

THE CURE FOR CHURCH AUTHORITY

Do men, church organizations, ministers have authority over us? No!
The first and most important thing to realize is that each of us needs
the authority of Jesus Christ and His Word in our lives.

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

Should we allow men or ministers in any form of Church government to have authority over the way we think, believe or act? No! No! Especially those people who claim to be ordained by God, or to represent the only true church, or think and claim that their authority is from the original apostles, and that their organization is doing God's work. That is the way to personal disaster.

John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them: This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he (God) hath sent. (Jesus Christ and His Word.)

Ministers who claim they are doing 'God's Work' want your money to advance their activities, and use their god-given authority to control you.

Jesus was furious with the Levites, the priests who had allowed the House of God, the Temple, to be turned into a money making business.

Matthew 21:12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, 13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Jesus also wrote in the book of Revelation to two of the churches about the Nicolaitenes.

Revelation 2:6 But this thou (of the church of Ephesus) hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against thee (the church in Pergamos), because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit (spiritual) fornication. 15 So

hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

So what was it that Christ hated about the Nicolaitanes? According to some scholars, the Nicolaitans are in part responsible for "Christianity's" acceptance of Christmas, Easter, Halloween and other unbiblical pagan and idolatrous practices. Some also said Nicolaitanism was the belief and practice of hierarchical government with an emphasis on tithing and using a paid ministry.

Christ hated the Temple being used for commerce, and no doubt He is as angry about 'ministers' who turn Christianity into a commercial money machine like so many of the TV and radio 'evangelists' in the United States.

God hates the practice of any of the pagan idolatrous rites or customs. We do not want to participate in anything God hates.

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

It is the scriptures, the Word of God, the Holy Bible, the inspired Canon, that is able to make us wise, lead us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit guides us into the truth, we do not need to rely on men who want to control what we think!

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture (writing) is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

All writings? Only that which was given by inspiration of God. The Canon of the complete Word of God in its pristine order, and correctly translated without spurious added words.

2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

We are children of God and we can be perfect in God's sight when we are IN Christ. And yes, we are ordained to good works as Christ described in Matthew 25, not that they earn us salvation, they do not, but they help us grow in grace and knowledge.

Paul did not say anything about men or churches being inspired of God, or their having authority in our lives which is actually a curse! Their 'authority' is from fallible, sin ridden men. They too often claim they have the authority from God for the doctrines they preach, which they do not, and are in fact the doctrines of men which Christ said were vain and empty, worse than useless.

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

It started in the time of Constantine, now billions submit themselves to the dictates of churches, their ministers, bishops, and to their teachings and doctrines which they claim are Christian principles from God. These teachings are as often as not really Christian at all, but incorrect applications of God's Word.

Why do so many people submit themselves to men? Partly because they want to be told what to think, it is easier than studying for matters for themselves. They are ignorant, often illiterate of God's Word, and do not want to take the time and make the effort to study.

The authority in our lives should be the Holy Scriptures, the very Word of God.

Wherever the word 'church' appears in the Bible, it is an incorrect translation of the Greek word 'ecclesia' which simple means 'congregation' or 'assembly'. It certainly does not mean a hierarchical organization of men claiming divine authority over other people's lives.

Paul however did claim that his writings, all fourteen books in the scriptures, more than any other person, were the inspired commandments of God, and they were. They are Christ speaking to us today.

I Corinthians 14:36 What? Came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? 37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if any man be ignorant, (of this fact) let him be ignorant.

The Apostles of Christ had powers of doctrine, reproof, etc., and had the authority from Christ to exercise them. Those powers have not been passed down to men of any era. Their power now resides within the Canon of the Holy Scriptures we have in our hands, not with men. So whose

words are we to follow and pay attention to today? We need to pay heed to the Words of Christ recorded for us by the original Apostles, not what men teach, especially if they claim authority over us, as so many do.

Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

Christ here is talking to his disciples, the original apostles.

