
Port Orchard Church of Christ

Where

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lifted, Jesus is Lived

Biblical Authority: The Problem Pt. 1 (Written by N.T. Wright)

When people in the church talk about authority they are very often talking about *controlling* people or situations. They want to make sure that everything is regulated properly, that the church does not go off the rails doctrinally or ethically, that correct ideas and practices are upheld and transmitted to the next generation. 'Authority' is the place where we go to find out the correct answers to key questions such as these. This notion, however, runs into all kinds of problems when we apply it to the Bible. Is that really what the Bible is for? Is it there to control the church? Is it there simply to look up the correct answers to questions that we, for some reason, already know?

As we read the Bible we discover that the answer to these questions seems in fact to be 'no'. Most of the Bible does not consist of rules and regulations—lists of commands to be obeyed. Nor does it consist of creeds—lists of things to be believed. And often, when there ARE lists of rules or of creedal statements, they seem to be somewhat incidental to the purpose of the writing in question.

One might even say, in one (admittedly limited) sense, that there is no biblical doctrine of the authority of the Bible. For the most part the Bible itself is much more concerned with doing a whole range of other things rather than talking about itself. There are, of course, key passages, especially at transition moments like 2 Timothy or 2 Peter, where the writers are concerned that the church of

the next generation should be properly founded and based.

At precisely such points we find statements emerging about the place of scripture within the life of the church. But such a doctrine usually has to be inferred. It may well be possible to infer it, but it is not (for instance) what Isaiah or Paul are talking about. Nor is it, for the most part, what Jesus is talking about in the gospels. He isn't constantly saying, 'What about scripture? What about scripture?'

It is there sometimes, but it is not the central thing that we have sometimes made it. And the attempt by many evangelicals to argue a general doctrine of scripture out of the use made of the Old Testament in the New is doomed to failure, despite its many strong points, precisely because the relation between the Old and New Testaments is not the same as the relation between the New Testament and ourselves. If we look in scripture to find out where in practice authority is held to lie, the answer on page after page does not address our regular antitheses at all. As we shall see, in the Bible all authority lies with God himself.

The question of biblical authority, of how there can be such a thing as an authoritative Bible, is not, then, as simple as it might look. In order to raise it at all, we have to appreciate that it is a sub-question of some much more gen-

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Welcome Guests

We are so glad that you decided to try out Port Orchard Church of Christ this morning! Since you took this step to join us for worship, I would like to give you a warm welcome to our congregation. Wherever you are this morning, as we lift worship to God, I pray that you are able to leave feeling uplifted, convicted, or encouraged in your faith.

We seek here to worship God like the first century church did, with a sense of awe and with a

fear of the Lord. Some things we do might seem old fashioned or traditional, but we want you to know that at its core, it is for the praise of God's glory.

You are not required to do anything weird or ostentatious. We hope that you feel free to join us in worshipping God to the best of your abilities. If you have any specific needs we have a ministry staff that would love to connect with you. Ask the people sitting around you for their

names and to point them out!

Once again, we are so happy to have you here worshipping with us and we hope this is a chance to worship God in a deep and meaningful way.

Cody Rousseau

Save the Dates!

Saturday 3/5 Deacons Meeting

Sunday 3/6 Congregational Meeting

Sunday 3/6 Cormier Baby Shower

Tuesday 3/8 Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday 3/9 Youth Group

Sunday 3/13 Daylight Savings

Tuesday 3/15 Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday 3/16 Youth Group

Thursday 3/17 St. Patrick's Day

Sunday 3/20 Palm Sunday

Tuesday 3/22 Ladies Bible Study

Friday 3/25 Good Friday

Sunday 3/27 Easter Sunday

Serving March 6, 2016 :

Port Orchard News and Events

Pulpit Preview— Each Believer as Distinctively Marked

James will be sharing this week about how Paul never loses sight of the individual. "As much as he emphasizes community as the context for the life of faith, he nevertheless pays considerable attention to the way individuals related within and to that community."

Happy Birthdays!

Spring is almost here! With it's arrival we have many brothers and sisters to celebrate their birth with. Let's celebrate the birthdays of our family members with joy and thanksgiving!

4—Ariana Avery, 4—Charlotte Hahn, 5—Lynn Chapman, 10—Lydia Gerard, 12—Brad Orser, 15—Troy Hill, 23—Mary Carter, 24—Jim Furstenworth, 25—Darrel Fry, 29—Mallory Hall, 31—Rodger Taylor

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals Needed

Bonnie Mitchell, along with Pene Hammock and Judy Van Lueven will be coordinating the temporary providing of meals on occasions when they are requested. Upon receiving the request , we will coordinate with the family to ascertain their needs – length of time, dietary restrictions etc. Once this has been determined through various means of communication we will contact the families here at POCOC for those who would like to participate with providing the meals.

