

What Does the Scripture Say? Luke 10:23-28

ETS: Jesus asked the expert in the law to consult the law (Scriptures) to find the answer to his question

ESS: The answers we seek to questions are found in the Scriptures

OSS: I want people to utilize the Scriptures and judge things by the Scriptures

PQ: Do you know the Scriptures?

UW: Scriptures

ME

COVID-19 authorities

- IHME model (The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation)
- The World Health Organization
- CDC
- Caronavirus Task Force (more well-known members)
 - Dr. Fauci & Dr. Birx
 - Jerome Adams, Surgeon General
 - VP Mike Pence

The **Government** is looking to the IHME models (and others) as an “authority” on the number of deaths from COVID-19

Americans are looking to the CDC and Coronavirus Task Force as an “authority” for what to do:

- Face masks
- Social Distancing

When we recognize someone as an “**Authority**” what are we saying?

- An “Authority” is the power to influence others, especially because of one's commanding manner or one's recognized knowledge about something.”

We recognize **Dr. Fauci** as an “**authority**” during COVID-19.

- Why? Dr. Fauci was appointed Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in 1984.
- Dr. Fauci had extensive research portfolio of basic and applied research to prevent, diagnose, and treat established infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, tuberculosis and malaria as well as emerging diseases such as Ebola and Zika.

- Dr. Fauci has advised six Presidents on HIV/AIDS and many other domestic and global health issues

WE

WE all have “**authorities**” we look to for answers!

- Parents
- College Professor
- Author
- Government
- Books
- Internet

Religion is no different.

Religious books of **authority** = Scriptures

- **Quran**
- **Book of Mormon**, et al.
- **Vedas**
- The **Tanakh** i.e. Hebrew Bible

WHY are these considered books of authority?

- **Divinely inspired** texts
- **Supernaturally** revealed

How are these books used?

- **Establish** beliefs
- **Guide practices** and worship

The Book of Authority for Christians is the **Bible**

The Christian Bible

- **66** books total recognized as “Authoritative”
 - **39** in the **Old Testament**
 - **27** books in the **New Testament**

WHAT makes the Bible authoritative?

Can we trust the Bible?

How do we use the Bible?

GOD

Turn to **Luke 10:23-28**

Luke 10:25 “Just then an expert in the law stood up to test Him, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

- “expert in the law” = Expert in the **Torah**

Joke: “An expert is an ordinary man outside of his own city.”

Expert = An “Authority”

- Like an “authority”, an expert is someone who has a **broad and deep competence** in terms of **knowledge, skill and experience** through **practice and education** in a particular field.
 - Ex: Dr. Fauci

The **man** asking Jesus this question is a **person** “with **broad and deep competence in terms of knowledge, skill and experience through practice and education**” when it comes to the **LAW**

“Just then an expert in the **law** stood up to test Him”

The “**LAW**” is also referred to as the “**TORAH**”

- The **Torah** consists of the first **5 books** of the Hebrew Scriptures (our Old Testament)
 - Genesis
 - Exodus
 - Leviticus
 - Numbers
 - Deuteronomy
- The “**Law**” consisted of the
 - **Ceremonial** commands
 - **Civil** commands
 - **Moral** commands
- It is argued that there are **613 laws** in the Torah.

- The LAW was given to the newly-formed **Jewish nation** (Israel)
 - Most of the LAW was for a **specific people** (the Jewish people)
 - Most of the LAW was for a **specific period** (Until the coming of the Messiah)

In Jesus' day, the **Jews** still lived “under the law”

Scene:

- An “**Expert in the law**” is going to put Jesus on the hot seat!
 - Starts by attempting to show respect: “**Teacher**”
 - He is hoping Jesus will say something outside the Law!
 - IF Jesus **circumvents** the LAW then he can **accuse** Jesus of **subverting** the Law of God!
 - Question: “**What must I do to inherit eternal life?**”

Jesus knows the game this “**Expert in the law**” is trying to play!

Remember, there is always a **Question behind the Question!**

The **Question Behind the Question** of this “expert in the Law” was: “Jesus, do you think you know better than the LAW?”

Jesus knows that this is the **Question Behind the Question** of this “expert in the Law”, so Jesus asks: **Mark 10:26** “What is written in the law?” He asked him. “How do you read it?”

- Jesus DID NOT say “According to the **current teachings of the Rabbi’s**”
- Jesus DID NOT say “**People think** that the way to eternal life is.....”
- Jesus DID NOT say “According to **Plato and Socrates**, the way to eternal life is.....”
- Jesus DID NOT say “**Scientist think** that the way to eternal life is.....”

Jesus said: “What is written in the law?” He asked him. “How do you read it?”

WHY did Jesus asked “What is written in the law?”

- He **knew** this man was an “expert” in the Law
 - He **knew** the man **knew** the **Law**
- Jesus **knew** the answer to the man’s question was in the “**Law**”

Trust What Jesus Trusted: The Old Testament

Jesus trusted the **LAW** –the first 5 books of the Old Testament (Torah)--to have the answer to this man’s question!