Matthew 16:14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

God the Father, through the Holy Spirit, was beginning to work with the minds of the Apostles, and give them increasing understanding.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter (the petros or pebble), and upon this rock (Petra, the Rock, Christ) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Christ was not saying that Peter would build His ecclesia, he was saying that He, Christ would build it.

Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee (who? The original apostles) the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Christ certainly was NOT saying that men down through the ages who claim to be apostles, or claim to have the authority of Christ that they were to bind and loose, or make decisions like that. This is typical of the way that some religious people misuse the scriptures to claim authority that is not given to them. They say, "This is what it says in the Bible", it does, but their interpretation and application of the words are completely incorrect. They use this saying of Christ to support their claim to wield authority over the lives of their parishioners which is a violation of the intended truth.

The world's largest Christian denomination teaches that the head of that church has the same powers and authority that Peter, Christ's Apostle had,

and that he is appointed by God “to bind and loose” in all doctrinal and administrative matters to fulfill this statement of Jesus Christ given to Peter and the Apostles. This is not what the Bible is saying when we study it carefully.

Christ was saying to the original Apostles that **they** had the power to bind and loose, and that **their** words which He inspired them to write would have that power and authority when included in the Scriptures.

1 Peter 1:16 For we (Christ’s disciples and apostles) have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we (Christ’s disciples and apostles) heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

So what is Peter saying, but that he is claiming the authority of God and Jesus Christ for what they, Christ’s original disciples and apostles were teaching.

1 Peter 1:19 We (Christ’s original disciples and apostles) have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn (until the second coming), and the day star arise in your hearts:

We (Christ’s original disciples and apostles) have this authority, and nobody and no ‘church’ or organization of men has the right to make any private interpretation of what they think the scriptures mean and use their ‘authority’ to impose their ideas on others.

1 Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

No, our Bibles are the inspired words of God, and we have these words in written form for us to study personally and gain in knowledge and understanding. We do not need any man to tell us what to believe.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

There is nobody, no man between us and God, only Christ our Elder Brother. No man has the right or the responsibility to come between us and God. The Holy Spirit will take care of our learning.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and **ye need not that any man teach you**: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him (Christ).

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he (God) will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

So don't be illiterate, study! We have been given the responsibility to know God's Word, and to be able to explain our confidence in it to others when asked.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Give an answer, but not with any vestige of authority of our own to impose anything on others. We do not have any authority, it is the responsibility of each individual to put themselves under the authority of what the Holy Spirit guides them to understand from the scriptures.

Hebrews 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn (ones, plural), which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

We are in the assembly, the ecclesia of the firstborn ones, there is no sense, only danger in our allowing any fallible man or group of fallible men to come between us and God our Father and Jesus Christ our Elder Brother. There is only one mediator and that is Christ. We need to guard our minds and not let any man tell us otherwise.

The same religious denomination teaches its adherents to call their priests "father". It is a consistent truth, that when God says "don't do this", almost immediately, human beings do it. The Bible clearly says call no man 'Father', and the Jews were told not to allow others to call them 'Rabbi'.

Matthew 23:8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. 9 And call no man your father upon the

earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. 10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

So Jewish ministers are called “Rabbi”, and catholic priests are called ‘Father’, in direct defiance to the instructions Jesus gave. Once again, the norm is that men do the exact opposite to what Christ tells us to do.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we (have His permissions to) cry, Abba (Dad!), Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

We can call God “Father”, we can even call him “Abba” or “Dad”, we are invited by Him to do that because as it says, we are His (God’s) literal children.

Of course it is fine to call your human dad ‘father’, but clearly what Christ meant is to call no man ‘father’ in a religious context. Our Father in heaven reserves this title for Himself. Again the largest church on earth insists parishioners call their priests ‘father’, the opposite of Christ’s instructions to us.

