The complete sovereignty of the Lord is depicted in the scriptures in that his name is directly associated with the standard of truth (John 14:6-7; Acts 4:7-12; Colossians 1:25-2:3, 8; 1 John 1:1-2; Revelation 19:13-16). The very name of Jesus identifies the standard by which all mankind is measured by (1 Peter 2:21-25). No man may opt out of the subjection that he was brought into this world to be under (John 5:26-28). The Apostle Paul thereby writes, "Whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17). Said parameters of divine direction for man equate to a law (Romans 3:27; 8:20; 2 Corinthians 8:1; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 8:6-7; James 1:25).

The standard is identified as the "Word of the Lord" (Acts 8:25). This word is thereby of a divine origin (Galatians 1:11-12; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:16, 20-21). The "word of the Lord" is absolute truth (Ephesians 1:13) that is not subject to man's change (Acts 26:14; 1 Peter 1:24-25). Jude refers to truth as, "The faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints" (Jude 1:3). Truth is not a personal faith or a faith of one's choice as though there were many acceptable faiths. Truth is "The faith." This faith stands alone as the standard that identifies Jehovah's assessment of right and wrong (Ephesians 4:4; 5:11-14). No human opinion (John 16:2-4; Acts 26:9; Colossians 2:8, 22), personal conscience (Acts 23:1; 26:9-11), personal conviction (Acts 15:10), personal reasoning...

Establishing Bible Authority
How Authority works in the New Testament
Part 2

The Standard of Truth as Depicted in the New Testament
(Romans 1:21; 2:1-3; 11:25; 13:11), nationality (Matthew 3:8-9; John 8:31ff; Romans 2:28-29; Galatians 3:27), human traditions (Matthew 15:1-3), personal ignorance (Matthew 22:29; Acts 3:17-19; 17:23, 30), or a popular preacher (Galatians 2:6; 5:10) have any power at all to change the words of absolute truth.

Though men attempt to suppress the truth (Acts 4:17-19; 5:24), change truth to their own human ideas (1 Thessalonians 2:13), or even argue with God about how they made choices in this life (Matthew 25:44) the firm foundation of God will always stand (2 Timothy 2:9, 13, 19). Truth continues to say the same thing year in and year out. The objective of truth is never to make friends, bring personal glory to the speaker, or to tickle the ears of no man (see Matthew 6:1-2; John 12:43; 2 Corinthians 3:1; 10:12; Galatians 1:10; 2:6). Truth is rather concerned with the spiritual health of men's souls (1 Timothy 1:10; Titus 1:9; 2:1).

The Nature of Man as Revealed in the New Testament

The sovereign position of Jehovah places the identity of the natural order of things upon His divine being (1 Peter 1:15-16). One may naturally expect God's divine revelation to be an instruction manual on how man may obtain the nature of the divine creator (2 Peter 1:4). Seeing that Jehovah God alone is Lord there is no other to establish the way in which man is to be. Man will naturally seek after this one true God (Acts 17:24-29) rather than seeking other gods or standards of living (Acts 17:28:29). God has thereby created man with the innate ability to understand his natural responsibility to know the acceptable and unacceptable ways of life (Romans 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 11:14). Those who go against the natural order of creation sin against their created purpose (Romans 1:26-27). To take a direction in life that opposes one's nature and God's standard is to act as an animal (2 Peter 2:12; Jude 1:10).

John C. Robertson

Part 3 next week... "Responsibility & Attitude toward Authority"

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Estelle Simms was admitted into the hospital this past week with a bladder infection. She appears to be doing better now.

We are sad to announce that Christopher Rush has died. Christopher obeyed the gospel about 11 months ago and had fallen away from the church. He was 27 years old.

The elders have decided to pick up $ 500.00 per month in support of Stephen Saunders. This local church is now supporting three gospel preachers due to the generous giving of its members.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home)

Ila Belle Windham
(at home but request no calls at this time)

Estelle Simms was admitted into the hospital this past week with a bladder infection. She appears to be doing better now.

We are sad to announce that Christopher Rush has died. Christopher obeyed the gospel about 11 months ago and had fallen away from the church. He was 27 years old.

The elders have decided to pick up $ 500.00 per month in support of Stephen Saunders. This local church is now supporting three gospel preachers due to the generous giving of its members.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home)

Ila Belle Windham
(at home but request no calls at this time)
Worship of the Church

Introduction:

Jesus said, "But the hour comes and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers. God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24). The term worship, as used in John 4, means, "to pay divine homage (respect and reverence), worship (love and adoration), adore (admire and esteme highly)" (Moulton 351). Reverence, love, and adoration may be expressed between an individual and God (see John 14:15) or in an assembly (Acts 11:26; 20:7ff). While Old Testament people, such as Daniel, were in the practice of praying three times a day with their face toward Jerusalem no such time tables of worship are placed upon NT Christians. The church assembled often on various days of the week for study (see Acts 2:41-47; 19:1-10) and for rehearsal of events involving spiritual matters (Acts 14:27 and 15:4). The church also assembled at various times of the day on the first day of the week for worship (Acts 20:7ff; 1 Corinthians 11:17-20). The brethren assembled that they may illustrate their respect and love toward God. Let us consider five ways the Lord was worshipped in the early church.

I. The Saints Assembled to Partake of the Lord's Supper:
   A. The example (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-24).
   B. What time did they do this?

II. The Saints Sang songs of Praise to God:
   A. The command (Ephesians 5:19; Colosians 3:16 etc.) (Occurs in the assembly; cf. 1 Corinthians 14:26).
   B. Song books, pitch pipes, parts, musical instruments....

III. Praying:
   A. The example (Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 2:8).
   B. Men / women

IV. Giving as we have Prospered:
   A. The command (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
   B. Giving on Sunday / Wednesday / any other day of the week???

V. Gospel preaching:
   A. The example (Acts 11:26; 20:7).
   B. Limited to day of week???

Conclusion:

Worshippers of God are those who manifest a spirit of reverence and love toward Him. These people perform acts of worship such as partaking of the Lord's Supper, singing songs of praise, praying, giving as they have been prospered, and participating in gospel preaching. They who worship in spirit and truth will be careful to do all things by the authority of God. Worshippers will take care not to bind where God has not bound or to loose where God has not loosed.