



## “How Do We View Authority And The Church?”

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In a previous article we discussed the church and Salvation. You will remember that Christ told Peter in Matthew 16:18 ***“Upon this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.”*** Hopefully, you will also remember in a previous article that we also discussed Christ's Church and the truth. In these articles we saw how modern man perverted the gospel of Christ by twisting the scriptures in ways that Jesus did not authorize. We saw that some do not baptize for the remission of sins, even though we are told plainly the almost three thousand souls in Acts 2:42 did just that. Then Peter said unto them, ***“Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins: and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*** So, do we have authority to change things? Do we have authority to ask Christ into our heart, and be baptized later? Does man have authority to alter the observance of the Lords Supper from the first day of the week to quarterly, or once or twice a year? This is what we would like to examine in this weeks installment. In Matthew 28:18 Jesus says ***“All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.”*** So what is Jesus saying

here? He is saying that he is our king and our Savior, but in order to save us we have to submit to his will. Think of it like this. If we are drowning in a lake, and someone throws us a life ring, and we do not take it then what good does it do us? We have numerous blessings in Christ, but if we do not submit to his authority and do his will then what good does it do us? Jesus says in Matthew 7:21 ***“Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my father in Heaven.”*** What does this say to me? It says that I have to go by the Bible and the Bible alone, and not add to or take from it, as Revelation 22:18-19 tells us. It informs me that I can't do things because it “feels right”, or because “times have changed”. Unfortunately these are the arguments that men have used to do things their way in the work and worship of the church. But, where do we get the authority for the popular belief that the Lord's Supper does not have to be taken every first day of the week? Man says that it is fine, to partake of it quarterly, at Christmas, Easter, or at some other holiday or event. We hear people say, “Well, it is not as special if you take it every Sunday”. In Matthew 26:26-28 Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper and he tells us what the emblems mean. In Acts 20:7 we see that the Christians came together and broke bread together. We are to remember the great Sacrifice Christ made for us every first day of the week. Man does not have the authority to change this. Man can however, decide the

time of day, what part of the service, etc. Bible authority is determined by direct command, approved apostolic example, and necessary inference. Jesus said of the Lord's Supper, "This do in remembrance of me" (command) Luke 22:19. It was done on the first day of the week (example) Acts 20:7. It's every first day of the week that we get necessary inference. Let us all consider these things carefully, as they can affect our eternal reward.