

# ***DRILLING BIBLE BASICS (V)***

## **AUTHORITY**

### Introduction

- 1) Understanding the need for authority and how to establish and apply it is fundamental
  - a) Unfortunately, it is one of the most neglected and misunderstood subjects today
- 2) Do not be deceived by false standards of authority: *Old Testament, religious leaders, creeds, majority, personal opinion, emotion/zeal, sincerity, results, etc.*

### **I) The Need for Bible Authority**

- A) Jesus recognized the need for authority and seeking its proper source (Matt. 21:23-25)
  - 1) Two sources of authority – heaven or men
- B) Jesus now has **all** authority (Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22)
- C) We must have divine authority for all that we say and do (Col. 3:17; Acts 2:42; 1 Pet. 4:11)
- D) We must not go beyond what has been revealed (2 Jn. 9; 1 Cor. 4:6)
  - 1) Divine authority is found in what God has revealed on a subject, not in what is “not said”
- E) We should demand divine authority and be ready to give authority for what we say and do

### **II) How Jesus Recognized Divine Authority**

- A) God’s word is the guide to divine truth (Matt. 4:4; Jn. 17:17)
- B) ☞ **Statement of Fact** (Matt. 19:3-6)
- C) ☞ **Command** (Lk. 10:25-28)
- D) ☞ **Approved Example** (Lk. 17:32; Jn. 13:13-15)
- E) ☞ **Necessary Inference** (Matt. 22:31-32)

### **III) Biblical Examples of Applied Divine Authority**

- A) **Noah** building the ark (Gen. 6:14-16)
  - 1) Direct command for the *specific* use of gopher wood and the dimensions of ark
  - 2) Any other wood or dimensions to use in building the ark *excluded* by divine authority
  - 3) How he built (tools, time of day) was left generic; do what was *expedient* (best method)
- B) **Uzziah** burning incense (2 Chron. 26:16-20)
  - 1) Uzziah trespassed because he did what he had *no* authority to do – “It is not for you...to burn incense to the Lord” (cf. Ex. 30:7-9)
  - 2) Cannot change what God says for another “good work” or “special circumstances”
  - 3) One must respect the silence of God (Heb. 7:14)

### **IV) How We Establish and Apply Bible Authority Today**

- A) **Lord’s Supper** – What? Meaning? When and Why Partake? – answered by divine wisdom
  - 1) Why? **Delivered Command** – “Take, eat...in remembrance of Me” (1 Cor. 11:23-24)
  - 2) What? Meaning? **Statement of Fact** – Bread: “This is my body”; Fruit of the Vine: “This is My blood”; Remember Jesus’ death (1 Cor. 11:24-26; Matt. 26:26-28)
  - 3) When? **Approved Example** – First Day of the Week (Acts 20:7); this we know was practiced by apostolic authority (cf. Acts 2:42); *no* authority for any other day
  - 4) How Often? **Necessary Inference** – Each time there is a first day of the week (every week); by what authority can we limit it to only certain first days

### Conclusion

We should not depart from God’s divine pattern of authority (1 Pet. 4:11). Whatever God has taught in the New Testament by statement of fact, command, approved example, or necessary inference is to be believed and practiced. We must avoid all unauthorized activities.