

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

January 13, 2008

BY WHOSE AUTHORITY?

In the affairs of humankind “Who said so?” is a very, very important issue. The question is frequently raised among small children at play because we humans come to realize at a very early age that “Who said so?” is the issue that is the sole dictator of intelligent response to whatever has been said or done. The question needs to be asked a whole lot more often than it is, and the answers given need to be carefully considered. If the person who acts or speaks does not have proper authority or is not honest in claiming authority disaster will surely come upon those who allow them to so behave unchallenged.

Considering how Jesus sometimes behaved it is not surprising that Jesus was challenged regarding His authority to behave as He did.

Matthew 21: 23 “And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority do you these things? And who gave you this authority?”

The reason for the question was that the day before Jesus had for the second time in His short preaching career made havoc of the merchandising enterprises in the temple. They evidently felt that Jesus was acting without authority since he had not obtained permission from them and they had come to act as if the both the temple and the worship that took place there was their own to do with what they chose. They did not follow the Law of Moses as it was written from the mind of God. They followed it only in as much as they chose to and ignored or changed it at will. It was less than logical for them to suggest that anyone was acting without authority in anything that had to do with the temple or with the Law of Moses because their actions had for years demonstrated that they were completely without respect for the authority of God.

Jesus never did answer their question but His response to their question made clearly visible the real problem in the religion that many of the Jews were practicing at that time.

Matthew 21: 24 “And Jesus answered and said to them, I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 The baptism of John, whence was it; from heaven, or of men?”

If the Jewish religious leaders who considered themselves to be in charge of the temple and the worship that took place there were actually concerned about true authority, there would have been no merchandising in the temple because there was nothing in the Law of Moses that gave authority for any, including the religious leaders of the Jews, to allow merchandising to be done in the temple. No person had the authority to allow to be done in religion what the Law of Moses did not authorize to be done in religion. Not only did Jesus have the authority to do what He did in disrupting the merchandising in the temple but every other Jew also had the authority to do it. The authority was in the Law of Moses. The Jews, including the religious and civil leaders, were forbidden to stray from that law to the right or to the left.

Deuteronomy 5: 32 “You shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God has commanded you: you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 33 You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and [that it may be] well with you, and [that] you may prolong [your] days in the land which you shall possess.”

Evoking the Law of Moses any Jew had the authority to do what Jesus did because any Jew was authorized to point out that the Law of Moses was not being followed. In worshipping God, the Jews, no matter what their position, were only authorized to do exactly what the Law that God gave Moses told them to do.

The problem was authority but the problem was not whether or not Jesus had authority to oppose deviations from the Law of Moses. The problem was the lack of respect for the authority of God that allowed those deviations to happen in the first place. Their response to the question that Jesus asked them revealed that they had absolutely no respect for the authority of God or for His word.

Matthew 21:25 “The baptism of John, whence was it; from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say to us, Why did you not then believe him? 26 But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. 27 And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said to them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.”

Today authority in the worship of God resides in the teachings of Jesus as they have been recorded in the New Testament by the inspired apostles of Jesus in the first century AD. They wrote and taught in obedience to the commandment that Jesus had given them.

Matthew 28: 18 “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All power is given to me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen.”

If a practice or doctrine is not taught by the commandments, the approved examples, the necessary inferences or the silence of the New Testament it is clearly not part of what Jesus commanded His inspired apostles to teach. It is not something that the followers of Jesus are authorized to do as a service to God.

The Law of Moses was not a starting place from which to build a religious system. The Law of Moses was the complete system expressing God's will for worshippers under it. To please God worshippers needed to obey it as written.

The New Testament is not a starting place from which to build a religious system. The New Testament is the complete system for us. To please God we must obey the New Testament as written, faith requires no less.

Remember to Pray For

Pat Wallace, recovering from bone spur surgery.

Pat Wallace, in the death of her mother **Wilma Hovie**. Wilma was also Marc Nations' aunt.

Anne Harper and the baby

Donnie & Tracy Oliver and their baby.

