

Authoritative Matthew 7:24-27

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

When God gave us the Bible, did He _____ with authority over our lives? We're going to explore the authoritative _____ of the Bible. We look to God, our Creator, for life and for every _____ (James 1:17). We _____ God our love, our respect, our obedience for all that He's done for us. That's why we must take the _____ seriously. From the beginning of our lives, we're accountable for our _____. Children are accountable to their parents, students to their teachers, and citizens to the civil authority. When we broke the _____, we faced the consequences whether we liked it or not. Human nature seems to have this rebellious streak that doesn't _____ rules or laws. We don't want anyone _____ us what to do. All of _____ tells of man's relentless rebellion to authority. From the beginning, people have craved their _____ way and set aside the will of God. We all _____ in the war between our desires and our duties, between right and wrong.

The Bible provides God's _____ commandments. In words that were passed down through the centuries, we find His spiritual and moral _____. God spoke with authority when they were written, and they still have God's authority behind them _____. What God said, He said to all _____ in all _____ for all _____. Time cannot _____ them; our culture can _____ them but cannot _____ them. People can rebel and refuse to _____ God's commandments, but God will have the last say in the matter. God is still God, still Creator, and still Judge.

Today's reading is from the Lord Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:24-27.

Jesus spoke these words to be _____. God is the authority! He has _____ authority and is the ultimate authority _____ all others. When God speaks, no one can _____ Him. Without His _____ no one has any authority. He has all authority because He is our Maker, our Creator. He gave us life and provides every _____ that we enjoy. As our Maker He has every _____ to have complete control over our lives and our souls.

God gave all authority to Jesus Christ. John 3:35 says, "The Father _____ the Son and has given all things into his hand." The authority of Jesus _____ be removed, edited, or annulled. No one can overrule the Lord Jesus. He is our Creator; He is "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:16). In Matthew 28:18 Jesus said, "All authority in _____ and on _____ has been given to me." **Read what Paul said in Ephesians 1:20-23.** Jesus is the _____ head of His church, and there can be no other.

People can ignore and rebel against the Lord Jesus in the present, but the time will come when no one can _____ Jesus. **Read Philippians 2:9-11.** Regardless of what we think today, one day we will _____ the Lord Jesus, and that will be on Judgment Day (2 Corinthians 5:10). You cannot _____ this appointment; you can't _____ it, no matter who you are. Those who are right with God will _____ for the judgment, and those who are not right with God will _____ it.

The Lord Jesus, on Judgment Day, will judge us all by His _____. He said, "The one who _____ me and does not receive my words has a judge; the _____ that I have spoken will judge him on the last day" (John 12:48). There is a last day, a day of reckoning and judgment, on which the Lord, the righteous judge, will _____ the righteous, but He'll _____ the unrighteous. **Read Hebrews 4:12-13.**

On the last day, the Lord will judge us by His _____ (John 12:48). According to Matthew 23:34, Jesus sent forth prophets, wise men, and scribes with His _____, with His Words. The scribes were there to _____ down the teaching of Jesus that it might be preserved for all time. At the great white throne on Judgment Day, the Lord will _____ what the Holy Spirit moved men to write in the Scriptures. We will be judged by what is written in God's _____. **Read Revelation 20:12.** What the Lord said in the first century, His words, will _____ us on the last day. God will have the _____ word on every spiritual and moral matter. Only God will _____ what is right and wrong, and He will judge us by His written words, found in the books.

We won't be judged by what people _____, by oral traditions of the early church fathers, by opinion _____, by the councils or the ancient creeds of men, or by some man-made document. The last and final words that judge our souls and decide our _____ destiny are the same words that Jesus spoke in the first century. We will be judged by the words of Jesus found in the New Testament that the scribes _____ down. For this reason we need to know what the _____ says, don't we?

Wouldn't it be sad to _____ judgment and not know what God said, or not know about the _____ of God? Wouldn't it be sad to face judgment and never know the _____ of Christ that could have saved us and given us eternal life? **Read what the Lord Jesus said in Luke 9:25-26.** If the Lord Jesus has the _____ say about your soul and your destiny, shouldn't you focus your attention on Him? If His words are going to judge you on the last day, what advantage would you have by being ashamed of what He _____?

