

# Necessity, Authority, & Self-Authentication

Wednesday, February 7th, 2023

Romans 1:16-18 and Hebrews 1:1-3

Necessity:

1. The first question we could ask goes back to our first lesson:

> Why does God choose to reveal Himself anyway?

> Does God *have* to reveal Himself?

Necessity:

2. God chooses to reveal Himself because of His Divine plan in Jesus in light of the fall of humanity (Gen. 3)

> Ephesians 1

> Without God revealing Himself, where would we be?

Authority:

> Colossians 2:8-15.

1. As Christians, we have one authority: Christ.  
-This includes the teaching and the Word of Christ (Remember Hebrews 1:1-3)

Authority:

> Colossians 2:8-15.

2. This cuts against (presumed) human autonomy—as if they are the one's who have the right authority.

Authority:

3. According to Colossians 2:8-15, why is Jesus our ultimate authority?

> *How* Jesus is the ultimate authority—Col. 1:15-20

> This is begging the question, though, isn't it?

> Even now, can you see that I am using the bible to prove the necessity and authority of the bible?

> Is this okay to do?

> When it comes to *ultimate* authorities, they can only be referenced to and authenticated by their own claim.

Example:

1. Naturalist.

> Only the natural world exists.

> On what authority does the naturalist justify their use of laws of science or reasoning?

> Science or the natural world can't be the final authority since they use things that undermine science or the natural world

# Self-Authentication:

1. We measure the authenticity of the bible by the bible.

> This is answering why *we* as Christians believe Scripture to be God's Word.

> We cannot appeal to something else to tell us the bible is God's Word—if we did, then whatever we appeal to is greater than the bible

## Self-Authentication:

### 2. How does Scripture authenticate itself?

- > God spoke to men (Heb. 1:1-2)
- > God made specific promises (Gen. 15, 17, and 20 to Abraham)
- > God kept that promise (John 1:-5)
- > God gave his authority to specific men to speak on His behalf (Matt. 2:18-20)

## Self-Authentication:

3. God gave his authority to specific men to speak on His behalf (Matt. 2:18-20)

> We cannot miss this!

> Every book of the New Testament is either given directly from the Apostles or from their teaching (Luke, Jude, and Hebrews for example)

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