

Why be Concerned About Biblical Authority

Why be concerned about biblical authority? For this one simple reason: "Your God reigns!" (Isa. 52:7). If we aren't concerned for authority, then we place ourselves in God's position of reigning. It really is just that simple. Jesus is Head (Col. 1:18). We aren't.

by Doy Moyer

Does stressing authority mean we don't think grace plays any role in salvation? That would be a ludicrous jump to assume such. Just bear this in mind: grace can only come from One who has the authority to give it. Otherwise, grace is not really grace at all, but a false hope. Pitting authority and grace against each other results in both a graceless and headless religion, regardless of what else is being professed in the name of Christ.

Does stressing authority mean that we believe we are saved by law? Again, that's an unwarranted jump. It means that we are stressing that salvation can only come from One who has the power to give it, and that we need to listen to what He teaches.

What's the alternative? When we quit stressing authority, we quit stressing the Kingship, Lordship, and Headship of the One who came to save us by His grace. Once we do that, we have, ironically, entered into a situation in which we think that our own wisdom and power justifies us -- even while saying God is the One who saves.



Classes This Week

Sunday College Devo Will be at the Norman's home with Luke Carter teaching!	Tuesday 10:00 AM Ladies' class at Paula Davis' home, "Teach Me to Love"	Tuesday 7:00 PM Men's class at Walker Davis' home, A Study of 1 Timothy	Thursday 8:00 PM Truth Seekers #2107 in student center
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Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta's aunt)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Anna Price	Betty Bradford	Reba Patterson (Heath Fowler's mom)
Jean Buchanan (Abbie Harrison's grandmother)	Tina Atnip (Orie's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)	Jane Hunt (Chuck's mother)	Charles Hunt, (Chuck Hunt's dad)
Gay Ulrich (Emma's mom)	Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Shawn Lauderdale (Larry and Joannetta's son)

October Birthdays

- 1-Aiden Hahn
- 2-Cheryl McKenzie
- 2-Suzanne Stagner
- 3-Jennifer Hasty
- 3-James Malloy
- 6-Jessica Anderson
- 6-Josh Hartsell
- 7-Molly Borden
- 8-Heath Fowler
- 9-Garratt Pender
- 10 - Michael Edwards
- 12-Stacy Norman
- 12-Emily McDaniel
- 17-Abbie Harrison
- 20-Evan Pender
- 20-Keith Bailey
- 21-Zac Slay
- 22-Christopher White
- 23-Maryssa Hill
- 24-Sara Beth Roberts
- 24-Suzanna Roberts
- 25-Bethany Tolliver
- 26-Palmer Daniels
- 26-Esther Biddle
- 27-Tristan Roy
- 28-Will Pennington
- 28-Clay Chason
- 29-Belle Johnson
- 29-Matt Hall
- 29-Julie Britnell
- 29-Madi Luther
- 29-Abby Ambrose
- 31-Kitty Tam

News and Notes

- ☒ - Brooke Perkins' step-dad, George Willock, will have surgery on Oct 30 to remove a mass from his colon.
 - ☒ - Emma Ulrich's mom, Gay, is staying in an apt in TN for daily visits to dr. for the next several weeks after her recent bone marrow transplant.
 - ☒ - We rejoice with John Berkebile in his decision to be baptized last Sunday!
 - ☒ - Dave Hosey's cousin's husband, Darryl Cummings, is home from heart surgery and recovering well.
 - ☒ - Scott Fowler's uncle, Donald Saint, is now in rehab and doing better after his surgery.
 - ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Chelsea O'Dell, Paula Davis, Mallory Randolph and Suzanne Stagner .
 - ☒ - Singing night is tonight!
 - ☒ - Shawn Lauderdale is settling into rehab and continuing to make progress. They will meet with Dr on Monday about double vision.
 - ☒ - Please remember the family of Becky Daniels whose aunt, Virginia Lowe, died on Tuesday.
 - ☒ - Abbie Harrison had a procedure on her knee on Friday in ATL.
 - ☒ - Please pray for Matt Cavender who left on Tuesday for Kuwait on a 4-month deployment.
- For those who wish to send letters/cards:
- Matthew Cavender**
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The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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Thoughts to Ponder

Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. (Acts 10:34-35)

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

The Conversion of Cornelius

by Donnie V. Rader

The story of the conversation of Cornelius and his household is found in **Acts 10:1-48**. Peter recounted the events when he went to Jerusalem, Peter related the story of this conversion there (**Acts 15:7-9**). Lets look at Cornelius, the miracles surrounding his con-version and the gospel message he heard.