We do not need gurus, ministers, teachers, a Pope or a Bishop, they are all fallible men who are way off the beam! If we willingly submit to the authority they claim to have, we put ourselves under a curse. Their words cannot in any way compare to the inspired Words of God and Jesus Christ our Creator and Redeemer. Jesus said “by their fruits you shall know them.” 10,000 differing ideologies of what constitutes Churchianity cannot all be right. There is only one standard we can trust, the Word of God, the Holy Bible, and Jesus Christ who is the Word.

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty (freedom from men who falsely claim authority) wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage (of false doctrines and laws of God like the sacrificial system which no longer apply to Christians).

It might be easier and more comfortable to let another man control our lives, but it is a curse and will lead us **away** from Christ. Whether we are mature Christians or ‘babes in Christ’, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we only need the inspired Words of God to guide us and lead us **to** Christ.

Men want to control other men. In the 4th Century A.D. Constantine the Great (?) wanted control, and for the next 1000 or 1200 years this led to the dark ages. Then came the Protestant Reformation, a plethora of denominations which still wanted to control, and rule those who put themselves under church authority which said that their rule “from the top down” was God’s way. The ministries claimed knowledge and authority they did not have.

The Church of England was formed by Henry VIII who split with the Pope in Rome so he could marry his next victim. Henry VIII the head of the British “C of E” was a serial killer who murdered his wives, and eventually died of syphilis. Many of the doctrines of that church and its protestant relatives are very far from the Christianity Christ taught.

We need to maintain the attitude of freedom to allow the scriptures, not men, to teach us about God and His plan of salvation for all human beings.

Many ‘Churchianity’ churches are merely comfortable ‘social clubs’ that have a ‘feel good’ factor which placates the congregations need to feel right with God, even if what they are practicing is far from what God really wants and Christ taught, and in many cases the exact opposite.

Luke 16:15 And he (Jesus) said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

When Jesus was teaching His Apostles about binding and loosing referred to in Matthew 16:19 and above, He was actually talking about solving problems between members of the ecclesia (church). The procedure was simple. Go to your brother alone. If he will not hear you, take two or three other members of the congregation who know you both with you and talk it out. If he or she will still not hear you and your co-members, then that person should be excluded from the congregation.

So the government and authority of the ecclesia was limited to local congregations. No “headquarters” was ever given rule over them. There was no “government from the top down”, no rule from a hierarchy, no issue was to go any further than the local congregation who had the authority to deal with any matter themselves. There was no higher ‘court’. Christ at no time gave any authority to anyone to rule others, and that should be the case to this very day.

Each individual is responsible for putting themselves under the authority of God's Word. The early Apostles had authority, and in a sense still do, but it is through the words they wrote down under inspiration, the words we have today in the Bible.

The cure for church (ecclesia) authority is to use only the scriptures, as the One authority over me, or you, or anyone, is God and His Firstborn Son Jesus Christ! Only ONE mediator!

B In New Testament times there certainly was no central government of Christians, in fact Paul emphasized the opposite. The book of Galatians was written to tell them to disregard those Jewish Christians who had come from Jerusalem with letters from the chief Apostles James, Peter, and John. These people were mis-using the apparent 'authority' of the Apostles' letters, and wanted to lord it over the Gentiles of Galatia, claiming they were from 'headquarters'.

Christianity definitely had a "Jewish" flavour, as it was almost entirely based at that time on the Old Testament. James the brother of Christ was seen by many as the 'head of the ecclesia'. He should of course be highly respected, which he was, but certainly not in the matter of interfering with Paul's work among the Gentiles (nations).

Paul starts out the book of Galatians very abruptly. No nice gentle greeting like many of his other books. He was addressing the issue of government regarding Christian ecclesias. Paul starts, this is my authority, it is direct from God and Jesus Christ:

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

All right chaps, I am an apostle not appointed of or by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead. Let's be clear about this. The whole of the first chapter is making this point. It is best to read the whole chapter through, but these notes will cover the highlights.

Paul continues, using very strong language indeed.