Helen Stephens

Rick Estes

Brayden Grushon

Morgan Farmer

The mother of Lori Dailey

Chris Handshoe

Chris and Jen Dooley

Jeffrey Howerton

Ruel Baker

Addison Pervine

Carl Stripplehoff

Sybil Jamison

Blanch Thompson

Karen Handshoe

Tom Kemp

Freda Blakey

James Stauffer

THE WORD OF GOD WORKS MIRACLES

Psalms 33: 4 “For the word of the LORD [is] right; and all his works [are done] in

truth. 5 He loves righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD. 6 **By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.** 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap: he lays up the depth in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

9 **For he spoke, and it was [done]; he commanded, and it stood fast.** 10 The LORD brings the counsel of the heathen to nothing: he makes the devices of the people of no effect. 11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.”

DO WE LET THE ALL-POWERFUL MIRACLE WORKING WORD OF GOD MOVE US?

B/C=K=F

BELIEVE/CONTINUE=KNOW=FREE

John 8: 31 “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If you continue in my word, [then] are you my disciples indeed;** 32 And **you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**”

In the New Testament the Lord's church has no organizational structure outside of a local church. In the New Testament there is no organizational machinery by which to join these local churches to each other to make any organization larger than a local church. Every religious organization on earth that is larger than a single local church operates without New Testament authority.

Thoughts

Consider the “evolution” of the egg of a bird. An egg has a shell, an outer shell membrane, an inner shell membrane, air space, a chalaza, albumen or white layers, yolk layers, blastodisc, and vitelline membrane. Each of these components is a specific design, purpose and position in relationship to all of the other components of the bird egg.

Without each of these intricate components properly in place and functioning the egg will not perform as an egg. Nothing will hatch from an egg that does not have all of its components in the proper place each doing its part for the success of the egg. Those nine components must all be in place and functioning properly or none of them will succeed. How do you “evolve” a living organism that has nine separate unique components each of which is necessary to the functions of the whole living organism and without which the organism simply dies?

What did a bird do for reproduction before it laid complicated multi-component eggs? How did the bird go from that former system of reproduction to reproducing by laying eggs that have nine sophisticated components that are all necessary for the success of the egg? By what series of accidents may a living organism change its method of reproduction to one that involves developing nine separate components all together at the same time within the short life span of the organism? Each bird only had its own life span in which to switch from whatever it did before, to laying eggs.

If an egg is the result of evolution by random choice there has to be a missing link between each of the nine current components of the egg and whatever preceded that component in the chain. There has to be an explanation of how each of those necessary components could “evolve” independently into a single organism during the lifetime of the host organism: in order to successfully produce the next generation of host organisms. If the host died before the reproduction system was up and running then the process was over.

In order to work at all evolution by random selection would have to work in seconds. The time limit on the evolution of a new reproduction system by random selection is not longer than the lifetime of the host organism. If the host organism cannot in its own lifetime produce the next generation then the game is over.

The whole foundation of real science is to discover how things work because the way they work is the way they always work. The natural world is not a hodgepodge of random accidents. It is an intricately designed, purposeful whole.

Notes

BUSINESS MEETING FOR THE MEN TODAY AT 3:00PM

BUSINESS MEETING FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH AT 4:00 PM JANUARY 27

Proverbs 16: 17 “*The highway of the upright [is] to depart from evil: he that keeps his way preserves his soul.*”

Proverbs 4: 23 “*Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it [are] the issues of life.*”

Proverbs 23: 23 “*Buy the truth, and sell [it] not; [also] wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.*”

The New Testament is God's complete guide to acceptable service to God on earth.

2Timothy 3: 16 “*All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished to all good works.*”

“Start here and do it your way” is not the message of the New Testament.

In the New Testament among the faithful disciples of Jesus there was no church headquarters on earth.

Among the faithful disciples of Jesus there is still no church headquarters on earth.

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages

7:30pm

Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

University Heights

Church of Christ

445 Columbia Avenue

Lexington, Kentucky 40508

859 255-6257

859 266-6406

www.uheightschurch.com

COME STUDY THE BIBLE AND WORSHIP WITH US