

Questions from My Neighbor: Part Three

“What do you mean God holds absolute authority in all things religious?”

*Jesus taught in Matthew 21:23 there is religious authority. He stated authority can only come from one of two sources: God or man. Truth be told, **the only authority man has is what God allows him.** (John 19:11) Even Satan cannot go beyond where God allows. (Job 1:12) So when we use the term authority in religion, we are really asking “who do you follow”? Webster defines **absolute** as “**not diminished in any way; total**”.*

*Jesus taught as one “who had authority”. (Matthew 7:29) Jesus declared from the Garden God had given Him “authority over all flesh” (John 17:2) And He encouraged His disciples to preach His Gospel according to this same truth, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**” (Matthew 28:18) Therefore it is He who is qualified to declare what is right from wrong religiously, not mankind.*

Whether we are in Law Enforcement, politics or the arena of sports, we all agree there MUST be an authority. How else could there be a winner or loser in a contest? Someone or something must issue a FINAL decision. It’s pretty simple when we can hit “rewind” to make sure the kick was good or sailed “wide right”.

***In religion, that “rewind” button is called the Bible.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)***

*Our nature denies the **NEED** for this same resolute assurance because we misunderstand who God **IS** and what He expects from us. God created this world and everything in it. He did not ask us our opinion nor does He need it. (Psalm 50:10-12). He is absolute because He came before us. (Genesis 1:1) He has entire authority because He sets the boundaries of Heaven and Earth. (Psalm 104:9) He holds absolute power in that He alone can save us or condemn us for our sin. (Matthew 10:28)*

*God **IS** the absolute authority when it comes to the eternal question, “**What MUST I do to be saved?**”*

*Wouldn’t you want to know His answer on all things religious?
His answer is the only one which matters.*

In Christ, Archie

*Please maintain prayer for our
sick and afflicted...thank you*

*“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” **James 5:16***

- **Roger Starkey** (Allen) health concerns
- **Allen Starkey** physical health issues
- **Pam Brodus** (Donna) mourning and personal issues
- **Chantel** (Carolyn Ropp) health issues
- **Ronnie Workman**-COPD complications
- **Donna Brown**-personal issues and mourning
- **Carolyn Carbone**-health issues and family
- **Kelly Fitzgerald**-health, living issues and faith
- **Tony Rankin**-preaching school
- **Joan Cohn** (Karen) stage 4 cancer, prayer
- **Cindy Kontz** (Phil and Carolyn) health issues
- **Andrew Meadows** (Gabe) paralyzed from fall
- **Ernest and Charlotte Shaw** cancer free, but still has back issues
- **James Graham** (Donna) numbness in foot
- **Michael Scott** (Ginny) Christian growth
- **Rhonda Royer** (Michael) heart issues
- **Ruth Green** surgery recovery
- **Mary Katherine** (Deborah) cancer
- **Lisa Kohl** (Shanika) mourning
- **Shanika McCloud** back issues
- **Mayne Family** (Harrisons) loss of David
- **Andy Evans** surgery recovery
- **Pat Patterson** COPD complications
- **McCloud Family** mourning, spiritual strength and sickness
- **Jenny Butler** (Ropps) cancer treatment
- **Julian Reeves** health issues
- **Kile Thompson** (Wellmans) recovering from procedure
- **Graham Family** (Donna) loss of mother/wife
- **Jackson Family** (Shanika) loss of Katrice
- **Brown Family** sickness
- **Bradshaw Family** (Scott) car accident killing mom, dad and all three kids
- **Amy McKitrick** shingles

Please email me if I have forgotten anyone...thanks