

**Exalted**  
By Jason Cicero

“Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high” (Isa. 52:13).

**Made a Little Lower**

In eternity, the Word submitted to the will of the Father.

In the first century, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He “was made a little lower than the angels” (Heb. 2:9). Angels are spirit beings of a higher order than physical men and women. The Word lowered Himself. A body was prepared for Him (Hebrews 10:5). The One who inhabits eternity inhabited a body for some thirty-three and a half years. He became flesh and blood. He was a baby, a young man, a teenager, a twenty-something. He was made a little lower.

**Lifted Up**

The Word became flesh for the purpose of being “lifted up” (John 3:14). The process of crucifixion was efficient. A hole was dug in the Earth. The cross was laid on the ground. The victim was laid on the cross where he was then nailed to it. The cross was then “lifted up” and dropped into the Earth. The Word “was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death” (Heb. 2:9). GOD in the form of GOD cannot die. The Word made Himself

lower than the angels so He could die. He became flesh “so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone” (Heb. 2:9). He was made a little lower so He could be lifted up.

**Exalted**

The death of Jesus on the cross is not the end of the story. It was never intended to be the end of the story. Isaiah prophesied the story from beginning to end over seven hundred years before the Word lowered Himself. “Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted” (Isa. 52:13). The I AM raised up His Servant and “Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins” (Acts 5:30-31). When He, “by Himself purged our sins,” He then “sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” exalted (Heb. 1:3). Jesus is worthy of exaltation because He lowered Himself, He sacrificed Himself, and He loved us without end. With the “myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands” around the throne, let us say with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing” (Rev. 5:11-12).

Is He exalted in your life? *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com* ♦

**What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

- Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
- Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
- Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
- Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

**About the Hillcrest church of Christ**

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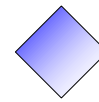


**Schedule of Assembly**

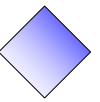
**Bible Study:** Sunday, 9:00am  
**Worship Service:** Sunday, 10:00am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

[www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com](http://www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com)



# The Voice of Truth



July 10, 2011

**Authority**  
By Jimmy Pettigrew

The critical issue in religion today is the question of authority. So, what does authority mean? Authority means the right to command and enforce obedience. Who has all authority in religion today? “And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18). “All” means what? The Greek meaning of the word “all” is “any, anyone, every, everyone and the whole.” The word “authority” refers to the power of Him whose will and commands must be submitted to and obeyed. Christ’s claim is that of all authority! “Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him” (1 Peter 3:22).

Therefore, we may correctly conclude that what men believe and practice today in the name of religion must be authorized by the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians 3:17). Men must respect the authority of Christ and submit to that authority in order to be saved. Now, where is the authority of Christ exercised today? Honest, sincere people today need to appreciate the fact that the authority of Christ is now exercised exclusively through His New Testament. This is a religious problem today; people fail to respect the authority of the New Testament today! Men have appealed to the Old Testament for the authority to practice polygamy, mechanical instruments of music in worship, keeping the Sabbath, burn incense in worship, and to practice infant baptism. No New Testament writer ever sanctioned them, and no New Testament church ever practiced them; they are thus without the authority of Christ. We are not to go beyond what is written (1 Corinthians 4:6). We must not go beyond the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11). The “doctrine of Christ” is that body of teaching which came from the Lord. It is that “form of teaching” which delivers from sin (Romans 6:17), and in which we will be judged by (John 12:48). To teach and practice another gospel is to invoke the wrath of God upon us (Galatians 1:6-9). As it is vital to hear the

scriptures, so also it is important to respect the silence of the word of God (Hebrews 1:5; 7:14).

Let me ask a question: When the apostle Peter on the mount of transfiguration desired to build three tabernacles, one for the lawgiver, Moses; one for the representative of the prophets, Elijah; and one tabernacle for Christ, what did God say? Peter put Jesus on equality with Moses and Elijah, like people do today to authorize their practice of mechanical instruments of music worship, or keeping the Sabbath etc., but God did not. “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (Matthew 17:5). Thus God determined not three tabernacles, nor three to be honored, but one, the Son. Now, we are to hear Him! Let’s ask another question: Did God pronounce a condemnation upon those who refuse to hear His Son? “For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people” (Acts 3:22-23).

