

How do we decide what God  
wants us to do?

These are typical topics on the  
radio program.

Is Baptism necessary for  
salvation?

Should we celebrate  
Christmas or Easter?

Why can't we have women  
preachers?

Why can't we use  
instrumental music

Is any one of those topics more important than any other?

If so, why?

To answer that we need to see what sin is.

# What is sin?

1 John 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness

What is the effect of sin?

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Are some sins worse than others?

Evidently so.

John 19:11 Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me up to you has the greater sin."

Jesus said there are greater sins! That means that there must be lesser sins!

Does that change what sin does?

No!

Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

Can we tell which sins are more  
important than others?

There are no lists telling us this in the  
Scripture!

But we can look at the consequences of  
our sins to determine some degree of  
importance!

How do we identify what sin is?

1 John 3:4 ... sin is lawlessness

Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came up  
and spoke to them, saying, "All  
authority has been given to Me in  
heaven and on earth.

Col 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 6:46" And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

Many do not recognize they need the authority of Jesus Christ in all things if they expect to be pleasing to Him!

There are two types of authority  
in the Scriptures.

We call these  
specific  
and  
generic.

A specific authority indicates the action to be taken is specified and no variance is allowed.

A Biblical example is given by Naaman (2K 5) when he was told to dip in the river Jordan seven times. He thought it ridiculous because the Jordan was muddy and the rivers of Damascus were much nicer. However, he also realized the command was specific! He went away mad.

But when he obeyed the specific command, God did as He said He would and healed Naaman (2K 5.14)

How do we determine what Jesus  
has authorized?

We have to carefully look at what  
Jesus is saying and to whom he is  
saying it.

Jn 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him. 24" He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

Some immediately leap to the conclusion that we must do everything that Jesus said.

But there is a second factor we  
must remember.

In historical writing, like the  
Bible, there is a  
primary audience  
and a  
secondary audience.

We not only have to listen to  
Jesus, but also to examine whom  
he was speaking to.

Jn 14:25 "These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. 26" But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

When Jesus said these words, he was not talking to you or to me, but to the eleven apostles. The Holy Spirit will not teach any of you “all things” except through the apostle’s writings.

The Holy Spirit will not “bring to your remembrance all that I [Jesus] said to you” because you have never talked to Jesus! You don’t even know what Jesus looks like!

None of the Bible was written to  
us although it is all written for  
us.

The epistles of Paul were directed  
specific churches and men. We  
are not in those churches nor are  
we Timothy or Titus.

Most of you have never been to  
Jerusalem, but Jesus commanded  
“them” not to leave.

Acts 1:4 And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem;

If we have to do “all the words of Jesus” without respect to the audience for whom the words were intended, those disciples that left Jerusalem in the great persecution of Acts 8:4 sinned.

And so have we!

But those to whom this command was given, did as they were told.

And this is given for us so that we might know God worked with them.

The audience in this case was the 11 disciples – all of whom were men – not women – of Galilee.

Acts 1:2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen...

Acts 1.11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? ... (12)  
Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem ... (13)

When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

The apostles were the ones who would receive  
the gift!

Jesus' primary audience was the apostles in this case and not some modern day televangelist.

We are the secondary audience and we should understand that we do not receive the miraculous knowledge of the Scriptures.

The second thing we must observe is specific  
and generic authority.

In specific authority we find an action or thing  
specifically dictated by the Scriptures.

In generic authority we find an action or thing  
commanded but the method of doing the  
action or thing is not dictated by the  
Scriptures.

We can illustrate both types of authority by  
Noah building the ark.

Noah was given specific instructions about the  
size, the wood, the openings, the covering –  
specific authority.

He was not told how to attach the wood or how  
to cut the timbers, whether with ax or saw –  
generic authority.

In the same manner, we are told to  
sing.

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in  
psalms and hymns and spiritual  
songs, singing and making melody  
with your heart to the Lord; 20  
always giving thanks for all things in  
the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to  
God, even the Father; 21 and be  
subject to one another in the fear of  
Christ.

We are not told whether we are to use memorization for the words or whether we may write them down.

They did learn new songs.

1 Cor 14:26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

Singing requires a pitch, a rhythm, a tune and words.

There are no specific instructions in any of these areas, other than “psalms, hymns and spiritual songs”.

As long as we do not “add to” the command to sing “psalms, hymns and spiritual songs”, we may use aids for our singing. Among these are things such as pitch pipes, song books with words, rhythms, and tunes.

Jesus said,

Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world  
and preach the gospel to all  
creation. 16 "He who has  
believed and has been baptized  
shall be saved; but he who has  
disbelieved shall be condemned.

Baptism is immersion in water.

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

We have dressing rooms, warm water, a change of clothes and towels.

None of these are necessary, but they are aid aids in obeying Jesus' command to be baptized.

How important is this command?

If baptism “saves you” (Mk 16.16) and you are not baptized, you are not going to be raised with Him to walk in newness of life! (Rom 6.4)

Consider the consequences of this sin!