

The Source of Religious Authority

Matt. 21:23-27

Introduction:

- A. John's baptism was a "hot potato" for Jewish leaders.
 - 1. If from God, why did they not obey it?
 - 2. If from men, how to answer those who believed John a prophet.
- B. The Bible is a "hot potato" for religious leaders today.
 - 1. If from God, why not strictly body it?
 - 2. If from men, how answer the evidence presented by believers?
- C. Three reasons for appealing to the Bible for religious authority:

Discussion:

I. The Nature of the Bible.

- A. Its writers claimed Divine inspiration (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 1 Cor. 14:37; Eph. 3:1-5; 2 Pet. 1:19-21).
- B. Its writer's claim is confirmed by miraculous evidence.
 - 1. The signs which they did (Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:1-4).
 - 2. The miraculous nature of the Bible itself.
 - a. Its unity
 - (1) Out of great diversity.
 - (2) Of purpose in choice of major events to record.
 - (3) Between New and Old Testament.
 - b. Its uniqueness - no trace of conventional wisdom of day.
 - c. Its prophecies.

II. The Nature of God.

- A. He is sovereign by reason of creation (Acts 17:24-28; Rom. 9:20-21).
- B. He is the source of all authority (cf. Rom. 13:1; John 19:10, 11).
 - 1. All other derived from Him by commission or permission.
 - 2. Even the Son, in role of Christ, received authority from Father (Matt. 28:18; 1 Cor. 15:24-28).

III. The Nature of Man.

- A. Man cannot properly direct his life (Jer. 10:23).
- B. God made man dependant on His revelation (1 Cor. 1:21-2:13).

Conclusion:

- A. Let us look to God, not man, for authority in religion (cf. Matt. 15:9).
- B. Let us not look to self, parents, tradition, preacher nor church.