

## By Whose Authority

by Dan Jenkin

The religious leaders in the first century left much to be desired in their lives, but shortly after the church was established, they asked a question which I wish the world today would ask. Christianity was new, and the apostles called upon men to forsake their religious heritage and become part of the amazing kingdom Jesus was establishing. The Jewish council arrested the apostles and put them on trial. The question they asked was, “By what power or what name have you done this” (Acts 4:7)? The heart of the matter was authority. There was a major division between the two major “denominations” over the resurrection. The Pharisees believed there was to be a resurrection of the dead, but the Sadducees adamantly opposed that teaching (Acts 23:8).

When they questioned Jesus about this, he pointed them to the authority they both honored—the Old Testament. That was the way religious divisions were to be removed and believers in God were to become one. He said, “You are mistaken not knowing the Scriptures... “Have you not read what was spoken to you by God?” (Matt. 22:29-31)

When two individuals recognize a common authority, there will be unity, provided that language of the authority is clearly understandable. Watches around the world all have exactly the same time for they all recognize the time kept by the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London. A common authority clearly stating truth in a way the world can understand it results in complete unity. This is why the question, “By what authority have you done this?” is so vital. The council and the apostles knew how plainly God had spoken about not adding to or taking from the Old Testament. Moses had said, “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it” (Deut. 12:32). The council saw that the apostles were changing what God had given and simply asked what right did any man have to change it. The apostles gave two proofs. First, there was the lame man who had been cured in a way that only God could do it. The miracle was the proof of the authority for the changes they were making.

The second reason came when the apostle quoted from the common authority all recognized. It was the Old Testament in which God foretold a change was coming. They simply asked the Jews to listen to Psalm 122:18. That their usage of this passage was right was confirmed when Jesus used the same passage in the same way (Matt. 21:42). A common authority, clearly stated, brings religious unity. What would happen if “Christendom” asked this question about authority today?

“By what authority have you done these things?”



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

October 21, 2018

### WELCOME!

#### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

#### Tuesday

Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

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**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

ROMANS 16:16

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### **Today's Sermon: *Get Saved and Stay Saved!***

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)

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**Scripture:** Titus 3:1-8

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: This Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The class will be at the building. Our lesson will be Day 1 of Lesson 6.**
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. We will continue with our study of Philippians, chapter 3. Paul is teaching.
- **Trunk or Treat-** Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-8pm in the church parking lot.
- **Thanksgiving Dinner**, served by the Gutheries and the Salsgivers from Kittanning.
- **Sojourners** here- July 8-18.

**Next Potluck: November 18<sup>th</sup>.**



- **Darlene has finished writing and editing her book, My Life, God's Way. A proof copy of the book should be arriving in the mail any day!**
- **Don't forget to think of ways we can use our building for community efforts. The homework help plan is a real possibility, Wednesday after school for starters, expanding to twice a week in the future.**
- **Please plan to join our "Trunk or Treat" on the 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-8pm. We would like to have a nice assortment of car and van trunks decorated to give out candy and treats to the kids who stop by. Please consider volunteering your car trunk if you can't be here yourself.**
- **POTLUCK TODAY! PLEASE STAY AND JOIN IN OUR FELLOWSHIP MEAL! 😊**

## PRAYERS...

- Pray for **Andrea Lentz** – lung cancer.
- Pray for **Lori Kashorek** – lung cancer. She is currently on a chemo regimen that is experimental but appears to be working.
- Pray for Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, **Erin Beiber** who has metastatic breast cancer. Erin is also on a chemo program that is extending her life.
- **Patty and Ruthie's cousin Cathy's husband Bruce** has kidney cancer.
- **Pray that Dave and Lynne Laton's daughter Natalie** will be able to recover from her cancer (lymphoma). The results of her chemo were not as good as she hoped in that the tumors hadn't shrunk, but they hadn't grown either and appear to be inactive. Natalie has started back to work part time.
- **Pray for fruitful results of ongoing visits and Bible studies.**
- **Ted** has had a stroke in his eye necessitating injections in his eyeball. His cataract surgery is on hold for the time being.
- **Emily Barry** has started her new job as caretaker supervisor. She was able to get another vehicle to replace the one that was totaled in her road accident. **Aidan** is liking his school in Maine and having a successful time so far.
- **Arthur** will be visiting the cardiologist tomorrow to follow up on his heartbeat irregularities.
- Pray that **Jackie** can find a place to live in the Valley Cities area soon.
- **Pray for the Endless Mountains church in Tunkhannock. Jeff and Teresa Wyeth are working hard for the Lord there and need encouragement.**
- Both **Ted** and **Jerry** have new, effective hearing aids! It's great to know they are hearing well and more able to keep up with Bible study and worship.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.