

May 26, 2024

Authority Is Fundamental

by Ken Weliever

Ralph “Babe” Pinelli was a major league baseball player in the early 20th century who later became an umpire.

It’s told that in 1935, Babe’s first year umpiring, he was the home plate umpire working a game in which Babe Ruth was playing. It’s was Ruth’s last year in the majors.

After swinging and missing at the first two pitches for strikes, Babe Ruth didn’t swing on the next pitch which he thought was a ball. Pinelli called, “Strike Three.”

Legend has it that Ruth turned to him and said: “There’s forty thousand people in this park that know that was a ball, tomato-head!”

Not one easily intimidated, even by the game’s biggest star, Pinelli kept his composure and calmly replied: “Perhaps—but mine is the only opinion that counts. You’re out!”

Religiously speaking, God’s opinion is the only one that matters, regardless of what we may believe to be true.

Too many people live their lives on the basis of their feelings, human creeds, church edicts, political correctness, or family traditions. When discussing religious matters you often hear the opinion expressed, “It doesn’t make any difference what you believe as long as you’re honest and sincere.” That opinion, however, does not meet with God’s approval.

Authority is fundamental to our faith. What God has decreed is the final Word on any issue. Psalm 119 exalts God’s Word as

Truth. It is settled in heaven. And it is that which will direct our steps and lights our path. In Jesus’ prayer to the Father, He said, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth (Jn. 17:17).

I learned a long time ago the importance of establishing the issue of authority when studying with people. I always begin with three questions. (1) Do you believe in God? (2) Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God? (3) Do you believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God? A negative answer to any of these questions requires a study of Christian evidences before we can proceed to discuss any religious topic.

If you can answer “yes” to all three questions, then we can lay the foundation of authority based on these Biblical pronouncements.

1. God today speaks through His Son, Jesus Christ. And He gave Jesus “all authority in heaven and on earth” (Heb. 1:1-3; Matt. 28:18).

2. Jesus promised the apostles He would send them the Holy Spirit who would teach them, remind them of His Word, and Guide them into all Truth” (Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13).

3. The apostle Paul said that by revelation the Holy Spirit inspired him to write “in a few words” the very essence of “the mystery of Christ.” And it is written in such a way that we can read it and understand it (Eph. 3:3-5).

4. So, Paul would affirm that “all scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Tim.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies’ Class - Tuesday, May 28 at 10 a.m.

Singing - Northwest church of Christ in Austin, June 1, 10:30 a.m.

Gospel Meeting - South Loop church of Christ in Taylor, June 28-30

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

3:16-17). It is literally “God breathed.” As a result the Scripture will help us in 5 ways.

The Scripture shows you what is right.

The Scripture shows you what is wrong.

The Scripture helps you get right.

The Scripture helps you stay right.

The Scripture equips you for every God work.

Like Timothy, when we teach, preach, exhort or rebuke it must be based on God’s Word, the “Rule Book.” And we can do it with “all authority.”

In matters of religion, morals, ethics, and Christian living, we’ve not been given the prerogative to call “balls and strikes,” based on our own opinion. Or ever changing societal trends. God’s opinion is the only one that counts.

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson’s tumor is almost completely gone & no more suspicious things in his scan.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is at home and still on constant oxygen.

Debbie McMurray has received good test results but is still under treatment.

Terry Behrns is recovering at his sister’s home

Margaret Vanaman is being treated for melanoma.

Lisa Trammel is at home and struggling with her cancer and treatments.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

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