“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ he hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ he hath both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9). What does it mean to transgress, and abide not in the doctrine of Christ? It means simply to refuse to be governed by the authority of the New Testament. Well, what about one who refuses to abide in the doctrine of Christ? He hath not God; that is, he has no claim on God as being his God. What of the one who abides in the doctrine of Christ? He hath both the Father and the Son; that is, he sustains that relationship to the Father and the Son which enables him to claim both of them as his own. It seems it would be impossible for the writer to teach more clearly than he does in this passage that God accepts in religion only that which He authorizes in the New

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Testament. Therefore, what men practice in religion today must be authorized by God's word and since God speaks to us by His Son (**Hebrews 1:1-2**), the word of Christ is the authority that must be respected now, and this authority is

exercised through the New Testament.

Whatever is offered as worship to God, which is not authorized by the New Testament, is not acceptable to Him! ♦

### "Would Jesus Do What We Do?" By Jarrod Jacobs

A popular acronym over the last several years is "WWJD" (What Would Jesus Do?) We have seen it on bracelets, bumper stickers, T-shirts, and a host of other things. The title of this article is just a "twist" on that question. Instead of asking ourselves what would Jesus do, let us turn this around and ask, "Would Jesus do what we do?" We might be surprised at the answer! When thinking about whether or not Jesus would do what we do, would Jesus ....

#### Not Attend Worship Services?

Would it be logical to assume that Jesus would not be present with the saints to worship God and study His word every time the doors are open? (**Heb. 10:25**) Jesus is the One who gave His body and shed His life's blood to purchase the church (**Jn. 19:33-34; Acts 20:28**). After paying such a price as this, do we see Jesus considering this same church of little worth, or of only a "passing interest"?

Sadly, there are many people today who consider the assembling of the saints as "optional", or as something they can do when they "have time." Would Jesus do what we do after paying the price He paid?

If we say, "No, He would not do this", then why do we often times do it? Could it be ....

**Illness?** Yes, some folks are ill, and sometimes folks are the caretakers for the ill. Yet, before we focus on illness too closely, let us be reminded that the vast majority of those not attending are not on the "sick list" for their chronic ailments! Too, I have observed that those who are chronically sick are the ones wishing their health allowed them to assemble. Ask them and see!

**Work?** Some allow work to come between them and worship. Could there be an emergency at work requiring your attention? Of course, there could! Yet, does such require your attention consistently on a weekly basis? Of course, not! For those allowing this excuse to keep them from worship, let them read **Matthew 6:25-33** again. Let them be reminded that the physical things will be provided

by God when we put first things first! Yes, we need to be gainfully employed (**II Thess. 3:10**), but this command does not contradict the Lord's command for worship, either (**Heb. 10:25**)! We can do both, and must, if we are to please God.

**Laziness?** This is the key to a lot of our problems, is it not? We have the "energy" to do the things we want to do. Would Jesus do what we do and just decide to be "lazy" sometimes? By no means! When we read of the life of Christ, He did so much, John said he supposed the world couldn't contain the books if someone tried to record everything He had done (**Jn. 21:24-25**). Remember, this was just over a 3 year period! Imagine what good we can accomplish with our entire lives! Are we doing it? Where are we when it is time to worship God?

#### Do Just Enough To Get By?

This attitude is prevalent in society, and sadly, it leaks over into the Lord's church. Some portray an attitude that says they want to do the "minimum" to "squeak" by and get into Heaven. This attitude was seen in the one we call the "rich young ruler" (**Matt. 19:16-22; Mk. 10:17-22; Lk. 18:18-23**). He asked Jesus about the one "good thing" he could do so he could have eternal life. Jesus answered him, but he "*went away sorrowful*" because it required more of him than he was willing to sacrifice.

