE JARED - Chesterton, Indiana

We are happy to be settled here and work with the faithful at Chesterton.

We were happy to have vistors from Washington, Brother and Sister Robert McCoy, Sister Geneva Roark, Paula and Larry, and Brother and Sister Earl Roby.

Would be glad to see anyothers who may be traveling through this part of the country.

Here is a small donation in support of the paper. Glad to get the papers Brother Claude sent, we had not received the paper since we moved from Idaho.

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GEORGE MORRIS - Kingman, Arizona

I hope this finds you and the Brothers and Sisters all in good health. The church here is doing very well.

We have two more families besides Brother and Sister Ralph Rhodes, and us. His Brother Bill Rhodes and

and his wife and children, and Brother and Sister Hayse Morris and family. It is wonderful to have more than just our two families. They plan on making their home here, the Lord willing.

The building is almost completed and we hope to have a meeting at the completion, if it be the Lord's will.

We had Brother and Sister Baldwin to visit us sometime ago, and we were so pleased to have them. We have very few visiting Christians and I'd like to invite anyone passing through to please stop and visit with us for we would be most happy to have them. Our address is 1110 Cardnial Lane, Butler Addition, Kingman, Arizona.

We hope to visit Brother and Sister Johnson in Lakeside soon if the Lord wills.

This is all the news, here at the congregation in Kingsman.

May God Bless you all.

Love in Christian Faith....

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CLAUDE PERGIN - Bellflower, California

We are nearing completion of the new addition to our building which includes a bapistry we have needed for years and have wanted so much in times past. Now that we have our own we wish to thank you, the congregation at La Habra for the many times in past years that they have made theirs available to us. All of our building won't be completed for meetings the last week of August but it will be useable. We have had many visitors here with us in our services these past few months. Olen Taylor and George Meadows grandchildren are frequent visitors with us and Sister Ways daughter and husband. We are happy to welcome them in our services. Bill and Veda McCay and four children and Bill's mother Phebe McCay visited with us in our house a few days while on their vacation. We enjoyed the visit so much. They are from Yakima, Washington.

Sister Johnson and Sister Cadwell of Modesto visited in Southern California with relatives and attended services with us here at Bellflower. We enjoy haveing anyone who can come and worship w th at any time.

Many of our number have been away visiting these past months. Brother and Sister Olen Taylor attended church at Modesto on their way to Sunnyside, Washington to visit Brother and Sister Eulen Taylor. They also made a trip to Yuma, Arizona another weekend and had a nice visit there with the congregation and members. We attended services at Somerton, Arizona in their new church building and visited in the homes of W. A. Nelson, Donnie Long and Bill Nelson.

The small son of Brother and Sister Harold Smith has been seriously ill in the hospital but is home now. He is the grandson of Brother W. A. Nelson. Hurry up and get well Timmy. Bill McCays were also there the same Sunday and everyone had a wonderful time singing in the afternoon.

Sister Stringham of La Habra is in the Orange County Hospital, 4th floor, room 422, Santa Ana, California. She fell and broke her hip. She is doing well for a young lady of 85 years. Write her a little note or send her a card for I know she would appreciate them.

Sister Lula Way is visiting relatives and friends in Delta, Colorado. Brother Ron Tibbs spent his vacation in Lorenzo, Lubbock and Abline with relatives and friends. He and Brother Carl Taylor visited with the San Diego congregation frequently.

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August 4, 1966 La Habra, California

As I write this letter I am thinking of the time and effort that is being put forth in preparation for the annual meeting of Delta, Colorado. As many of you read this, you are at Delto enjoying yourselves with others in Christian fellowship. Oh! How I wish I were with you there. As others read this they are at home unable to attend or have already returned home and are making ready to pick up their everyday lives. I know everyone will have a good time of fellowship singing and listening to God's word proclaimed by those of our preachers who made the trip this year. Everyone who has ever attended Delta in years past know how I feel and what I mean. They must also realize how much good has come from our past meetings at Delta. Yes! We have proof although some will not except my word for it or attend to see for themselves.

I know all of you wonder why you are not receiving your paper regularly. Some have moved not leaving a forwarding address. Others of you have written no news or articles while others have written things that I dare not publish. Oh! If only all would work together to make for unity it would be a much better world for me to live in and you too. It would be far better than it is if only half the effort had been spent writing something good about others or for that matter nothing at all would have been sufficient, don't you think? I have kept my promise for more than two years but at great effort. Let us use our time and talent writing worthwhile articles and letters and forget the past troubles. Do you still want a paper? If so let's go, forward this is, not backward.

ROY

P.S. We are sadden by the phone call informing us of Sister Verlie Baldwin's sickness. May she recover quickly with God's rich blessing.

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