The Source of Religious Authority
Matt. 21:23-27

Introduction:
A. John’s baptism was a “hot potato” for Jewish leaders.
   1. If from God, why did they not obey it?
   2. If from men, how to answer those who believed John a prophet.
B. The Bible is a “hot potato” for religious leaders today.
   1. If from God, why not strictly body it?
   2. If from men, how answer the evidence presented by believers?
C. Three reasons for appealing to the Bible for religious authority:

Discussion:
I. The Nature of the Bible.
   A. Its writers claimed Divine inspiration (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 1 Cor. 14:37; Eph. 3:1-5; 2 Pet. 1:19-21).
   B. Its writer’s claim is confirmed by miraculous evidence.
      1. The signs which they did (Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:1-4).
      2. The miraculous nature of the Bible itself.
         a. Its unity
            (1) Out of great diversity.
            (2) Of purpose in choice of major events to record.
            (3) Between New and Old Testament.
         b. Its uniqueness - no trace of conventional wisdom of day.
         c. Its prophecies.

II. The Nature of God.
   A. He is sovereign by reason of creation (Acts 17:24-28; Rom. 9:20-21).
   B. He is the source of all authority (cf. Rom. 13:1; John 19:10, 11).
      1. All other derived from Him by commission or permission.
      2. Even the Son, in role of Christ, received authority from Father (Matt. 28:18; 1 Cor. 15:24-28).

III. The Nature of Man.
   A. Man cannot properly direct his life (Jer. 10:23).
   B. God made man dependant on His revelation (1 Cor. 1:21-2:13).

Conclusion:
A. Let us look to God, not man, for authority in religion (cf. Matt. 15:9).
B. Let us not look to self, parents, tradition, preacher nor church.