

# AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE TODAY

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INTRODUCTION: We live in a time in which the accuracy, truthfulness, and the authority of the Bible is under heavy attack. This attack comes from the outside, by the world, and, unfortunately, also from within the Lord's church to an ever increasing degree. We need a strong defense to withstand this onslaught, which means we need an even stronger faith in the fact that every word of God is as pure and literal and authoritative today as it ever was and it always will be no matter what any man says!

- I. Some evidence of the attacks on the authority of the scripture from within and without:
  - A. Attacks on the authority of scripture from the world
    1. The State newspaper, Columbia, SC, August 2, 1993:
      - a. Article = *"Religious groups try to reconcile Bible, reality of divorce"*
      - b. *". . . The Bible speaks clearly about divorce. It's not in favor."*
      - c. Quoted: **Malachi 2:16; 1 Cor 7:10-11; Mark 10:11**
      - d. *"But with an estimated 47 percent of U.S. marriages ending in divorce (45 percent in South Carolina), religious groups are reassessing how they view divorce. For some denominations, the statistics--and the people behind them--demand that they soften their historical positions."*
      - e. *". . . Because of the times in which we're living, there's a great tolerance for people who have been in relationships that are not compatible."*
    2. The State newspaper, Columbia, SC, November 20, 1993:
      - a. Article = *"Two churches study accepting cohabitation"*
      - b. *"In the past month, two major Protestant denominations have taken stands accepting sex before marriage, including cohabitation: the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."*
      - c. The article went on to point out that these decisions before becoming final are to be voted on by the denominational members.
  - B. Attacks on the authority of scripture from within the church of Christ  
(All of the following quotes are from Behold the Pattern by Goebel Music)
    1. Denny Boultinghouse (pp. 339-340)  
*"And yes, we may learn that some of the ways we have been content to look at the Scripture just don't work in our current world. . . If the church is to impact the world, it must change. There is no option about this. If your church is not willing to change, the death warrant of your church has been signed"*
    2. Rubel Shelly (pg. 312)  
*"The church must change. The church must change in terms of its form and its methodologies because the world changes."*
    3. Randy Mayeux (pg. 230)  
*"[In the church of Christ] The bottom line is that in the 1990's diversity is the only game in town, folks. . . Can a woman lead prayer in a mixed group?. . . And the answer, of course, is yes she can, I mean, because it's happening."*

- II. The bottom line is that this kind of thinking is nothing new.
- A. **Eccl 1:9** - *The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and **there is no new thing under the sun.***
- B. For example, the people loved to change God's teachings in the Old Testament.
1. **Isaiah 30:9-11** -
    - 9 *That this is a **rebellious** people, **lying** children, children that **will not hear the law of the Lord:***
    - 10 *Which say to the seers, **See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits:***
    - 11 *Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, **cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.***
  2. **Jer 5:31** - ***The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?***
- C. And people love to change God's teachings in the New Testament, including today.
1. **2 Pet 2:1-2** -
    - 1 *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as **there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.***
    - 2 *And **many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.***
  2. **2 Tim 4:3-4** -
    - 3 *For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;***
    - 4 *And **they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.***

### Why were and are the teachers, preachers and the people this way?

- III. The reason men try to change or attack the authority of scripture.
- A. These people despise God's word.
- Isaiah 30:12** - *Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because **ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon:***
- B. They don't love or believe the truth, and have pleasure in unrighteousness.
- 2 Thes 2:10-12** -
- 10 *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because **they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.***
  - 11 *And for this cause **God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:***
  - 12 ***That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.***

- IV. Why the scriptures have full authority today as always.
- A. God has all authority over us and all things and that will never change.
1. Jesus Christ has all authority, including the right to tell us what to do and what not to do.
- Matt 28:18** - *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.***

### Why does God have the authority to tell us what to do and we can't reject that?

2. God is Creator of all things and therefore Owner of all things.
- Psalms 24:1-2** -
- 1 ***The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.***
  - 2 ***For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.***
3. The privilege of ownership: God can do what He wants with His own (= us!).
- Mt 20:15** - ***Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?***
- B. **GOD AND HIS WORD DON'T CHANGE!!!**

1. God, our Father in Heaven, and His Son Jesus Christ don't ever change.
  - a. **Mal 3:6** - *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*
  - b. **Heb 13:8** - *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*
2. God's word doesn't ever change.
  - a. **Matt 24:35** - *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **my words shall not pass away.***
  - b. **1 Pet 1:24-25** -
    - 24 *For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:*
    - 25 *But **the word of the Lord endureth for ever.** And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*
  - c. **John 10:35** - *If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and **the scripture cannot be broken;***
3. Truth doesn't ever change.
  - a. **John 17:17** - *Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.***

If God's word doesn't change, and if His word = truth, then truth doesn't change.