Some think challenging the authority of God in large matters is rebellious, but we shouldn't _____ to challenge the Lord in smaller things. The Lord Jesus wants us to "observe _____

that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20). **Read what James argued in James 2:10-12.** We can’t pick and choose which commandments of God _____ and which don’t. We’re not _____ of God’s commandments; God’s commandments are judges of us!

Read how Martin Luther understood this and recognized that every commandment of God mattered.

Some think the Bible is too _____ or too _____ or needs changing. Some politicians think Christians ought to _____ our religion to permit their political agendas. But there is no changing of the Bible. What it said when it was written is what it will say on the _____ day! The Lord Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my _____ will not pass away” (Matthew 24:35). It’s foolish to think that we can _____ out God’s moral law or _____ His doctrine. **Read what Paul said about the one gospel in Galatians 1:8-9.** God will not permit anyone to change what He’s taught; and our task is to _____ in the words Jesus spoke.

Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23. It’s not talking religion or doing religious things that make us _____ with God. A true Christian is one that _____ and _____ the will of the Father who is in heaven.

The many people who said, “Lord, Lord,” truly _____ they were right with God. When He rejected them, they _____ with Him. They thought they were _____ in His name. You can imagine how _____ they were to find out that they were rejected and lost. These were religious people who talked and acted like good, religious people; but Jesus _____ to let them enter heaven because they did not follow God’s teaching. They were lawless and ignored what God _____. They did what they _____ and taught what they _____. They followed what they thought was popular; but they didn’t _____ the will of God. They were never _____ with God to begin with. They were _____ but not _____! They were _____ but not _____. Lawless people are not interested in _____ the Lord by keeping His commandments; they’re interested in their own ways.

What about you? How do you _____ up with the written word of God? Even if you think you’re _____ than somebody else, how do you measure up with the Scriptures, with the authentic, true, genuine teaching of Jesus? We might justify ourselves, but will _____ justify us? **Read what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:4-5.** The Pharisees thought they were righteous, but stood condemned! They _____ many oral traditions to the Law of God. When people change the gospel or any of God’s instructions to the church, they too will find themselves at _____ with God. They may _____ they’re right with God, but find that they’re really in spiritual jeopardy.

Why does all this matter? It's simple and clear: when people challenge God by disobeying His commandments, they _____ themselves. When they _____ God, they enjoy His _____. God told a rebellious Israel, "Come now, let's reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. And if you're willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken" (Isaiah 1:18-20). This principle, from Isaiah's words, is still _____. You cannot _____ in rebellion to God and expect God to _____ you eternally. You cannot ignore or rewrite His _____ to suit yourself and imagine that God approves of it. God's Word is settled in heaven; it's God's _____ authority and cannot be broken or undone. Isn't it better to obey the Lord than to _____ that you can do what you want and everything is okay? Obey the Lord!

God is the Creator, and we are the created. Occasionally people contradict God's Word and say, "I don't believe ... (then they'll mention some sinful behavior)... I don't believe that's wrong." They're expressing their _____. But in matters spiritual and moral, people's _____ aren't the final authority. We will be judged by what God has _____ in His books. What God has said matters. So we ask, "What _____ the Scriptures?" Galatians 6:7-8 says, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one _____, that will he also _____. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life." You are indeed _____ for your actions, your words, your thoughts, and your choices. God will have the _____ say and really the _____ say about matters of right and wrong.

If you love God, you want to _____ His commandments. You want to _____ Him. You'll pay attention to God's Words so you know the _____. You would rather follow God's truth, even if it's difficult and unpopular, and go to _____ than to join the world in sin and lose your _____. It's better to _____ out God's will from the Scriptures than presume what somebody thinks is so. Respecting God means being careful and diligent to _____ His Words.

To become a Christian, put your _____ in Jesus Christ, _____ of your sins, _____ Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be _____ into Christ. What Peter told the people at Pentecost is what we need to _____. He said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the _____ of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Why not do what God says today to become a Christian. Don't assume that you're saved; be sure of it by hearing what the Scripture says.