

“About Authority In Religion”

Gary McDade

The “Let The Bible Speak” series of tracts we are making available to everyone in the entryway of the church building at Tiftonia has one by the above title. In an effort to encourage everyone to take advantage of this series and many other instructional tracts and papers available, we thought a brief review of one of them from time to time would help. (These tracts are free of charge. Take as many as you can use. If there is a title you would like to have, let us know and we will try our best to locate it for you and make it available to you.)

The author is W.C. “Bill” Johnson. The discussion is as timely today as when brother Johnson wrote it back in 1971. In the brief introductory remarks the problem addressed by the tract is stated: “Most problems in the religious world today exist because of man’s appeal to different rules of authority.” So, the tract will develop in only eight short pages solid ideas from the Bible to answer this widespread problem. Seven statements will be supported with Scripture that will guide the reader toward developing a conviction establishing the Bible as the sole rule of faith and practice allowed by God today.

Statement One

“The Bible teaches that all inherent authority belongs to God.” Scriptures presented include: Deuteronomy 18:18-19 and Acts 17:24.

Statement Two

“The Bible teaches that God has given all authority to Christ.” Scriptures presented include: Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 15:24; and Acts 3:22-23.

Statement Three

“The Bible teaches Christ delegated authority to the apostles.” Scriptures presented include: Matthew 28:18-20; John 17:8, 14; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:11-13; 14:37; 3 John 9; and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Statement Four

“The Bible teaches that this Word was to be committed to faithful men.” Scriptures presented include: 2 Timothy 2:2; John 8:31-32; 17:17; and Galatians 1:6-10.

Statement Five

“The Bible teaches that the Word was confirmed by miraculous signs.” Scriptures presented include: John 3:1-2; Acts 2:22; Mark 16:19-20; Hebrews 2:3-4; and John 20:30-31.

Statement Six

“The Bible teaches that the Word of God is complete.” Scriptures presented include: John 12:48; 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Jude 3; Galatians 1:8; and 2 John 9.

Statement Seven

“The Bible teaches that the final authority in religion today is Jesus Christ and His Word.” Scriptures presented include: Matthew 28:18; Hebrews 1:1-2; Galatians 6:2; Matthew 17:5; Hebrews 10:9-20; and Matthew 26:28.

The Gospel Plan Of Salvation

The tract concludes with the gospel plan of salvation: Hear—Mark 16:15-16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Believe—Mark 16:15-16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Repent—Acts 17:30-31. Confession of Christ—Romans 10:9-10. Baptism in water for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; 8:36; Galatians 3:26-27; John 4:23-24; and Acts 2:47. Continue to walk by faith—2 Corinthians 5:7.

The usefulness of this tract above what you just read here is in addition to the Scripture references a brief explanation of each Statement is given, it is packaged in a nice looking 4” by 6” booklet for ease of distribution, and it has a space on the back page “For more information Contact:” that will allow you to print your name and contact information should the person to whom you give it want more Bible study.

Please, use these materials in your personal Bible study, in preparing lessons for Bible class, in devotionals with your family at home, to take with you to read when you have spare time during the day, or to give to someone you care about. These tracts show that we are dedicated to the mission our Lord Jesus Christ gave His church, and to Him be the glory!