

The Christians One Foundation

Part I

**What is the divine authority that
structures and determines the true gospel?**

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Preface:

The recognition *by the Spirit of Truth* of the condition of ones soul by the one divine authority that structures and determines God's salvation and judgment in Jesus Christ, *The Holy Bible*, was to Harold Camping the most wonderful spiritual exercise anyone seeking God's truth could know. "Am I truly a born again child of God? Whether I see that I am or not, what is my divine authority and its limits that establishes God's word to me personally? How can I know the living Savior who, alone, forgives His people of their sin, and to know that I am one of His elect?"

It is my belief, that, it was by this Divine Authority in Jesus Christ, *the Word of God*, that Harold was recognized by many as God's man who had been ordained to witness *God's word the bible* as part of his own salvation that would be witnessed around the world as an example of how we come to know the true gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The initial intent of Harold's work on the biblical time line had been to demonstrate how the children of God need not be afraid of studying anything and everything God's word has to offer, even if it involves the end of the earth's existence as 'part' of the gospel. However, in his overall tenor as general manager and President of Family Radio Inc., the intent of Harold Camping's ministry never taught that salvation, and God's judgment would be based on any thing that had been subtracted from or added to God's word the Bible (Revelation 22:18-19).

As a thread that went through everything Harold Camping taught, which included the gospel time line, and the end of the church age, was the warning, that, should any doctrine discredit any part of God's word the bible, such doctrine must be seen as false. And that should such an error persist in our understanding of the bible, and we refuse to correct it, (2 Timothy 3:16; 1Thessalonians 5:21), we must become subject to a false gospel. For then we would be following an authority, the parameter of which, is not the divine authority that establishes and determines the true gospel. Should the professing Christian remain in this spiritual condition, they would be choosing to remain in a gospel that cannot provide God's salvation in Jesus Christ. The final result of this spiritual condition shall manifest a gospel proclamation that does not witness God's true salvation that exists only in Jesus Christ.

Our ultimate authority:

I think the number one reason there are more false gospels than at any other time in history is because today there is more resistance to 'authority's' than at any other time in history.

I remember the day when society in general didn't talk over each others words as is presently the norm. To an exceedingly high degree, whether individually, or collectively, society has become it's own authority. Any authority that challenges today's authority's can be met with a strong and often hurtful response. But this has always been the environment of the true gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Another aspect of the true gospel that is rarely considered *today* is how God can restrain sin, or remove His restraint on sin. *Today*, around the world, God is in deed removing His restraint on sin in a way He has not previously done. For example, the once most disciplined parts of American society, the corporate Christian church, and the government, *[in that order]*, no longer exhibit the discipline, *[structure and determination]*, they once had, nor does much of the country see the need to return to it. At best the availability of political freedom and creature comforts are societies priorities.

If we're honest we know that by nature, *[outside of God's divine grace in our lives]*, we would acknowledge no authority as much as we would acknowledge ourselves – even if only in our minds where no one can see. Perhaps we rely on someone we consider more capable than ourselves. But by nature mankind's ultimate goal is to get its own way, irregardless of what God might have to say (Isaiah 53:6).

Yet, none of these things are unique with respect to the time line of history. *Today* is a time we don't readily remember as having ever existed before. God has designed the unfolding of time so that the unbelieving world should not remember the distant past, nor that there is another divine authority besides themselves. It is a divine authority that does not seek its own way, nor does it lie. And it speaks of yesterday as past millennia's, that, spiritually, were no different than *today* (Ecclesiastes 1:9). This divine authority is God's Holy Word the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Revelation 19:13; 22:18-19).

With respect to the current world media, and how it portrays society, Judges 17:6, and Proverbs 30:12, certainly bares some reflection:

Judges 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

We may wonder, what king, *[authority]*, is Judges 17:6 speaking of? Proverbs 30:12, then, adds the following information:

Proverbs 30:12 There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

We may also wonder, what generation is Proverbs 30:12 referring to? Would it surprise us to know that this generation, the bible is ultimately referring to, begins with Adam's sin, and goes to the last day of this earth's existence, *[the final day of judgment]*, (John 6:44; Revelation 1:8):

In Genesis 2:4 we may see how the word of God structures and determines the generation that is being spoken of in Proverbs 30:12:

Genesis 2:4 ¶ These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

Some may interpret Genesis 2:4 as God's reference to the six days of creation in Genesis one. However, when the whole Bible is taken into account, *[as it should be]*, (Isaiah 28:10-11; 2Corinthians 2:13), the phrase, *'in the day'*, cannot be confined, *[structured and determined]*, from only the six days of creation, unless those six days are spiritually interpreted as the generations, *[generation]*, that follows from Adam's sin to the last day. "It must be the entire unfolding of the time line of history that manifests the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ – or it is another gospel:"

Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

It is in this context that in Judges 17:6, the king, which the people do not have, *[that generation/ the entire time line of history]*, is the LORD, and KING Jesus Christ. This is because *'in the day'* that the Lord was not received as King by those He had given His word to, *[the world]*, God's wrath would abide on that generation, *[the tare]*, beginning with the first Adam (Romans 5:19; 1Corinthians 15:45). This would result in society, *[the tare growing along side of the wheat]*, doing what was right in their own eyes, according to God's removal of His restraint on sin (Genesis 4:23-24). For according to their own authority, which was themselves, they refused to consider what was right in God's eyes, according to the word He had written in their hearts (Romans 2:14-16). That is, until, by God's election of grace, many might become saved, *[born again]*; which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:13).