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **another gospel**: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would **pervert** the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As

we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

So whether someone says what they are teaching or even an angel is teaching, if it is any other gospel, let him be accursed. So it appears that those who had come up from Jerusalem claiming to represent the Apostles at 'HQ' had exceeded their brief and authority.

Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. 11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Paul was personally taught the 'new, improved expanded gospel' by direct revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: 17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

So Paul was three years studying directly under Christ's inspiration. Then Paul went to Jerusalem to see Peter.

Galatians 1:18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. 19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother. 20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.

So Paul never went for instructions to what might have been considered the headquarters because the Temple and three of the chief Apostles were there. He was directed by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:2 Now there were in the church (assembly) that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.² As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul (Paul) for the work whereunto I have called them.

Then in Galatians chapter 2, Paul goes on further to expand on the fact that he was not 'under' headquarters in Jerusalem, but had his orders directly from Jesus Christ, and when he did go to Jerusalem, it was to teach all those who were there "the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles". He did this because he had received a later expanded version of the Gospel than they had received direct from Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. 2 And I went up by (direct) revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

So Paul went to Jerusalem to bring the Apostles and those of the assembly who were there up to date with the latest stage of the revelation that Paul had received directly from Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 2:3 But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: 4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

So certain ministers who were still stuck in some aspects of the old law, wanted to insist on circumcision, which would be a return to 'bondage' under the law.

Galatians 2:7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision (the Gentiles or Nations) was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision (the Jews and Israel) was unto Peter; 8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)

So here Paul is addressing the top Apostles in Jerusalem, James who was the head of the assembly, and Peter and John, and setting them straight about whose job what what! Paul was sent to the Gentiles, but not just any Gentiles, not to Egypt or Babylon or Russia, but his travels show where the Spirit led him, to Antioch, Rome and Spain, and some say there was some contact with Britain.

Paul went only to those countries and peoples (Gentiles or Nations) that Christ had commissioned him to go to. Yes he did go into synagogues first and taught some of the Jews in those places, but his main focus was on the 'Gentiles'.

In third John, he makes it clear that it was alright for those he worked with among the 'circumcision' to receive charitable help in their travels from the ecclesias, but they took nothing from the Gentiles. They worked only with those that Christ and the Holy Spirit had directed them.

III John 6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:
7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

Galatians 2:9 And when James, Cephas, (Simon Peter) and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, (nations) and they unto the circumcision (the Jews and Israel).

James Peter and John realized that Paul had the authority to speak as he did, and 'shook hands' with him in agreement to what he had told them.

Galatians 2:10 Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

They just had to give Paul some instructions, as if Paul would ignore the poor, which was in fact completely unnecessary.

Galatians 2:11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. 12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. 13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

Peter was deferring to James and John, and still hanging on to some of the practices of the Old Testament Law, just like some churches do to this day so Paul had to straighten him out in front of everyone.

Galatians 2:14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the (new development of the) gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?
15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,
16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the

faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Peter and others in Jerusalem just had not made the transition from adherence to aspects of the old law to the Grace Jesus' sacrifice bought. The 'liberty' of the new gospel delivered by Jesus Christ to Paul had not sunk in.

Galatians 2:17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

Hey, Paul says, we are no longer sinners, because Christ paid the penalty for our sins, that was the whole point of His sacrifice, don't you get it?

Galatians 2:18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. 19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

People who think that righteousness of any kind comes by any degree of 'keeping of the law', make it so that 'Christ is dead in vain'. It is a damnable heresy. In effect they are denying the Christ who bought them!

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers (ministers, then and now!) among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies (like the need to keep the law or parts of it), even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Galatians 2:19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

So when Christ died, Paul 'died' too, when Christ was raised from the dead, Paul was 'raised from the dead' also, and now Christ lives in Paul and Paul lives in Christ. This fundamental fact applies to everyone who becomes a Christian today. We too 'died', were 'resurrected' when Christ entered our hearts and minds, and we too have Christ living in us and we live 'in' Him. This is all part of the revelation of the 'mystery' which Christ delivered to Paul in 63 A.D.

