God's Authority Through Jesus

Judges 17:6 records, "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own mind." Most would probably agree that those days are very similar to these days we live in now. Respect for authority is minimal and sinful activity (sinful as defined by God) no longer exist among many religions and sadly some churches of Christ. Some assert that absolute truth, as given by God, cannot really be established, thus known and understood. Jesus states, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32). If the truth cannot be known and authority understood, then Jesus had no right to make the statement John recorded. God forbid! The fact is that truth can be known and understood if one is willing to submit to its authority as God provides (Ephesians 3:4, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Hebrews 1:1-2).

Jesus declares, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). God, the Father gave Jesus authority when He spoke earlier in Matthew record. "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matthew 17:5). Thus, Jesus has the authority to speak to man today regarding religion and sin, and the practice of either (Hebrews 1:1-2). Since God gave Jesus the authority, it is inherent upon us to take note of His words as such will be how we are judged according to at judgment (John 12:48). The words of Jesus are the words God, as God declared speaking through Moses. "I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among your brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require of him" (Deuteronomy 18:18-19). Luke further validates the authority of Jesus by quoting from Deuteronomy 18 (Acts 3:22).

The authority of God through Jesus resides in the New Covenant, the New Testament (Hebrews 8:7-13). Understanding that His time on the earth was limited, Jesus promised to send the Helper, the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles and inspired writers of the New Testament so that we could have factual authority in what was recorded (John 14:26 & 16:13). The inspired writers of the New Testament wrote as the Holy Spirit of God inspired them. Peter states, "For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). Therefore, we must be willing to receive, welcome, and submit to God's words through Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:13), recognizing it as the full, complete, factual authority for direction/instruction in life as provided by God.

The doctrines of men have long been deceitful, misleading, and false, leading man and sadly some Christians in the wrong direction (Galatians 1:6-10). The failure to submit to authority and do what is right in one's own mind will have dire consequences. Despite what society or man may approve of, or authorize as being OK, we must look to His word for instruction and guidance. Paul paints a grim picture for those who fail to submit to God's authority. "In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who to not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

Our submission to His authority now and obedience His word provides the power to save us from our sins and guide us safely to His eternal paradise (Romans 6:17-18, James 1:21).