

I. INTRODUCTION.

-  A. Scripture text: **John 6:60-69**. (From Roy H. Enoch; 2-25-94).
Many therefore of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?" [61] But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble? [62] *What* then if you should behold the Son of Man ascending where He was before? [63] "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. [64] "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. [65] And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father." [66] As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore. [67] Jesus said therefore to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" [68] Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. [69] "And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."
-  B. Jesus had just fed the 5,000 men, besides the women and children.
1. He then told them that he knew why they were following Him (see 6:26).
 2. He taught them that He was the bread of life that came down from heaven (see 6:35).
 3. They could not come to Him unless the Father draws them (see 6:44,45).
 4. They had to eat His flesh and drink His blood to have Life (see 6:51).
- C. But they did not care enough about His teaching to try to understand (Jn. 6:60-61):
Many therefore of His disciples, when they heard *this* said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?" [61] But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble?"
1. Some did take offense and most of His disciples never followed Him again (6:66).
As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore.
 2. Many of Jesus' disciples left Him, so He turned to the 12 and asked them if they also wanted to go away (6:68,69).
Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. [69] "And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."
- D. This lesson considers where some people go for religious authority and their doctrines.

II. SOME GO TO THE PREACHER FOR RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY.

-  A. The influence of preachers is great if they are effective.
1. Some people depend too much on the preacher for doctrine.
 2. Some think that preachers cannot err.
 - a. But when they teach so many different/conflicting doctrines, they can't all be right.
 - b. Through out the NT we are warned against false teachers (1Jn. 4:1).
Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
 3. There were times when the apostles did not understand what Jesus was teaching them.
 4. Even the apostle Paul limited how far we can follow him (1Cor. 11:1).
Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.
- B. The apostle Peter taught Cornelius not to bow down to him because he was also a man.
1. As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshipped him (Ac. 10:25,26).
And when it came about that Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped him. [26] But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am just a man."
 2. Angels would not let men bow down to them, as when the apostle John bowed down to the angel who was showing him many marvelous things (Rev. 19:10).
And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said^ to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

- C. If faithful apostles and faithful angels would not let a man bow down before them, no man faithful to X today would let a man bow down to him.
- D. Divisions or denominations result from following men (1Cor. 1:11-13).
For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you. [12] Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." [13] Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

III. SHALL WE LOOK TO MOSES FOR RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY?

-  A. Moses was the great lawgiver for the Jews.
 - 1. But he pointed them to the X (Deut. 18:15,18,19).
"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.... [18] 'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. [19] 'And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require *it* of him.
 - 2. Peter quoted this prophecy and applied it to X (Ac. 3:22-23).
"Moses said, 'THE LORD GOD SHALL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED in everything He says to you. [23] 'And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'
- B. The law of Moses was faulty (Heb. 8:7,8).
For if that first *covenant* had been flawless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. [8] For finding fault with them, He says, "BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH;
- C. Therefore, the law of X replaced it.
 - 1. It brought us to X (Gal. 3:24,25).
Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. [25] But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.
 - 2. It was taken away at the cross of X that He might give us the gospel (Eph. 2:15,16).
 - 3. On the mount of transfiguration, X appeared with Moses and Elijah, but God overshadowed them in a cloud and said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him" (see Mt. 17:5).
 - 4. Today, we hear X rather than Moses or the prophets.

IV. SHALL WE FOLLOW JOHN THE BAPTIST AS A RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY?

-  A. His work was to prepare the way for the X (Lk. 1:17; Jn. 1:23).
(Lk 1:17) "And it is he who will go *as a forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
(Jn 1:23) He said, "I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,' as Isaiah the prophet said."
- B. He was to decrease, but X was to increase (Jn. 3:28-30).
"You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' [29] "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. And so this joy of mine has been made full. [30] "He must increase, but I must decrease.
- C. John was not in the kingdom (Mt. 11:11).
"Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
- D. John died before the church was established:
 - 1. His death is recorded in Mt. 14:10.
And he sent and had John beheaded in the prison.
 - 2. Jesus purchased the church, (see Ac. 20:28); it was established after John's death.

V. WE MUST FOLLOW JESUS THE CHRIST.



- A. God speaks through Him (Heb. 1:1,2; 2:3,4).
(**Heb 1:1-2**) God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, [2] in these last days has spoken to us in *His* Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
(**Heb 2:3-4**) how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, [4] God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.
- B. He has all authority in heaven and earth (Mt. 28:18).
And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- C. He is able to save all who trust Him enough to do what He says (Mt. 1:21; Heb. 7:25).
(**Mt 1:21**) "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."
(**Heb 7:25**) Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- D. He saves those who obey Him (Mt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8,9).
(**Mt 7:21**) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.
(**Heb 5:8-9**) Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. [9] And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

VI. CONCLUSION.



- A. See Jn. 6:68-69.
Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. [69] "And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."
- B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.