

## *Fall Gospel Meeting: The Authority of Christ*

David Halbrook

In Matthew 8, a military commander pled with Jesus to heal his servant, saying *I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.* He knew that if Jesus spoke, it would be done because Jesus had authority.

You understand that since someone has authority at work, at school, in society, in families, and in churches, all people do not have equal “decision-making rights” (authority). In these areas someone makes decisions that the rest must hear, understand, and follow. Jesus came to earth so we could know that He has authority which we must follow in life’s decisions. Do you follow Him in decisions you make at work and school? Does your town consider His teachings in civic decisions? Do all churches listen to Him in their decisions?

Next Tuesday - Saturday night at 7PM, come and consider how we know that Jesus has authority and how man has responded to His authority in the past and present. The specific, nightly topics are listed on our website today.

Editor’s Note: Use our article in *Arkansas Weekly* to encourage someone to consider coming and visiting during our gospel meeting. The concept of “authority” is common in everyone’s life, so everyone can understand it. Remember our work together in this way is September 9-14 (*Tuesday-Sunday*), with Ron Halbrook speaking. If you haven’t already, pray for the work of this week.

### Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians among us.

The topics of the meeting are available on our website. Flyers are in the lobby. No one is signed up to help with the roadside sign during September. If you are willing to post the nightly topics on the board (even for part of the week), put your name and the nights you will be responsible for this on the “signboard sign-up” sheet at the back.

*We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM*

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# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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[WWW.QVCOC.COM](http://WWW.QVCOC.COM)

## *What Does God Expect From Children in His Family?*

David Halbrook

If the above title were changed to “What does God expect from the members of His church?,” the answer would be no different. As last week’s article explained “Church membership” simply means belonging to the church and then it must be known whether that is referring to the one church or one of the churches (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16). For this study, we are considering the one church—the single group of people saved by Christ.

As is the case with most Bible subjects, we cannot go to one book, chapter, or verse to find the answer but must be diligent workers who rightly divide the word of truth and thereby understand the will of the Lord (2 Tim. 2:15; Eph. 5:17). This article may not identify every expectation God has but search the Scriptures to see whether He does expect these things from all saints, according to their ability (2 Cor. 8:12).

God has said many general things that He expects from Christians---fear Him (1 Pet. 2:17), love Him (Matt. 22:37; 1 Jn. 4:8), hear Him (Jn. 18:37; Rev. 2:7), obey Him (1Jn. 5:3), trust Him (1 Tim. 6:17), love the brotherhood (1 Pet. 2:17), honor all people (1 Pet. 2:17), honor the king (1 Pet. 2:17), live worthy of the gospel (Phil. 1:27), constant growth (2 Pet. 1:5-10), etc. All such general instructions would not fit into a month’s worth of bulletin articles.

God has also said many specific things that He expects from Christians. He expects some of these things from us both before and during our work among one of His churches and other things can only be done when we have committed to being among one of His churches (we’ll consider those next week). From the first day that I am a Christian, here are some things God expects of me--

*Assemble with saints on the first day of the week* Many people view this as something that is only expected of them when they are at home and can meet with the saints with whom they regularly work, but the example of Paul in Troas shows

differently. Though Paul was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem to deliver the gift he, and other messengers were carrying, he stayed in Troas for seven days (Acts 20:6). There, he joined the disciples on the first day of the week as they broke bread and heard the gospel preached (Acts 20:7). The purpose of the Lord's Supper is to remember the death of Jesus—who could say that remembering the death of Jesus is only important if I am with the saints that I regularly worship with?!? The first day of the week is the Lord's Day (Rev. 1:10). Why would we think that God only expects us to sing and pray on the Lord's Day if we are in our hometown? The Lord's Day is a memorial of Jesus' resurrection and the duty and blessing of keeping that fresh in our minds in God's way follows us wherever we go. While we may occasionally find ourselves in unplanned or unusual circumstances when travelling, those situations do not change what God expects of us during planned and usual circumstances. When visiting family, on vacation, travelling with work, etc., assemble with the saints on the first day of the week. Why? Because you belong to the one family of God.

*Provide for your household* The physical family has associated duties, binding on me from the moment I belong to that family. Depending on my role, God has some specific things He expects of me in my relationship with other family members. Within the family, some members must obey (Eph. 6:1-3; 1 Pet. 3:5-6), lead others in love (Eph. 5:25), teach or learn (Prov. 1:7), respect (Eph. 5:33), nourish and cherish (Eph. 5:28-29), etc. God expected these of me before I belonged to Christ and now that I am in Christ, He expects it as much as ever *that the word of God may not be blasphemed* (Ti. 2:5; 1 Tim. 5:8, 14).

*Work with your hands* It is God who “wired” humans and connected the mind to the hands so that they could work together in wisdom and might (Eph. 4:28; Col. 3:23). As long as we have physical hands, God expects us to work according to our ability. Whether we are working as a master, servant, owner, supervisor, or employee (or all of the above, as “self-employed”) and whether we are paid in the form of money, possessions, food, or gratitude and/or self-satisfaction (as every homemaker ought to receive and have), God expects His children to work.

*Help to meet the needs of others* Humans are physical and spiritual beings with physical and spiritual needs. God has given Christians the duty to work by faith to provide for themselves and others both in physical and spiritual needs. By faith, Christians identify and try to meet the physical needs of themselves and others (Eph. 4:28; Mt. 7:12). By faith, saints identify and try to meet the spiritual needs of themselves and others (1 Pet. 2:2; Col. 4:5-6; Matt. 7:12). Though at times men may abuse the physical or spiritual help we try to provide, we cannot become cynical and

thereby overlook opportunities to do good (Gal. 6:10). We do not fulfill this duty by giving on the first day of the week and letting the church identify and meet the physical and spiritual needs that exist. These responsibilities are ours because we are members of Christ and His body.

*Find other saints and make the commitment to work with them* As next week's article will discuss, there are specific duties that God expects of every Christian which can only be met by the commitment to be part of one of the churches of Christ (Rom. 16:16). Some Christians have mistakenly viewed this as optional or the result of man-made tradition, but God is the one who revealed the concept of “the churches.” God's plan is for Christians to serve Christ and each other together as one of His churches. No, being a Christian doesn't automatically include me among any of the churches, but neither does it excuse me from the work God has appointed for me to do among one of them.

Becoming a Christian opens up a new set of relationships and blessings not available while living in sin with Satan and the world. In Christ, we share with the Father, Son, Spirit, and saints in many blessings which are given to us as, through faith, we learn and live by God's expectations—and His commandments are not burdensome (1 Jn. 5:3). This is the commitment we make to God when we are added to His church and His family. Have you made that commitment by obeying the gospel of Christ (Mk. 16:15-16)? Are you living consistent with that commitment?

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1 *I said in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure”; but surely, this also was vanity.* 2 *I said of laughter—“Madness!”; and of mirth, “What does it accomplish?”* (Ecclesiastes 2:1-2)

Having wisely deduced that material possessions neither satisfy the flesh nor the soul, King Solomon also considered whether the purpose of life could be found in pleasure. There too, he found *“this also was vanity”*. Many still run after the pleasure this life affords, making it their priority. Yet, *“even in laughter the heart may sorrow, and the end of mirth may be grief”* (Prov. 14:13). Pleasure does not prevent life's sorrows, and it certainly cannot prevent the soul's demise due of sin. Enjoy the good pleasures of life, but keep them in perspective. True and lasting joy is found in the Lord Jesus Christ – the joy that *“no one will take from you”* (Jno. 16:22).

[Joe R. Price; *Sword Tips* #259 (August 22, 2014)]