In truth, we see the opposite with Christ. In **Matthew 5:17**, Jesus told those folks that He came to fulfill the law! In other words, He came to "fill it full"! He promised to complete it when His life on earth was over, and He did (**Jn. 19:30**)! In **I Peter 2:21-22**, we learn, "*For even here-unto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.*" To describe Jesus this way means He did not do the "minimum", but kept all the law! We know this because to offend in one point was to be guilty of all (**Jas. 2:10**). Jesus did not do this, but committed no sin at all! He did not do the "minimum." He did it all. What about us? Are we doing

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all Christ has commanded?

#### Act Hypocritical?

Knowing that some Christians today are hypocrites, would Jesus be a hypocrite, too? Let the Bible speak. In truth, Jesus "practiced what He preached" (**Acts 1:1**). In fact, He condemned the Pharisees and others for their hypocrisy (**Matt. 23:13-36**). Even then, we still hear Jesus tell His disciples to "*observe and do*" what those folks said since they had authority at that time (**Matt. 23:3-4**). He did not do things merely to be seen by men and praised (**Matt. 6:1-18**).

Since we know Christ would not act like this, why do men today act like this? Why do we think we can act one way on Sunday, and another way the rest of the week? Why do men think it is acceptable to act one way in public, and another way at home? This is hypocrisy! Shame on folks for acting like this. If we recognize Jesus wouldn't be acting the way we are acting, then let us repent and do what He did (**I Pet. 2:21**).

#### Rely Upon His Opinions Rather Than God's Will?

When we observe the world at large, we see many relying upon their opinions for what is right and wrong rather than God's word. Sadly, even Christians are like this at times. Would Jesus do what we do? Would He rely upon His own opinions in matters?

In fact, He did not! He never relied upon His personal thoughts, but continually lived and taught that He was here to speak and do what the Father told Him to do. This was made clear in **Luke 2:49** when He told His mother, "*Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?*" In **Luke 2:51**, we read of Him being "*subject*" to His parents. In other words, He was obeying the word of the Lord that said, "*Honor thy father and thy mother...*" (**Ex. 20:12**). Jesus' life was one of subjection and submission to His Father's will. We see this in the words He spoke, "*For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak*" (**Jn. 12:49-50**). Even in His last hours on earth, He would pray, "*not as I will, but as thou wilt*" (**Matt. 26:39, 42, 44**).

Jesus followed His Father's Word without fail. Knowing this is true, who are we to think we can do something that

the Son of God didn't do?? No, Jesus wouldn't be doing what men are doing when it comes to following our opinions instead of God's will!

#### Teach In A Way So As Not To "Offend" People?

Before we study this point in detail, please remember that the Bible's use of the word "offend" and our use of the word "offend" is different. The Bible often uses the word "offend" as meaning a cause to sin. We use it to mean that we are put-off by something, insulted, or otherwise repulsed by something someone has said or done. The question is not, "Did Jesus speak in such a way so as to lure people into sin?" Surely, He did not (**Jas. 1:13**). Our question is, was Jesus' teaching the kind of teaching that never caused folks to be mad or upset at what they heard?

There is a call and cry today by some who demand we "preach like Jesus preached," and what they mean is to speak in such a way so as to never make a person mad or convict him of sin. Did Jesus do this? If folks think Jesus' preaching never made folks mad, or convicted them of sin, then they have just not read the New Testament! When we read about the life of Christ, we find times when He caused folks to be "*filled with madness*" (**Lk. 6:11**). Some folks "*criticized him vehemently*" for His words. Even in His actions, we see Jesus cleansing the Temple on two occasions, as well as provoking controversy as He continually healed people on the Sabbath.

When confronting the Pharisees about their hypocrisy, they were upset; so much so that when His disciples told Him about their response, Jesus said simply, "*Let them alone they are blind leaders of the blind...*" (**Matt. 15:12-14**). Jesus would not allow hurt feelings to stand in the way of the truth being preached. We should not, either. Beware of those who will not teach the truth because they are afraid someone may be "offended."

#### Conclusion

If Jesus would not do what we do, then why are we doing it? If Christ is our example, and we should be following Him. Why are we intent on doing things "our" way and not His? *Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦*