

It Is Neither Heresy Not Hearsay

By: Dan Jenkins

There are two English words which sound alike, but when you look at their origin they come from two different sources. Both of these words or the concepts behind them have been used by others to apply to Christianity. The two words are “heresy” and “hearsay.” The truth is that Christianity is neither heresy nor is it hearsay, and we should be so thankful.

The word “heresy” is a Greek word which has adapted to become an English word. The Greek word is *hairesis* and was transliterated (brought over almost letter by letter) to become the English word “heresy.” It was applied by the Jews to the first-century church. They referred to the church as the *hairesis* of the Nazarenes (**Acts 24:5**) because Jesus came from Nazareth. Those Jews in Rome told Paul they did not know much about the church, but that it was a “*hairesis*...that is spoken against everywhere” (**Acts 28:22**).

The word indicates a belief or movement that is part of a larger movement outside of what is popularly believed. It is used of both the Pharisees and Sadducees (**Acts 5:17; 15:4**). When Paul was defending himself before Felix, his accusers described him as “...a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect (*hairesis*) of the Nazarenes.” Paul’s defense was the church was not a sect but something far different. It was the “...Way which they call a sect.” This reflects Jesus’ words, when He said that He was “the Way” and no man could come to the Father except through this Way (**John**

14:6). Christianity was not a sect, a section of Judaism; it was the way, the only way to God.

Neither is Christianity “hearsay.” We understand this concept, for it is used in the courts of our land. A witness cannot simply say they heard someone say something. It must be based on the mouth of two or three witnesses. Christianity is not based on this—it is based on those who actually heard the words spoken.

Peter said, “We did not follow cunningly devised fables...but were eyewitnesses of His majesty...we heard this voice which came from heaven.” That voice said, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased” (**2 Pet. 1:16-18**). Add to this the testimony of John, “We have heard...we have seen...our hands have handled...we declare unto you” (**1 John 1:1-3**).

Christianity is not based on inadmissible evidence. It has both eyewitnesses and “ear-witnesses.” It is not heresy, for God says it is the Way. There are those who may call it a sect, one of the many ways to God, but they are wrong. Remember that Jesus did not say He was “a” way to God. Jesus said He was “the” Way to the Father. It is founded on Immanuel, God who came in the flesh, to show us the path to heaven.

By What Authority?

By: Selected

Perhaps unknowingly, the Sanhedrin asked their prisoners—Peter and John—the precise question that everyone needs to ask: “By what power or by what name have you done this?” (**Acts 4:7**). Authority is key! Whether it is what someone says or does, all must be “in the name of the Lord Jesus” (**Col. 3:17**). Jesus Christ—and thus, His revealed Word to us (**John 12:48**)—is the only authority in religious matters today (**Matt. 28:18**). When you know what your authority is, then you also know clearly what it is not.

Your authority is not what you feel in your heart! Sincere Bible readers will often say something like, “I know that’s what the Bible says, but I just feel in my heart that *this [other thing]* is what God wants me to do.” Scripture teaches, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (**Prov. 14:12**). What feels or seems right is not how God measures what is actually right—just ask Naaman (**2 Kgs. 5:10-14**).

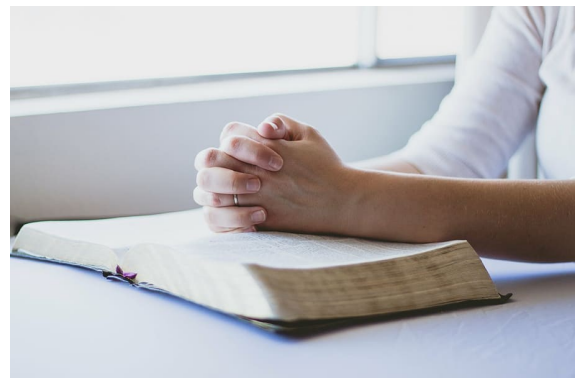
Your authority is not what your pastor or religious commentary says! Sincere Bible readers will often say something like, “I know that’s what the Bible says, but my pastor says/does *this [other thing]* or I read in this commentary something different.” Scripture teaches, “Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (**1 John 4:1**). What some well-meaning person teaches is not how God imparts His truth—just ask the young prophet (**1 Kgs. 13:11-34**).

Your authority is not what other churches teach or do! Sincere Bible readers will often say something like, “I know that’s what the Bible says, but this large church over here teaches/does *this [other thing]* that is different.” Scripture teaches for “all [to] speak the same thing, and that there

be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (**1 Cor. 1:10**). What some influential religious group teaches or does is not God’s standard—just ask Paul (**Gal. 5:1-6**).

Your authority is not what your grandmother believed! Sincere Bible readers will often say something like, “I know that’s what the Bible says, but my grandmother was the most devout person I’ve ever known and she didn’t believe or follow *that [Bible teaching]* while she was alive.” Scripture teaches, “He who loves father or [grand] mother more than Me is not worthy of Me” (**Matt. 10:37**). What grandma or any loving relative believed or did is not our authority—just ask Gideon (**Judg. 6:25-27**).

Ask yourself, “By what authority do you believe what you believe or do what you do?” The Word of God is our ONLY authority today! No other authority will do (**Acts 4:12**)!



Upcoming Events

Summer Series Wednesdays: Adults will be in the main auditorium for the theme “It’s Who You Know” and the youth will be in the fellowship hall learning Bible stories about God’s animals.

Area events:

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

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Ashley Dolan’s father who passed away last week.
Ron White’s sister, Dean Rollins, who lives in Arizona.

Members

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

EVANGELISM TRAINING

Sundays at 4 PM at the church building throughout August*

August 3 – Pew Greeter Training *(12:15 PM)

August 10 – Bible Study Leader Training, part 1

August 17 – Bible Study Leader Training, part 2

August 24 – Compassion Card Follow-up Training

August 31 – Mentoring New Converts Training



Service Roster

Week of July 20, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Jake Jacobs
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons
Closing Prayer..... Rick Bass

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Bryant Siegel
Cup..... Lupe Escojido
Offering..... James Cammock
Assist..... Jack Jobes
Assist..... Caleb Lehtinen
Assist..... Desmon Flonnory

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Benny Horton
Closing Prayer..... Bryce Dolan

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... James Cammock/
Lupe Escojido

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Cody McCoy
Song Leader Richard Hill
Devotional Cody McCoy

Other

Prepare Communion for July McCoys

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Katy McCoy..... July 20
Desmon Flonnory, II..... July 22
Eddie Serenil..... July 24
Kendall Terry..... July 25
Mike Atkinson..... July 26

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

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be
swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.
James 1:19 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 July 13, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....50
A.M. Worship.....88
P.M. Worship.....60
Wednesday Worship.....64

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

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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