Cornelius

1. A Gentile (Acts 15:7). Cornelius was the first Gentile convert. At the time of his conversion the church was made up largely of Jews. This family was the first of the Gentiles to become Christians. Today it has been reversed. Now the church primarily consists of Gentiles with only a few Jews obeying the gospel.

This conversion proved that the Gentiles can be saved just like the Jews (**Acts 11:18; 15:7,9**).

2. A military man (Acts 10:1). Cornelius was a centurion of the Italian Regiment. He was a man of power and authority. He had a lot of men under his command. Yet, with all of this power, he had the same needs as the lowest private or a civilian he was in need of salvation from his sins.

3. A moral man (Acts 10:2,22). The text tells us that he was

However, in spite of his good moral character, he still needed to hear the gospel and be saved (**Acts 11:14**). I learn from this that sincerity and honesty within themselves are not enough.

"devout" man which means he was a sincere and devoted individual. He was also good to others for he gave alms to people. He was a "just" or honorable, honest man. He had a good name and reputation. What better neighbor could be found? If you were to list his good traits and contrast them with his bad ones, the good would no doubt out-weigh the bad. However, in spite of his good moral character, he still needed to hear the gospel and be saved (**Acts 11:14**). I learn from this that sincerity and honesty within themselves are not enough.

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4. A religious man (Acts 10:2). He was devout. He was devoted to his religious service and activities. He had an active religion. He feared God. He stood in awe of God's majesty and greatness. He was afraid of doing that which displeased God. He prayed to God. This tells us that his faith in God was real.

Again, in spite of being religious, he still was not a child of God. Being religious and being devoted are not enough. One still needs to be obedient to God like Cornelius had to be.

Desired to know the word of God (**Acts 10:33**). Cornelius was open and receptive to the truth. He wanted to know what God has said including what God would command to be done. When Peter had come, he said to Peter, "Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all things commanded you by God."

Miracles Surrounding His Conversion

There were three miracles connected with this conversion. The reason for these is obvious from reading the text: this is the first conversion of a Gentile.

1. An angel appeared to Cornelius (Acts 10:3-8). The angel told Cornelius that his prayers had been heard (**v. 4**). The fact that God hears the aliens prayer all will agree. God may even respond somehow. It seems here that he did. However, that is not the same as the assurance that God answers our prayers (**1 Pet. 3:12**). Otherwise, passages like **1 Peter 3:12** would be meaningless.

Cornelius was instructed to send for Peter (**vv. 5-6**) for he would tell him what he "must do" (**v. 6**). This appearance had nothing directly to do with his salvation. If it did, why do we not read of such in other cases of conversion? The angel didn't save Cornelius. There is no evidence that he believes in Christ at this point.

2. Peters vision (Acts 10:9-18). While Peter was on the housetop waiting for a meal to be prepared, he fell into a trance and saw a object like a great sheet coming out of heaven with all kinds of animals and beasts in it. He heard a voice that told him to rise and eat. He refused

saying that he would not eat that which was common or unclean. The voice rebuked him saying, "What God has cleansed you must not call common" (**v. 15**). The point was that the Gen-tiles (who had been considered common and unclean) can now be accepted into the kingdom of God. This is the explanation that Peter later gave saying, "I shall not call any man common or unclean" (**vv. 28-29**).

3. Reception of the Holy Spirit (vv. 44-47). As Peter was speaking the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and his family. What did they receive? They received Holy Spirit baptism. What fell on the Gen-tiles here was like that that the apostles received (**vv. 45,47**). What Peter saw on that day reminded him of Holy Spirit baptism (**Acts 11:16**). It was called the same gift (**Acts 11:17**). Peter said God gave them (Cornelius and his house) the Holy Spirit "just as he did to us" (**Acts 15:8**).

