

Thank God That Jesus Has ALL Authority!

By: David Sproule

Have you ever played a pickup basketball game where every guy on the court thought that he was in charge? Two things usually result: chaos and frustration. What about in your workplace—what if every person there thought they were the boss? Can you imagine (or maybe you don't have to) the chaos and frustration that would erupt?

How easily we understand the need for authority, even if we don't like it in every situation. We need authority in the home, in our schools, in the workplace, on the playing field, on the highways, in the courtrooms, etc., etc. MOST of all, we must have authority in the CHURCH! What would happen if there was no clear authority (meaning, every person recognized the same person to be in charge) in the church? Two things would easily result: chaos and frustration. In addition to those, even more significantly, unbelief and rejection of the Lord and His truth would ensue.

Thank God that in HIS church the authority is very clear! Our authority does not reside in apostles or in angels (Gal. 1:8). It does not reside in any preachers or church councils (Gal. 1:9). It does not reside in our opinions, personal beliefs or feelings in our hearts (Prov. 14:12; Judg. 21:25). It does not reside in any church traditions (Matt. 15:1-13). It does not reside in any church manuals or creeds (Rev. 22:18-19). If authority resided in

any of these (or others that could be added to the list), then the church would belong to man and be governed by his whims. Result? Chaos and frustration!

Thank God that Jesus Christ has ALL authority in and over His church! The word "authority" means "the right to control or command, total authority and absolute power." Jesus uses that word in Matthew 28:18, where He proclaims, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Jesus alone has "the right to control or command" His church, for He alone has "absolute power." His Word is our authority in all things today—"Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you" (Acts 3:22). It will be His word which "will judge" us all "in the last day" (John 12:48).

My responsibility is to submit to His authority, to respect His Word and to obey Him in all things. I must not "think" beyond, "speak" beyond or "go" beyond that which He has given to me in His Word (1 Cor. 4:6; 1 Pet. 4:11; 2 John 9-11; 1 Cor. 1:10). I must not think myself so wise or conceited that I can "instruct" or "counsel" the Lord (Isa. 40:12-14; Rom. 11:33-36). Jesus makes it very clear that I must "hear" His Word and then I must "do the will" of my God in heaven (Matt. 7:21-27). My entrance into heaven is dependent upon respecting the authority of Christ and fully submitting to Him!

God Solved an “Unsolvable Problem”

By: Selected

When the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity, they immediately began to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem that Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed, and they had a major problem. In one of the three times Satan is mentioned in the Old Testament, he magnified this problem. There was no high priest who was holy to offer the sacrifices for sin and atonement. Read about this problem in Zechariah 3.

God solved that problem in a Divine vision given to Zechariah. The new high priest was seen in filthy garments with Satan standing beside him and God solved the problem. The filthy garments of iniquity were removed from the new high priest and replaced with rich robes (**Zech. 3:1-8**).

However, three chapters later, God created a new “problem” when a royal golden crown was placed on the head of that high priest. He is presented as being both a prophet and a king sitting on a throne. What was the problem? Every Jewish priest had to be from the tribe of Levi, and in Judah, every king had to be the lineage of David and that from another tribe, the tribe of Judah. Two hundred years prior to the time of Zechariah, a Jewish king, Uzziah, went into the temple and tried to offer a sacrifice. God immediately struck him with leprosy for this violation (**2 Chron. 26**). There, seemingly, was no way that a man could be both a prophet and a king at the same time. Yet, Zechariah had just placed a crown on the head of the high priest in his day. It was God who created this “problem,” and there was no way it could be solved.

Read carefully the details of what was said when the crown was placed on the head of the high priest. The prophet said that when you looked at

this priest with a crown you were to see far more. Zechariah said that this priest with a crown was a BRANCH (I capitalized this word because the NKJV does this when quoting written prophecy). There was an Old Testament prophecy where the Messiah had been called a branch (**Isa. 11:1**), and the context in Zechariah shows that the people looking at their high priest were seeing a picture of the fact that when Jesus came He would be that branch and both a prophet and a king at the same time.

How can Jesus be both a king and a prophet when neither Uzziah nor the high priest in Zechariah’s day could be? How could Jesus fulfill this prophecy? He might be of the royal tribe of Judah, but He could not be a priest. How could Jesus be from two separate tribes? The answer is easy and is found beginning in Hebrews chapter five. **Psalms 110:4** described another kind of priest. Not one from the order of Levi, but from the order of another kind—the order of Melchizedek. We will look more into this next week. There is no problem!



Upcoming Events

Sun. April 6: Monthly potluck luncheon.

Sat. April 26: Men’s breakfast. Please see Doug for more details.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Rick Bass who had a spinal tap last week.

Draven Garcia who will had knee surgery last week.

Virginia Escojido and Veronica Serenil’s great niece, Milani Barron, who is having seizures.

Jerri Rosales who had a CT Scan last week and needs continued prayers for her physical ailments.

Allen Clifton who will be having a procedure done soon. It has not been scheduled yet.

Jerri Jeffres who was in the hospital last week.

Lupe Escojido who responded to the invitation last Wed. night.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

Service Roster

Week of March 23, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Caleb Lehtinen

Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Bill York

Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ken Dorries

Cup..... Doug Jobs

Offering..... Barry Lehtinen

Assist.....Mike Atkinson

Assist..... Lupe Escojido

Assist..... Bryant Siegel

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer..... Steve Randle

Closing Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Ken Dorries/
Bill York

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassCody McCoy

Song LeaderLuke FitzSimmons

Devotional Steve Randle

Other

Prepare CommunionFerman Rosales

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Billy York.....Mar.23

Imelda Sheeran.....Mar. 26

Sandra Daltry.....Mar. 29

Anniversaries

Brenden & Lori Westphall.....Mar. 28

Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for 2025. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I
seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the
Lord, and to inquire in His temple.
Psalm 27:4 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of March 16, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....45
A.M. Worship.....76
P.M. Worship.....55
Wednesday Worship.....55

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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