



New Testament Authority

Foundation, Scope, and Application



The Foundation of New Testament Authority

What is the New Testament?

- The New Testament (N.T.) is the new and final covenant of God revealing His will.
- Revealed through Christ – Heb. 1:1-2
- It was Christ's purpose to establish the N.T. for our sanctification – Heb. 10:8-10
- It was established through Christ completing God's plan by dying on the cross – Heb. 9:15-17
- This N.T., or covenant, was revealed by Christ through the Holy Spirit to the apostles – Jn. 16:13-14; Mt. 28:18-20; 1 Thess. 4:1-2; 1 Cor. 14:37

The N.T. has Christ's Authority

- Christ has complete authority in heaven and on earth – Matt. 28:18
- The Father has made him Lord and King – Rev. 17:14; Eph. 1:22-23
- All will appear before His throne to be judged by His word – 2 Cor. 5:10; Jn. 5:24; 12:48
- It is eternally important that we know and follow the N.T. of Christ!



THE SCOPE OF NEW TESTAMENT AUTHORITY

Scope

- Defined: Range, or extent, of the N.T.'s right to direct our lives and service to God.
- Our view of this scope greatly affects the role of God's word in our lives and service to Him.
 - Some believe its authority to be all-encompassing.
 - Most believe it to have a minimal role in life and service to God, championing grace over "legalism" – Rom. 6:1-2; Titus 2:11-14; Matt. 7:24-27

Scope: All-Encompassing

- N.T. authority is as broad as the authority of Christ – Matt. 28:18; Lk. 6:46
- Because Christ has *all authority*, the N.T. has complete authority in our lives.
 - We cannot have a *loving relationship* with Christ without submission/obedience to Him – Jn. 14:15; 15:14
 - We cannot *know* God without complete obedience – 1 Jn. 2:3-4
 - We cannot properly worship without complete submission – Matt. 15:8-9; Heb. 11:6
- We must preach the truth and obedience to it – 1 Tim. 4:16



Practical Applications Of New Testament Authority

Because the N.T. is the Fullness of Christ's Truth Revealed....

- We must accept the N.T. as both final and unchangeable – Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19
- We must accept the N.T. as all-sufficient for our life and service to God – 2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Because the N.T. is the Words of Christ Revealed...

- We are bound to teach and practice only what is revealed in the N.T. – 1 Cor. 4:6
- We must not presume to know the will of Christ without it being in the N.T. – 1 Cor. 2:11-12
- Everything we do in service to Him must be authorized by the N.T. – Col. 3:17; Matt. 7:21-23
- We cannot justify our actions by the SILENCE of the N.T. – 2 Sam. 7:1-7; Heb. 7:12-14; 13:5-6



Conclusion:

We have Learned...

- The foundation of N.T. authority is the authority of Jesus.
- The scope of N.T. authority is all-encompassing.
- The N.T. is the final and sufficient for our life and service to God in Christ.
- Because the N.T. is the **revelation** of Christ's will, we must not justify our actions from the **SILENCE** of the Scriptures.