

Let the Bible Speak
Our Standard in Religion
John 12:48-49
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how the Bible is our standard of authority, not anyone or anything else.

Intro: 1. In life we find different standards of authority.

2. In religion what is the standard of authority?

3. Can our standard of authority be anything other than God and His Word?

I. A standard is needed in religion.

A. What is a standard?

1. Definition of standard – “*something set up and established by authority as a rule for the measure of quantity, weight, extent, value, or quality*” (Merriam-Webster.com)

2. In order to know what we are doing or following is right we must measure or compare it to the standard.

B. What is the standard in religion? **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

1. ALL – everything in the scriptures

2. INSPIRATION- God breathed

3. PROFITABLE

a. DOCTRINE – tells man what is right

b. REPROOF – tells man when he is not right.

c. CORRECTION – tells man how to get right

d. INSTRUCTION – tells man how to stay right.

4. COMPLETE – do not need anything else

5. These things considered - the Scriptures must be the standard of authority.

II. What does this standard of authority provide for man?

A. **John 8:31-32**

1. IF – conditional

TRUTH – God’s word – **John 17:17**

FREE – from sin

a. John 8:34

b. Romans 6:17-18

c. The scriptures provide Truth and Freedom from sin.

B. **2 Peter 1:3**

1. ALL THINGS – no need of anything else

LIFE AND GODLINESS – to have spiritual life and please God.

2. Thus the scriptures provide all of man’s needs.

III. What happens when we let the Bible (our standard of authority) speak?

A. We remove any chance of false teaching & false hope.

1. The ideas of men leads a person away from truth (**Titus 1:14**).

2. We ensure we are following the right way (**Mt 7:13-14**).

B. We follow the true standard of authority.

1. **John 12:48-49** – tells us those who follow God's standard are pleasing to Him.

Application & Conclusion:

1. With all the ideas today we must follow the right standard of authority.
2. If you are not living according to God's standard of authority; are you ready to change? (**John 12:48-49, Titus 1:14**)
3. Full Invitation