There are some of you who want to always provide a meal, some who choose not to and some who would like to do so occasionally. Please email me if you

Prayer Leader: Darrell Fry

Scripture Reader: James Greer

Offering Thoughts: Trent Herbert

Communion Meditation: Cody Rousseau

Servers: B. Karn & T. Hill

Ushers: I. Zepf & B. Zepf

Greeters: Greg & Sandi Warner

Nursery Attendants: Kerri S.

Sound: Chris Hill

Slides/Lighting: John Bickel

Communion Prep: Hill

Communion Cleanup: Hill

Praise Team: TBD

Sunday School & LG Helper: Dale Sanders

Fellowship Team: Donuts— DeLoris Lawler

Coffee— Lucille Lowe

Cleanup— Deloris Lawler



fall in any of those categories and I will make a list which will be confidential.

This is a great ministry and can be an opportunity to serve others. If you have any questions, please be sure and call:

Bonnie Mitchell 360-895-0453 (h) 360-265-3266 (c)
Pene Hammock 360-871-9678
Judy Van Lueven 360-692-0361

Nursery and Communion

Thank you to all who served in the nursery and preparing and cleaning up communion this year!

Are you gifted with little kids? Would you like to serve somehow but don't know where to start? We have just the place for you! We need for more people to sign up for doing the nursery and communion prep/clean-up for 2016. There are only a few slots left for Communion, so if you feel like you are willing and able, please sign up in the foyer for the next opportunity on our community board. We will be printing a new Nursery sign up soon!

Places To Serve in Sunday Worship

If you would like to be involved in some way with the worship service on Sundays during the service, in the Children's Bible Hour, or want to join/host a small group or bible study, please contact the office with an email and get put into the rotation!

Also, if you are interested in preaching, please contact James Greer or Cody Rousseau and they will schedule you for a Sunday. We would love to hear from more members of our congregation on Sunday sharing God's word.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cormier Shower

There will be a baby shower for Deja Cormier on March 6th at 3PM. The event is planned to be hosted the home of Lila Mason and there will be a group gift! If you would like to donate for the gift then please talk to Lisa Bratcher or Carla Duffy before Saturday. If you want to help plan or run the event, or if you have questions, please contact Sha'lon Pyke.

Easter Sunday Celebration!

Invite your family and friends to join us Easter Sunday to celebrate the Risen Lord with a Potluck Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, and Specially designed worship service for the Holiday and occasion! We need lots of food and eggs prestuffed! Please see Tiffany Rousseau for questions or where to volunteer! We will need at least 200 eggs and expect a great turn out!

Our Prayer List

Healing for the following family members:

Gary Chasteen, Barbara Byrd, Rick Valasco, Bonnie Mitchell, Lucille Lowe, DJ Magneson, and Les Lewis and any others we are not aware of being ill.

Prayer for Deja and Rodney Cormier and for Deja's pregnancy.

Pray for members who are homebound and unable to worship and fellowship with us.

Prayers for our nation

Prayers for our church as we begin a new journey with the Growth groups and curriculum.

Prayers for Cody, our deacons and the many ministries of our church.

February 28, 2016

Worship: 92

Class: 43

Offering: n/a

Goal: \$3,437.50

eral questions.

- (1) How can any text function as authoritative? Once one gets away from the idea of a rule book such as might function as authoritative in, say, a golf club, this question gets progressively harder.
- (2) How can any ancient text function as authoritative? If you were a Jew, wanting to obey the Torah (or, perhaps, obey the Talmud) you would find that there were all sorts of difficult questions about how a text, written so many years ago, can function as authoritative today. Actually, it is easier with the Talmud than with the Bible because the Talmud is designed very specifically to be a rule book for human beings engaged in life in a particular sort of community. But much of what we call the Bible—

the Old and New Testaments—is not a rule book; it is narrative. That raises a further question:

- (3) How can an ancient narrative text be authoritative? How, for instance, can the book of Judges, or the book of Acts, be authoritative? It is one thing to go to your commanding officer first thing in the morning and have a string of commands barked at you. But what would you do if, instead, he began 'Once upon a time . . .'?

These questions press so acutely that the church has, down the centuries, tried out all sorts of ways of getting round them, and of thereby turning the apparently somewhat recalcitrant material in the Bible itself into material that can more readily be used as 'authoritative' in the senses demanded by this or that period of church history. I want to look at three

such methods and suggest that each in its own way actually belittles the Bible, thereby betraying a low doctrine of inspiration in practice, whatever may be held in theory.

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