

## Lesson 8

## The Authority of the Church

### I. The Source of Authority—God Speaking Through Christ:

- A. Hebrews 1:1-2—New Testament message and messenger contrasted with Old.
- B. John 1:17—Moses the lawgiver in Old Testament period—Christ in the New.
- C. Matthew 11:27—God revealed through Christ.
- D. John 5:26-27—Authority given to Christ.
- E. John 17:7-8—Christ’s message from God—John 12:49-50.

### II. We Are To Be Governed Today by the Authority of Christ, not Moses and the Prophets:

- A. Acts 3:19-23; Mark 9:2-8—“Hear ye Him.”
- B. Matthew 5:21-22; 5:27-28—“But I say unto you.”
- C. 1 Corinthians 9:21—“Under law to Christ.”

### III. Christ’s Authority to Be Executed Through His Apostles:

- A. Matthew 19:27-28.
- B. Matthew 28:18-20.
- C. Matthew 16:17-19.
- D. John 20:22-23.
- E. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.
- F. 1 John 4:6.

Christ now  
has all  
authority in  
heaven and  
on earth.

### IV. Apostles to be Guided by Holy Spirit:

- A. John 14:16-17—To be sent to apostles not to world.
- B. John 14:26—To bring to their remembrance what Christ had taught.
- C. John 16:7-15—To convict the world through the teaching of Christ.
- D. Luke 24:49—To wait in Jerusalem for coming.
- E. Acts 2:1-4, 37—Holy Spirit came and through apostolic preaching did convict women and men.

### V. Preaching of Apostles Confirmed by Miracles (Mark 16:16-18; Heb. 2:1, 4; 1 Cor. 12:28, 31; 13:8-10). These gifts serve temporary purpose of introducing and confirming New Testament truths.

### VI. Completeness of Law Thus Delivered:

- A. Romans 1:16-17—Gospel of Christ contains the righteousness of God from “faith unto faith.”
- B. 2 Peter 1:2-3—Through knowledge of Christ furnished unto all things that pertain unto life and godliness.

- C. 2 Timothy 3:14-17—Furnished completely unto every good work.
- D. Jude 3—Faith once and for all delivered unto the Saints.
- E. Revelation 22:18-19—Must not add to or take from.

**CONCLUSION:** The New Testament scriptures, which contain God's will revealed through Christ and His chosen ambassadors, guided and confirmed in their message by the Holy Spirit, constitute a complete and perfect rule of faith and practice for God's people today—the divine Constitution of the Kingdom of God.

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. What is the source of all authority? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Through whom did God reveal His authority? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who is to be heard above all and at all times? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How did Christ contrast His authority with that of the Old Testament law? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. Through whom did Christ execute His authority? (Give quotations.) \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. How were the apostles to be guided? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did the Holy Spirit come upon the apostles? \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. How did the apostles confirm their preaching? \_\_\_\_\_  
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9. What is the completeness of the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_  
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10. What if it were added to or taken from? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**NOTES**

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