

By Whose Authority Dare You Preach?



“I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other —my conscience is captive to the Word of God, I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen.”

–Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms

1. the power or right to give orders, make decisions,
and enforce obedience:

Matthew 8:9 (KJV) — 9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

2. (often authorities) a person or organization having power or control in a particular, typically political or administrative, sphere:

Esther 9:29 (KJV) — 29 Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim.

3. the power to influence others, especially because of one's commanding manner or one's recognized knowledge about something

Matthew 7:28–29 (KJV) — 28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

ἐξουσία (*exousia*)

John 1:12 (KJV) — 12 But as many as received him,
to them gave he power to become the sons of God,
even to them that believe on his name:

Revelation 18:1 (KJV) — 1 And after these things
I saw another angel come down from heaven,
having great **power**; and the earth was lightened
with his glory.

John 17:2 (KJV) — 2 As thou hast given him **power** over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

Matthew 28:18 (KJV) — 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All **power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

John 5:26–27 (KJV) — 26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath **given him authority** to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

Matthew 7:29 (KJV) — 29 For he taught them as one having **authority**, and not as the scribes.

John 10:18 (KJV) — 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have **power** to lay it down, and I have **power** to take it again. This commandment have I **received of my Father.**

Matthew 11:27 (KJV) — 27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Matthew 26:64 (KJV) — 64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the **right hand of power**, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Psalm 110:1 (KJV) — 1 The LORD said unto
my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make
thine enemies thy footstool.

Ephesians 1:20–23 (KJV) — 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Revelation 1:1 (KJV) — 1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

John 3:35 (KJV) — 35 The Father loveth the Son,
and hath given all things into his hand.

John 13:3 (KJV) — 3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

John 17:24 (KJV) — 24 Father, I will that they also,
whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am;
that they may behold my glory, **which thou hast
given me:** for thou lovedst me before the foundation
of the world.

Matthew 28:18–20 (KJV) — 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me** in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 26:9–10 (KJV) — 9 I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, **having received authority** from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.

Matthew 21:23–24 (KJV) — 23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what **authority** doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? 24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

Matthew 21:25–27 (KJV) — 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 unto us, Why did ye 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 unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

Titus 2:3–4 (KJV) — 3 The aged women . . . may
teach the young women to be sober, to love their
husbands, to love their children,

Acts 21:8 (KJV) — 8 . . . we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. 9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

Joel 2:28–30 (KJV) — 28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your **daughters** shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the **handmaids** in those days will I pour out my spirit. 30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

Matthew 10:7 (KJV) — 7 And as ye go, preach,
saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 24:14 (KJV) — 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Luke 9:60 (KJV) — 60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

Acts 8:35 (KJV) — 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

Acts 13:38 (KJV) — 38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

Acts 15:35 (KJV) — 35 Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

1 Corinthians 1:17–18 (KJV) — 17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Revelation 14:6 (KJV) — 6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

2 Timothy 4:2 (KJV) — 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

“1. Adhering to the accepted or traditional and established faith. . . 2. Adhering to the Christian faith as expressed in the early Christian ecumenical creeds. 3. Adhering to what is commonly accepted, customary, or traditional”

– The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 4th ed.

Matthew 15:2–3 (KJV) — 2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. 3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Matthew 15:9 (KJV) — 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

“Rome withheld the Bible from the people and required all men to accept her teachings in its place. It was the work of the Reformation to restore to men the word of God; but is it not too true that in the churches of our time men are taught to rest their faith upon their creed and the teachings of their church rather than on the Scriptures?”

— The Great Controversy, p. 388.3

The first step of apostasy is to get up a creed, telling us what we shall believe. The second is, to make that creed a test of fellowship. The third is to try members by that creed. The fourth to denounce as heretics those who do not believe that creed. And, fifth, to commence persecution against such.

— *J. N. Loughbrough, The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald,*
October 8, 1861, page 149.7

Luke 12:32 (KJV) — 32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Revelation 13:3 (KJV) — 3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Matthew 7:22–23 (KJV) — 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)
- The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses).
- The Church of Scientology.
- Branch Davidians
- Seventh-day Adventists

- Catholicism
- Pentecostalism
- Eastern Orthodox
- Anglicanism
- Baptists
- Lutheranism
- Oriental Orthodoxy
- Methodism
- Presbyterianism
- **Seventh Day Adventists**

Galatians 1:8–9 (KJV) — 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Mark 9:37–39 (KJV) — 37 Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me. 38 And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us. 39 But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.

