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## By What Authority?

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BY WHAT AUTHORITY? #1

Matt. 21:23-24

Age is famous for skepticism and doubt.

INTRO: Same condition existed in Christ's day. Text.

Need for Christian alertness. I Thess. 5:21.

Must honestly ask ourselves, "By what Authority.."

I. IS THERE A NEED FOR AUTHORITY?

- A. Governments exist only on authority. Without-Deut.12:8.
- B. Standards a must in all things. Money,Weights, Sports..
- C. Smooth running society--because of respect for authority
- D. Rel. confusion; sign of disrespect. Failure of man to heed true guide. Meddling too much. 250 groups.

II. CAN FEELINGS BE TRUSTED AS AUTHORITY IN RELIGION?

- A. Some feel assurance of salvation in heart.
- B. Feelings entirely dependent on information at hand.
  - 1. Jacob's grief over Joseph's absence. Gen. 37:31-36.
  - 2. West Texas election report in error. Caused gloom.
- C. Feelings good in religion only if person is properly taught.

III. CAN WE LET OUR CONSCIENCE BE OUR GUIDE?

- A. If this our standard--as many standards as have men.
- B. Conscience is product of one's education.
- C. Paul's conscience clear while destroying ch. I Tim.1:13
- D. Do not disregard conscience entirely--educate it--Bible.

IV. IS FOREFATHER'S RELIGION GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME?

- A. Trace back far enough,forefather a head-hunter-heathen.
- B. All have 2 parents, 4 grand-parents etc. Agree all 128?
- C. Forefather right--you right. Forefather wrong--you wrong.
- D. Paul did not risk it. Acts 9 and Gal. 1:14.

V. SHOULD I ABIDE BY THE VERDICT OF THE MAJORITY?

- A. Question: What is the majority in religion today?
- B. World? then heathen. America? then not interested. State? Mormon in Utah. Change every time move!
- C. God warned against following majority. Ex. 23:2.
- D. Jesus described the reward of the mass. Matt. 7:13.

INVITATION: Christ is the Supreme Authority. Matt. 28:18-20.

Bible contains His commands, promises &amp; threats.

- 1. Sinner--obey gospel. Have you? Consider now.
- 2. Err Christian repent and pray. Done so. Now!