**Excerpts from
What is the True Gospel
by the late Harold Camping:**

The late Harold Camping of Family Radio Inc. [1959 – 2013], once wrote the following:

“What is the true gospel of Jesus Christ, who alone can save men and women from their sins. There is no question that is of greater importance facing the world today. This is so because only the true Gospel will provide the answer that can save us from spending eternity under the wrath of God.”

From this biblical observation Harold then put forth the following questions:

I. What is the divine authority that structures and determines the true gospel?

II. What is the message of the true gospel?

III. What is the mandate of the true gospel?

Part I of, *The Christians One Foundation*, examines the first question: “what is the divine authority that structures and determines the true gospel?”

In his book, *“What is the True Gospel”*, Harold offers the following biblical principle:

“Every gospel is structured and determined by its authority. So when the authorities differ, the gospels themselves differ.”

During my time listening to the Open Forum show on Family Radio Inc., [1980 – 2013], Harold Camping sought to answer questions of the Bible from the Bible only, according to the precepts found in verses such as, Joshua 1:8; 2Timothy 3:16-17; and Revelation 22:18-19. We will look at these verses shortly, but, first, in validating the idea that there are different gospels in the world: it was through Galatians 1:6, Harold reminded his audience what the Apostle Paul had to deal with in the very beginning of the church age:

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.

A very important verse Harold often read over the air was Joshua 1:8, where God speaks to His congregation which at that time was national Israel:

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

As well as Joshua 1:8, the New Testament congregation, [the church], was given 2 Timothy 3:16-17, to compare with Joshua 1:8:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

However, for the New Testament church, in Revelation 22:18-19, God would put a cap on his divine revelation:

Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Early on in his tenor as general manager and president of Family Radio, and with respect to verses like, Joshua 1:8; 2Timothy 3:16-17; and Revelation 22:18-19, Harold's ministry was known by the witness of his authority, that, "THE BIBLE, ALONE, AND IN ITS ENTIRETY, is the divine authority that structures and determines the true gospel." It was not the biblical time line, nor the end of the church age that would bring Harold to this conclusion that the bible, alone, and in its entirety was the believers ultimate authority. It was something exceedingly more wonderful?

Isaiah 43:9-11 are a few of the verses Harold would quote when identifying the believers divine authority that never changes over time:

Isaiah 43:9-11 Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth. 10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God

formed, neither shall there be after me. 11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

What magnificent verses these are and they never grow old, but are new upon every reading! Surely these verses identify the Christians one foundation and authority Harold Camping knew long before many of his followers would consider the bible as their only authority for truth!

In his booklet, 'What is the True Gospel', Harold makes the following assertion:

"In order to know what the Gospel actually is, we must first of all determine the authority that structures and determines what it is. This is necessary because the nature of the true Gospel is defined and established by its divine authority."

In, *What is the True Gospel*, Harold proceeds to give examples that serve to contrast some of the other authorities that are different from the authority which is the bible, alone, and in its entirety. For example, the Muslims consult their authority, *[gospel]*, which is the Koran. The Jews authority, *[gospel]*, is the Old Testament, and the writings of the church fathers. Mormons have as their authority, *[gospel]*, the bible plus the book of Mormon. The Roman Catholics present the Apocrypha books, the visions of Joan of Arc, Fatima, and the infallible utterances of the Pope as their authority *[gospel]*. Likewise, the Charismatics have as their authority, *[gospel]*, the bible as the word of God, plus divine revelation through visions, voices, and tongues.

In the light of these examples, Harold would remind his listening audience:

"Bear in mind that every time we have a different authority, we also have a different gospel."

Because of the seriousness of potentially having a different authority, *[gospel]*, that will not provide the truth of God's salvation in Christ, Harold proceeds to give an example of how the bible is misinterpreted *[improperly structured and determined]*:

"One definition sometimes offered to describe the true Gospel is set forth in 1 John 4:2. There we read that if we confess that Christ has come in the flesh, then we are of God. Yet as we read in Luke 4:34, the demons also admit that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, and they are still under God's wrath. ... We must, therefore, discover the divine authority that structures and determines the character and nature of the true Gospel."

In other words, the structure that determines the character and nature of the true Gospel is our hermeneutics, or, how we interpret God's word. Another way of saying it is, "our faithfulness": is it of ourselves, or is it of Christ according to His word alone (1Thessalonians 5:24; Titus 1:9)? As we profess the Bible, is our interpretation of God's word according to our own understanding, or, is our understanding of God's word the Bible, alone, and in its entirety, by the Spirit of Truth who abides in us (John 14:17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)? As noted earlier, Harold's witness to his audience determined the following:

"The Bible indicates that it alone and in its entirety is the authority that establishes the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Revelation 22:18-19 says it best:

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part of the book of life, and out of the holy city and from the things which are written in this book.

In Part I, 'The Authority that Structures and Determines the True Gospel', the discussion now concludes with some of Harold's summarizing statements:

"By that statement, [that is, what we read in Revelation 22:18-19], God establishes the parameter of the true Gospel. It is circumscribed [confined], by the Bible alone. The Bible, therefore, is the True Divine Authority. It is the only complete authority that establishes the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

"If we discover in our lives any kind of practice, or any kind of doctrine that is contrary to the Word of God, then as children of God, there will be within us an earnest desire to change that practice or that doctrine so that we will become more faithful to the Word of God."

"If we follow an authority that is narrower or wider than the Bible alone and in its entirety, we are not following the Gospel of the Bible. Regardless of how holy it may appear to be, such a gospel will not lead to salvation."