

# *THE TRUTH ABOUT* **AUTHORITY**

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## *LESSON 1*

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**MANNA PROJECT**

# RELIGIOUS CONFUSION

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There are many who try and worship God today using both the Old and New Testament. Is this acceptable? No, The truth is, this causes great confusion when you see so many religions claiming *Christianity* today, who are trying to worship God with instrumental music, wearing specific clothing and outfits for worship and burning incense, while others do not. How can there be so many different belief systems within the religion of Christianity? The Bible teaches that God is not the author of confusion.

**1 Corinthians 14:33** *For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*

The truth is that if we are still under the Old Testament, would we not still be bound to keep ALL of its laws and commandments? We would be **REQUIRED TO** offer yearly animal sacrifices, have Levites in positions as Priests, abstain from certain foods such as pork, and observe Religious Holidays such as the Passover and other Mosaical festivals.

## WHY NOT FOLLOW THE OLD TESTAMENT?

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The Bible clearly teaches us that The Old Law is something that Christians cannot follow today and still be pleasing unto God. Please notice what Peter said in Acts 15 concerning being under the “Old Law.”

**Acts 15:10** *Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?*

The Old Law is here compared to a yoke that we are not able to bear and trying to follow the Old Law “tests God”! Who of us wants to be guilt of testing God?

**Romans 3:20** *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

The Old Law can show us what sin is however it cannot cure it.

**Galatians 3:13** *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")*

The law is a "curse" because it could never in and of itself redeem us from our sins and even the blood of animal sacrifices that were offered yearly at the Temple could never take away our sins.

**Hebrews 10:4** *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*

The Old Law was only able to sustain those who were under it until Christ came and shed his perfect and innocent blood. As John the Baptist Clearly stated to his disciples when he saw Jesus approaching.

**John 1:29** *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Jesus is in fact the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world and ultimately will be responsible for removing all sin both past, present, and future. The reason that we are no longer under the Law is because Jesus has fulfilled it and has delivered us from it!

**Matthew 5:17-18** *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."*

**Romans 7:6** *But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.*

The Old Testament with its laws had a purpose and that purpose was to ultimately bring us to Christ.

# WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT?

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It served as a tutor for us. Notice the words of Paul to the Galatians:

**Galatians 3:23-25** *But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

The whole work and purpose of the Old Law was to bring about and prepare us for the coming of the Messiah as the Old Testament had prophesied repeatedly. Jesus lived and died under the Old Testament and was the only human who ever lived to have kept the Old Law perfectly.

**Galatians 4:4-5** *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, **born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.***

**Hebrews 4:15** *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, **but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.***

It is clear that we can no longer be under the Old Testament because it has been completed.

**Ephesians 2:15** *having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,*

**Romans 10:4** *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

What are we then to do with the Old Testament? Does it have value to us as Christians today? Absolutely! Notice what Paul would say in the book of Romans:

**Romans 15:4** *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

We can clearly learn so much from the Old Testament including how we were created, how God deals with the seriousness of sin, obedience, eternal principles such as the holiness of God, sacrifice, and the prophecies of Jesus Christ. These are all valuable lessons that should be considered. **However, when it comes to our worship, the Church, and salvation, we need look no farther than God's inspired New Testament.**

## THE NEW TESTAMENT: OUR ONLY AUTHORITY

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In Matthew 21:23, Jesus was teaching and preaching in the temple. The elders came and asked him a question:

**Matthew 21:23** *Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?"*

Jesus, with great wisdom, answered their question with a question:

**Matthew 21:24-25** *But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'"*

The very people who were asking Jesus this question in order to trap him with his own words, could not answer this simple question!

**Matthew 21:26-27** *But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.*

So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." Jesus here teaches one of the most valuable lessons about religious authority, there are only 2 sources: God or man. **Only one is correct - God.**

God's standard of authority should be very important to us, because when we choose to follow man's ideas it causes our worship to be wrong.

**Matthew 15:9** *"in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."*

We see this same concept taught in the book of Collosians:

**Colossians 3:17** *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*

The phrase "do all in the name" simply means by his author-

# HOW DOES GOD COMMUNICATE WITH US TODAY?

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Now that we know that God is clearly the only source of religious authority, how has he chosen to communicate with us? The answer is clear. It is through His word- the Bible.

**2 Tim 3:16-17** *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

"Inspiration of God" literally means "God breathed". It came directly from Him as our very breath comes from us in the way that we breath out words. How did God carry out this task?

**2 Peter 1:21** *"for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*

God is the ultimate source of all the words written in our Bible. However, he used Holy men, whose words were guided by the Holy Spirit, to pen the words of God. Therefore, God is the true author of the Bible, and holy men of God like Moses, prophets, and the men of the New Testament were the writers.

# WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT CONTAIN?

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The Bible does not just contain some of God's will for us but rather all of God's will for us. It is complete and perfect.

**2 Peter 1:3** *"as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue"*

Since God has provided "all things that pertain unto life and godliness," then there is not one thing that we need other than what is already found within Scripture that we need for spiritual life and godliness. We are not waiting on any other prophet or message.

**Galatians 1:6-9** *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.*

Look around at the "Christian" religion as a whole. It is in chaos. There are so many institutions claiming to be the Church. Yet they teach very different things concerning very basic doctrines like salvation and practices in worship. Why is this? Is it because God is teaching something confusing? Certainly not! The reason for the religious chaos is not because of God and His perfect word. The reason is because of man's corrupting thoughts and opinions. Men have corrupted and polluted the pure doctrine of Christ by infusing his own desires and opinions.

When we reject the Words of Christ written in the New Testament we truly reject Christ himself and our own souls!

**John 12:48** *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.*

# PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY

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1. What verse shows that God is not the author of confusion?
2. According to Acts 15:10, the Old Law is compared to what?
3. What could NOT the blood of bulls and goats do (Hebrews 10:4)?
4. The Old Testament is a \_\_\_\_\_ according to Galatians 3:23-25?
5. What is the purpose of the Old Testament?



**6. What is our source of authority today?**

**7. What does inspiration mean?**

**8. From 2 Peter 1:3, what has God given to us?**

**9. Whose words will judge us (John 12:48)?**

**10. Why happens when people obey the doctrines of men?**

We are so thankful you have completed this study on Bible authority. We pray that you will continue studying and learning about the truth. Our goal is to help you get to heaven and we believe that by doing what the Bible says in the New Testament will accomplish that goal. The next course will teach you about the church you read about in the Bible.

