

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

October 15, 2013

Issue No. 115      Mark Aites, Editor

## **Authority**

"Obedience to lawful authority is the foundation of manly character." – Robert E. Lee

"In order to be respected, authority has got to be respectable." – Tom Robbins

"I grew up to always respect authority and respect those in charge." – Charles de Gaulle

"They don't want to be reminded that there is an authority higher than the authority of the state."  
– Roy Moore

"The Bible is the ultimate authority and infallible, not the preacher and not the elders. And it doesn't mean that you believe everything he says without examining it." – John Piper, adapted

There are ninety matches for the use of the word *authority* in the New King James Version of the Bible. Without authority, there would be chaos, much like it was in the days of the Judges: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judg. 17:6; 21:25). Interesting that those words are found twice in that book. One has to be careful or one might think it was talking about the spiritual state of America today.

There is actually one verse that settles the whole matter when it comes to authority. "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth'" (Matt. 28:18). The modifying word *all* signifies that Jesus has total and complete authority, both in heaven and even here on earth. Since that is the case, then His Word supersedes the words of anyone else.

Folks make the mistake of thinking that we live in a democracy. Here in America, it is said that we live in a republic. But in actuality, we live in a monarchy. No, this is not speaking of those politicians who have delusions of grandeur, but that Jesus occupies the throne and we are subservient to Him! "...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ" (Rom. 14:10). "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10).

Since Jesus retains *all* authority, then His words, His judgments, His commandments must be honored and obeyed. To do otherwise is to invite eternal condemnation (cf. 2 Thess. 1:7-8).

The Hebrew writer clearly states, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..." (Heb. 1:1-2). Jesus said, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).