# In The Assembly Matthew 21:23-27

#### Introduction

- Why do we do what we do in the assemblies of this church?
  - See today's Bulletin
  - Are these just traditions or is there a Bible reason for them?

#### Introduction

- Where do we get the permission to do them?
  - Or do we even need permission?
- Matthew 21:23-27 "By what authority doest thou these things ..."

## **Bible Authority**

- Let's take a brief look at Bible Authority
- Three ways to tell if something is authorized by God

# Bible Authority

- Commandment/Direct statement
  - Statement of fact
  - Mark 16:15-16 "Go ye into all the world ..."
  - Acts 2:37-39 "Repent ye and be baptized ..."

# Bible Authority

- Approved (apostolic) example
- Ephesians 3:3-4 "by revelation was made known unto me ..."
- Philippians 4:9 "... these things do"
- Acts 20:7 "when we were gathered together"

## Bible Authority

- Necessary inference
  - The only conclusion that can be drawn, given the stated facts
  - Acts 8:35-38 "what doth hinder me to be baptized"

#### Prayer

- Prayer is commanded
  - I Thessalonians 5:16-18 "pray without ceasing"
  - Ephesians 6:18 "praying at all seasons"
  - Acts 12:5,12 "many were gathered together and were praying"

## Singing

- Singing is commanded
  - Ephesians 5:19 "singing and making melody with your heart"
  - Colossians 3:16 "singing with grace in your hearts"
  - Acts 16:25 "praying and singing hymns unto God"
  - James 5:13 "Let him sing praise"

## Singing

- Singing "spiritual songs" with instrumental accompaniment is never shown in the New Testament.
  - Instrumental accompaniment does not meet any of the criteria we've already mentioned.
  - It is, therefore, unscriptural

Lord's Supper

- The Lord's Supper is commanded
  - I Corinthians 11:20-34 "this do in remembrance of me"
  - Acts 2:42 "they continued stedfastly
  - Acts 20:7 "gathered together to break" bread"

## Offering

- The offering is commanded

  - ol Corinthians 16:1-2 "... so also do ye" ol Corinthians 9:1-7 "... the ministering to the saints"

#### Scripture Reading

- Scripture reading is commanded
- II Timothy 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved ..."
- Scripture reading is shown by example
  - Acts 17:11 "examining the Scriptures daily"
- Public reading is encouraged
  - I Timothy 4:13 "public reading of Scripture

#### Sermon

- Preaching the gospel is commanded
  - Mark 16:15 "Go ye into all the world"
  - II Timothy 4:2 "preach the word ..."
- Paul preached to individual congregations for some time
  - Acts 18:11 "a year and six months ..."
  - Acts 19:10 "for the space of two years"

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#### Conclusion

- All the actions that we have looked at are commanded
- But some are only for Christians
  - Praying
  - •John 9:31 "God heareth not sinners
  - Lord's Supper
  - A remembrance of the Lord's death and a looking forward to His coming again

#### "What must I do to be saved?"

- Hear the Word of God
  - Romans 10:1 "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach"

"What must I do to be saved?"

- Believe in that Word
  - Romans 10:11 "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame."

"What must I do to be saved?"

- Repent of your sins
- Acts 3:19 "Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord"

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#### "What must I do to be saved?"

- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
  - I John 4:15 "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in him, and he in God."

#### "What must I do to be saved?"

Be immersed in water (baptized)

• Acts 2:38 - "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

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