What did this prove? It proved to all present that the Gentiles are now gospel subjects (**Acts 11:18**). It did not prove that Holy Spirit baptism is for all believers in all ages. It did not prove that Cornelius was saved before baptism. If it did, it proved he was saved before faith.

The Sermon (Acts 10:34-48)

Peter made three fundamental points in his sermon.

1. There is no partiality with God (vv. 34-35). Peter preached that God is not a respecter of persons he shows no partiality. Rather, he accepts everyone who (a) fears God and (b) works righteousness.

2. Salvation through Christ (vv. 36-43). Jesus Christ was: (a) anointed with the Holy Spirit and power (**v. 38**), (b) killed by crucifixion (**v. 39**), (c) raised from the dead the third day (**vv. 40-41**), (d) ordained to be the judge of the living and the dead (**v. 42**), (e) a fulfillment of the prophets (**v. 43**) and (f) the one through whom men can have the remission of sins (**v. 43**).

3. What man must do. Cornelius was told to hear words whereby he could be saved (**Acts 10:6; 11:14**), believe in Christ (**Acts 14:43**), repent of his sins (**Acts 11:15**) and be baptized (**Acts 10:48**).

Peter stated that Cornelius did what he was told to do to be a child of God (**Acts 15:7-9**). You can be saved the same way that he was. - **Guardian of Truth, July 15, 1993**



When We are Tempted

By R. J. Evans

Temptation is an inducement to sin. The source of all enticements to sin is Satan. When he came to Jesus in the wilderness, he is referred to as "the tempter" (**Matt. 4:3**). The temptation of Adam and Eve expressly recognizes him as a deceiver and tempter (**Gen. 3:1-15; Jn. 8:44; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Jn. 3:8**). He successfully induced Ananias and Sapphira to lie to the Holy Spirit (**Acts 5:3**).

When the devil tempts us to sin, he appeals to "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (**1 Jn. 2:16**).

We see him using these avenues in the very beginning. Eve "saw that the tree was good for food (lust of the flesh), that it was pleasant to the eyes (lust of eyes) and a tree desirable to make one wise (pride of life), she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate" (**Gen. 3:6**). When Satan tempted Jesus in **Matthew 4**, he used the same avenues---the lust of the flesh (**v. 4**); the pride of life (**v. 6**); and the lust of the eyes (**v. 8**).

Temptations may reveal our weaknesses and strengths, try our faith, promote our humility, and cause us to recognize our dependence upon God. We must not yield to or rush into temptation. Jesus exhorted Peter, James and John to "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (**Matt. 26:41**). The world usually views those who seek to resist temptation and desire to please God as "weak" individuals. But, in reality, the opposite is true. "Temptation often assails the finest natures; as the pecking sparrow or destructive wasp attacks the sweetest and mellowest fruit; eschewing what is sour and crude." (Charlotte Bronte)

C.S. Lewis expressed a keen insight concerning temptation as follows: "No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find out the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what

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it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in." (Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis, pp. 124-125) Giving in to temptation results in awful consequences---we sin; resisting temptation builds character. James says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (**Jas. 4:7**). To "resist" him means an attack on his part. **Ephesians 6:10-18** describes at length the weapons we are to use in fighting against his attacks. Although the devil "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (**1**

Pet. 5:8), we can put him to flight--- "he will flee from you" (**Jas. 4:7**). Also, we must remember that friendship with the world is friendship with the devil. The Apostle Paul referred to Satan as "the god of this world" (**2 Cor. 4:4**). James stated: "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (**Jas. 4:4**).

After warning against pride, and the possibility of falling, Paul gives encouragement to us when we are confronted with temptation. "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (**1 Cor. 10:13**). God is not, and cannot be the tempter (**Jas. 1:13-14**). But He does provide us "a way of escape." In finding the way of escape, we must look to Christ our Savior---the perfect example, who never sinned. When the devil tempted Him to sin in the wilderness, each time, Jesus overcame the temptation by referring to the word of God--- "it is written" (**Matt. 4:4,7,10**). This is in accord with what the Psalmist stated: "Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You" (**Psa. 119:11**). Again, Jesus is our perfect example---"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example, that we should follow His steps: 'Who committed no sin, Nor was guile found in His mouth'" (**1 Pet. 2:21-22**).

