



THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 6, 2024

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

November 10

Our Next Gospel Meeting

Today-Friday

Weekly Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday at 2 pm

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

November 1

Address and Contact

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Christ

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BY WHOSE AUTHORITY?

In Matthew 21:23-27, the chief priests came to Jesus demanding to know by what authority he taught the people. They wanted to know who gave the authority and how Jesus was using it. The chief priests thought they had a right to examine Jesus but they were wrong and Jesus refused to accept their claim of a right of examination.

How did Jesus let them know they had no right? *“But Jesus answered and said to them, I will also ask you one thing, which if you tell me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?”* (Matt. 21:24-25.) The question is simple. Was John on a God-given mission or was he just some self-made fanatic out in the wilderness? Well, the chief priests thought about how to answer Jesus in verses 25 - 27. If they said John’s baptism was from heaven then Jesus would ask why they didn’t follow John. If they said it was from man, then they would have a riot on their hands because the people loved John. Their conclusion was to say, “We don’t know” (Matt. 21:27.) Thus, they proved they were not seeking the truth about Jesus with an honest heart. So, Jesus didn’t allow any further examination from them.

One has to wonder today if Jesus isn’t asking the same question of religious folks. Not that he is interested in John’s baptism or that it is in force today but can people really tell the authority behind it. More importantly, can people tell what authority is behind Jesus?

The Lord said, *“All authority is given unto me in heaven and on earth, Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing*

Members Needing Our Prayers

Bobbie Atkisson, Ralph Fox, Jill Harrison, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny and Arlena Poynter, Gary Brown, Janett Brundige, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Jodi Harrison, Bob Brundige, Josh McKibben, Phyllis Harmon, Maurice Baker, Jeff Padgett, John Thompson, Georgia Patton, Glenda Miller, Patty Hill, Janice Parsons, Mark Nickles, Paul and Marrian Lyda

To Our Guests

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them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...” (Matt. 28:18-20.) Certainly, we recognize that the word “all” includes everything. Since Jesus has ALL authority, that leaves no room for any man, council, convention, or creed to exercise any authority. We cannot speak for Christ by putting words in his mouth or adding meanings to his words he did not intend. Jesus could very well ask today, “The baptism of Jesus - is it from heaven or men?” If from heaven then why not do it?

The question is relevant today for man has always been inclined to substitute his will for God’s. We can read numerous examples in the Bible of those who changed what God wanted (Cain, Uzzah, Nadab and Abihu, etc) to do it “their” way. And the beat goes on today.

The question is often asked, “What is wrong with religion? Can’t we all just do it our own way?” Is this not answering like the chief priests-“We don’t know?” Let’s do the math. There is one Bible and 2000 different churches under the “Christian” umbrella. Something doesn’t add up. The question remains-is your authority from God, or men? Wayde Miller

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
Adam Litmer	Marcus Lake	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	James Weatherholt	

