Authority In Religion

What Is Authority?

- **The word "authority" is defined as "the power or right to give orders or to make demands; the right to make decisions; the power or right to enforce rules or the power or right to demand obedience."**

- **A good example of this definition is illustrated for us in Matthew 8:9.**

- **Likewise, to have authority for what we do means that we have the freedom or the right to act in what we do as that right comes from the one who has the right to order. (Ref. Matthew 21:23)**

Who Has All Authority Concerning Religious Matters Today?

- **All authority today has been given to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and it has been delegated to Him by God the Father. (Matthew 28:18; Hebrews 1:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; John 12:48-50)**

- **All must understand that Jesus Christ is head of the church. (Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23-24; Colossians 1:15-20)**

- **Since all authority has been delegated to Jesus Christ, and since He is the head of the church, and since the church is to be subject to Him, this means that men have no authority concerning religious matters, and to follow them in such is in vain. (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 5:23-24; Matthew 15:9)**

What Is Our Standard of Authority Concerning All Religious Matters Today?

- **The Bible, God's all inspired word is our standard of authority concerning all religious matters today. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21, 3:1-2; Ephesians 3:1-7)**

- **The law of Christ is our standard of authority in religion today. (Galatians 6:2)**

- **The authority of Jesus Christ is exercised in the New Testament Scriptures which serve as our standard of authority concerning religious matters today. (Galatians 1:6-9; 2 John 9-11)**

God's Plan of Salvation

- **Hear the word of God. (Luke 11:28; Romans 10:17)**

- **Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24; Acts 8:37)**

- **Repent of your sins. (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)**

- **Confess Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9-10)**

- **Be baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins. (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27-29)**

- **Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)**