4. The changes in people, times, culture, or man's opinions have no affect.
  - a. Just because everybody is doing it doesn't make it right, and what we vote on, or the culture we live in, has no bearing on it. For example:
    - 1) In Noah's day, all the world except for 8 people disobeyed God.

Were they allowed to then reevaluate, reassess or vote on what God meant by what He said?

- 2) God could not find even 10 people of Sodom and Gomorrah who were not ungodly.

**Gen 18:32** - *And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, **I will not destroy it for ten's sake.***

Did God lower His standards accordingly? God gave these as examples.

**2 Pet 2:4-9** -

- 4 *For if **God** spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*
- 5 *And **spared not the old world**, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;*
- 6 *And turning **the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah** into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, **making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly;***
- 7 *And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:*
- 8 *(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)*
- 9 *The **Lord knoweth how** to deliver the godly out of temptations, and **to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:***

5. Men don't change the word of men like they do the word of God.

Do men change what men say in their contracts, wills, etc?

**Gal 3:15** - *Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; **Though it be but a man's covenant**, yet if it be confirmed, **no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.***

Therefore, how can men even try to change what God says?

- V. How much authority the scriptures have and the reasons why

- A. **ALL** scripture is inspired of God.

**2 Tim 3:16-17** -

16 ***All scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

17 *That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

- B. Therefore, we can and must live by **EVERY WORD** in the Bible.  
**Matt 4:4** - *But he answered and said, It is written, **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.***
- C. Even the singular and plural are inspired of God.  
**Gal 3:16** - *Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. **He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed,** which is Christ.*
- D. Even the verb tense is inspired of God.  
**Matt 22:31-32** -  
 31 *But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,*  
 32 *I **am** the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.*
- E. Every jot and tittle (less than a letter!) is inspired of God. Let's have the same faith in God's word as our Master, Jesus Christ.  
**Matt 5:18** - *For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, **one jot or one tittle** shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*
- F. The word of God = the source of faith.  
**Rom 10:17** - *So then **faith cometh** by hearing, and hearing **by the word of God.***
- G. We stand by faith.  
**2 Cor 1:24** - *Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: **for by faith ye stand.***
- H. We walk by faith.  
**2 Cor 5:7** - *(For **we walk by faith**, not by sight:)*
- I. We quench all the fiery darts of Satan by faith.  
**Eph 6:16** - *Above all, taking **the shield of faith**, wherewith ye shall be **able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.***
- J. We overcome the world by faith.  
**1 John 5:4** - *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and **this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.***  
 That faith needs to be in every single word, singular or plural, tense, jot and tittle!
- K. It isn't "too hard!"
1. **Matt 11:28-30** -  
 28 *Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*  
 29 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*  
 30 *For **my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.***
  2. **1 John 5:3** - *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and **his commandments are not grievous.***
- L. We must DO what God says!
1. **Luke 6:46** - *And **why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?***
  2. **Matt 7:21** - *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but **he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.***
  3. **1 John 2:17** - *And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but **he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.***
  4. **James 1:22** - *But **be ye doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*
  5. **Rom 2:13** - *(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but **the doers of the law shall be justified.***

## CONCLUSION:

What does God think of people who claim to be Christians, who say, "Lord, Lord," and

| **then vote to change His word to accommodate the wickedness of the world?**

**Titus 1:16 - *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.***

Though many such people are attacking the authority of God's word today both inside and outside of the Lord's church, we see that God and His word have full authority today as always and that will never change. Let us hold fast and not waver in the face of these tests of our faith and always remember to have faith in and obey all of God's commands for us right down to the jot and tittle!