

THE STANDARD

POSSIBLE STANDARDS OF AUTHORITY

SINCERITY/CONSCIENCE

- (Acts 8:1-3 KJV) "And _____ was consenting unto his _____. And at that time there was a great _____ against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all _____ abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the _____. {2} And devout men carried _____ to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. {3} As for _____, he made _____ of the church, entering into every house, and _____ men and women committed them to _____."
- (Acts 9:1-2 KJV) "And _____, yet breathing out threatenings and _____ against the _____, went unto the high priest, {2} And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this _____, whether they were men or women, he might bring them _____ unto Jerusalem."
- (Acts 23:1 KJV) "And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived _____ before _____ until this day."
- (Heb 13:18 KJV) " _____: for we trust we have a _____, in all things willing to live honestly."

- ✓ Paul (Saul) had sinned in the past by consenting to kill Stephen, persecuting the church and putting them in prison. Yet Paul makes the statement late in his life that he had lived in all good conscience before God. In everything Paul had done during his life, he had believed he was doing right. But that didn't make it right! Paul still had to obey to be saved. (Acts 22)
- ✓ Our conscience is not consistent, in fact the writer asks for prayers to have a good conscience.
- ✓ Can we rely on our conscience to be our Standard of Authority? _____

MAJORITY VOTE

- (John 19:6 KJV) "When the _____ therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, _____, _____. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find _____."
- (Acts 7:57-58 KJV) "Then they cried out with a loud voice, and _____ their ears, and ran upon him with _____, {58} And cast him out of the city, and _____ him: and the _____ laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was _____."
- (Mat 7:13-14 KJV) "Enter ye in at the _____ gate: for _____ is the gate, and _____ is the way, that leadeth to _____, and _____ there be which go in thereat: {14} Because strait is the gate, and _____ is the way, which leadeth unto _____, and _____ there be that find it."

- ✓ The chief priests and officers (Jewish leaders), wanted to see Jesus Crucified even though He was innocent.
- ✓ Members of the Jerusalem synagogue did not like what they heard and together (mob) took Stephen outside and stoned him because he spoke the truth and was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Jesus said that there would be many on the road to destruction.
- ✓ Can we rely on the majority vote as a good and consistent standard for authority? _____

THE RELIGION OF OUR PARENTS

- **(Mat 19:29 KJV)** "And every one that hath _____ houses, or brethren, or sisters, or _____, or _____, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit _____."
- **(Acts 22:3-4 KJV)** "I am verily a man which am a _____, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of _____, and taught according to the _____ of the _____ of the _____, and was zealous toward _____, as ye all are this day. {4} And I persecuted this way unto the _____, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women."
- **(Phil 3:4-5 KJV)** "Though I might also have confidence in the _____. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: {5} _____ the eighth day, of the stock of _____, of the tribe of _____, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a _____;"

- ✓ To inherit everlasting life, Jesus required that all turn to Him for salvation. Just doing what our ancestors did, does not grant us eternal life.
- ✓ Of all men Paul could boast that he was in every way a zealous Jew, tutored in the perfect manner of the law and yet the religion of his fathers was wrong.
- ✓ Can we rely on the religion of our parents as a good and consistent standard for authority? _____

THE WORD OF GOD

- **(2 Tim 3:15-17 KJV)** "And that from a child thou hast known the _____, which are able to make thee _____ unto _____ through faith which is in _____ {16} All _____ is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for _____, for _____, for _____, for _____ in righteousness: {17} That the man of God may be _____, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."
- **(John 12:48 KJV)** "He that _____ me, and _____ not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the _____ that I have spoken, the same shall _____ him in the last day."

- ✓ Paul tells Timothy that Scripture is given by inspiration of God (God breathed) and that it will lead all to salvation through Christ Jesus.
- ✓ The Bible is the tool that will make a person perfect (complete) because it can be used for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction.
- ✓ Can we rely on the word of God as a good and consistent standard for authority? _____

LET'S NOTICE OTHER SCRIPTURES WHICH SPEAK OF THE WORD OF GOD AS OUR ONLY SAFE STANDARD IN MATTERS OF RELIGION.

- **(Heb 4:12-13 KJV)** "For the word of God is _____, and _____, and sharper than any _____ sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of _____ and _____, and of the joints and marrow, and is a _____ of the thoughts and intents of the _____. {13} Neither is there any creature that is not _____ in his sight: but all things are naked and _____ unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

- ✓ The word is relevant to our lives today.
- ✓ It is like a scalpel – it hurts to have the bad cut out.

- **(2 Pet 1:20-21 KJV)** "Knowing this first, that no _____ of the scripture is of any _____ of _____ . {21} For the _____ came not in old time by the _____ of _____ : but holy men of God _____ as they were moved by the _____ ."

- ✓ The Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ What we think (our private interpretation) doesn't matter.

- **(John 8:31-32 KJV)** "Then said Jesus to those Jews which _____ on him, If ye _____ in my word, then are ye my _____ ; {32} And ye shall know the _____ , and the truth shall make you _____ ."

- ✓ We must hold on to the teachings of Jesus to be a true disciple.
- ✓ Sincerity does not equal truth.

- **(1 Cor 2:12-13 KJV)** "Now we have _____ , not the spirit of the world, but the _____ which is of God; that we might _____ the things that are freely given to us of _____ . {13} Which things also we speak, not in the words which _____ teacheth, but which the _____ teacheth; comparing _____ things with spiritual."

- ✓ The Bible is a message from the mind of God.
- ✓ It is not a mere human product.

- **(James 1:21-25 KJV)** "Wherefore lay apart all _____ and _____ of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the _____ word, which is able to _____ your souls. {22} But be ye _____ of the word, and not _____ only, deceiving your own selves. {23} For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man _____ his natural face in a glass: {24} For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway _____ what manner of man he was. {25} But whoso looketh into the _____ of _____ , and continueth therein, he being not a _____ hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be _____ in his deed."

- ✓ It is not enough to merely look into the Bible and learn it.
- ✓ We must have the courage to OBEY!
- ✓ **How should we react when God's work calls for personal change in our lives?**

--Roger Hillis