But if I continue to think that my keeping the law or any part of it will make me in any way righteous, then Christ's death was in vain.

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

In first and second Corinthians also Paul explains that his commission to the Gentiles had the authority from Jesus Christ, and did not come from other Apostles.

Paul is saying that we are those appointed to look after your interests and to take the gospel to you, not those in Jerusalem, and any that say otherwise are exceeding their remit.

2 Corinthians 3:1 Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?

Some were coming to Paul's area of operation with letters of 'authority' from Jerusalem which were totally inappropriate, and Paul wanted to make this clear.

2 Corinthians 10:8 For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:

Paul's area of operation was all of Asia Minor, Serbia, Croatia, Italy, Southern Gaul (France) and Spain.

Not that it was a matter of comparing one with another, for as he says this is not wise.

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. 13 But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.

Paul wanted to make it clear that he had the authority to operate in his area, and that others should not be intruding into it when they did not have that authority.

2 Corinthians 10:13 But we will not boast of things without our measure (our geographical limitations), but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.
14 For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure (we keep within the territory of our specific commission), as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ:
15 Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, 16 To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.

This lecture is about the 'cure' for anyone attempting to use 'church authority' or claiming God's authority over us as individuals or indeed anyone in the matter of the Gospel of Christianity, or the conduct of Christians, what they should or should not do, what they should or should not believe.

The 'cure' is to ignore anyone who makes any such authoritative claim, and look to the Word of God, the Holy Bible, the inspired Canon of the scriptures for our direct link with God and Jesus Christ.

It is through those scriptures that God and Jesus Christ speak directly to each one of us as the Holy Spirit works in our hearts.

Everything in the Bible is true, and everything the Holy Bible contains is for our education and edification, but, and it is a huge BUT, that not everything in the scriptures applies to us who are Christians in this era.

This is a fundamental error of those who are considered 'fundamentalists' who indiscriminately quote any and every part of the Bible to support their ideas, doctrines and beliefs regardless of whether any such portions of the scripture quoted apply to Christians today.

Those who do this are completely ignorant that the teachings of the Bible are a progression, and that from Adam, to Noah, to Moses to David and the Prophets, the scriptures are an expanding revelation from God to human beings.

For instance many of the laws, ordinances and conditions of life that applied to physical people before Jesus Christ came to earth no longer

apply to us today. Apart from rare exceptions they did not have the Holy Spirit working with them or within them.

This does not mean that Jesus Christ came to 'do away' with the law. On the contrary, Christ brought us a "New Law", He came to magnify the law, to expand it, and to make it more spiritual, and to send the Holy Spirit of God's Power to dwell in our hearts and minds, and lead us into all the truths that apply to us today.

We no longer need some of the mechanical physical parts of the Old Testament or Law. For instance, most people with even a rudimentary knowledge understand that physical circumcision is no longer commanded, nor is it a sign that we are part of the God family, but that circumcision is now of the 'heart' or the inner mind and being of a person.

Romans 2:29 But he is a Jew (or a Christian), which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Here is another instance. Unlike the Israelites of old, we no longer have to be concerned about removing every crumb that contains yeast or leaven, which is a type of the puffing up nature of sin from our kitchens or cars.

Exodus 12:15 Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

Jesus Christ's sacrifice cleansed us from all sin, and to continue to search out physical crumbs for a few days each year is not only not necessary, in fact performing that ritual renders His sacrifice for us inoperable in a manner of speaking.

What is necessary for Christians now is to search our spiritual hearts on a daily and a moment by moment basis, continually allowing the Holy Spirit to help us to live the righteous life Christ wants to live in us, and us in Him.

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Never be tempted to allow any mortal man to take charge of our spiritual lives, or exert any authority over us, and tell us how to worship God.

Especially if that person may appear or claim to be a minister of God!
Beware!

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

God wants us to invite His authority to rule our lives through our workmanlike study of the scriptures.