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

Did Jesus really trust the first 5 books of our Bible (the Torah)?

- Did Jesus trust that the **account in Genesis** about creation was true?
 - In **Matthew 19:4-6** Jesus taught on marriage and He started with referring to Adam and Eve: “Haven’t you read,” He replied, “that He who created them *in the beginning* **made them male and female,**”
 - Jesus gave no **caveats** or anything to suggest that He **doubted** Adam’s historical reality.
- Did Jesus trust that **Moses actually** led the Israelites out of Egypt?

- **John 3:14 (HCSB)** “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up”
- Did Jesus trust that **Moses actually** wrote the Torah?
 - Yes, over and over Jesus refers to Moses
 - **Mark 7:10 (HCSB)** For **Moses said:** Honor your father and your mother; and Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must be put to death.”
 - **Mark 10:2–3 (HCSB)** “Some Pharisees approached Him to test Him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”
³ He replied to them, “What did **Moses command** you?””

Jesus said: “What is written in the law?” He asked him.
 “How do you read it?”

WHY should I care that Jesus **Trusted** the **LAW**?

Some scholars argue that the **accounts** in the LAW are **myths**.

- **Adam** and **Eve** are a **myth**
- The **Exodus** from Egypt is a **myth**
- **Moses** didn’t really write the **Torah** (Law)

IF the *LAW is a collection of myths* , then Jesus believed myths or, PROMOTE myths as truth!

- IF Jesus was promoting **Myths as truth**, then Jesus was **intentionally misleading** people!
- How can Jesus be a “Good teacher” if He taught people myths as if they were true?
- IF the *LAW is a collection of myths* and *Jesus believed the myths*, then He is **NOT God!**
 - God, by definition, **knows all things!** & IF Jesus **didn't know** that the *LAW* is a collection of **myths**, He cannot be God-in-the-flesh.

Our faith is built on NOT **who** Jesus CLAIMED to be – although that is **important**

Our faith is built on NOT on the **miracles** that Jesus did— although they provide **substantial validation** to His claims

Our faith is built on NOT on the **TEACHINGS** of Jesus— although they are recognized as **timeless**

Our FAITH is built on the **RESURRECTION** of Jesus!

- WHY? Because the **resurrection validates** and **proves** Jesus' claims
 - **Claims** of being the **Son of God**
 - **Claims** of being **God-in-the-flesh**

Since Jesus has **proven** He is **God-in-the-flesh**, Then....

- God knows the **past, present and future**
- Jesus was there when....
 - **Adam and Eve** were created
 - **Moses** led the Israelites out of Egypt
 - The **LAW** was written

John 8:56–58 (HCSB) ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he would see My day; he saw it and rejoiced.” ⁵⁷ The Jews replied, “You aren’t 50 years old yet, and You’ve seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “I assure you: Before Abraham was, I am.”

Jesus trusted the LAW because

- Jesus **inspired MOSES** to write the Law!
- Jesus was there when the **Law** was **written**
- Jesus was there when the **events recorded** in the Law occurred!

Trust What Jesus Trusted: The Old Testament

Jesus asked the man: **“What is written in the law”** BUT did Jesus trust the rest of the Hebrew Scriptures?

- The books of the **Old Testament** had been written by Jesus’ day: (The last book written was **Nehemiah** around 400 B.C.)

- By this time, the Old Testament was **divided** into **three sections**
 - **Law** (TORAH)
 - **Nevi'im** (Prophets)
 - **Ketuvim** (Writings)

Jesus recognized **all three sections** as Scripture: **Luke 24:44 (HCSB)** “Then He told them, “These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the (1) Law of Moses (TORAH), (2) the Prophets (Nevi'im), and the (3) Psalms (Ketuvim) **must be fulfilled.**”

- Jesus quotes from each of the three parts of Scripture as authoritative material
 - **Law: Mt. 4:4**
 - **Prophets: Mt. 10:35-36**
 - **Writings: Mt. 13:43**

The **Hebrew collection** of Scriptures in Jesus' day was in a different order than you have them today.

- **Genesis** = First Book
- **2 Chronicles** = Last book

Jesus recognized the collection of books in the Old Testament which you have today!

- **Matthew 23:35 (HCSB)** “So all the righteous blood shed on the earth will be charged to you, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.”
 - **Abel** was the **first righteous martyr** mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures (Gen. 4:8) and **Zechariah** was the **last martyr** (2 Chron. 24:20–22),
 - 2 Chronicles being last in the Hebrew Bible. *(In this statement Jesus attested the Old Testament canon.)*

Trust What Jesus Trusted: The Old Testament

We *need* the Old Testament!

- The Old Testament **reveals** God’s **Holiness**, God’s **power**, God’s **love** and God’s **justice**
- The Old Testament reveals God **working** in **History**
- The Old Testament **sets** the **stage** for the **NEW Testament**

WE can learn a lot from the Old Testament

- How God **feels** about **sin**
- How God **deals** with **sin**
- How God **works** through **circumstances**

- Why God **does** what He **does**

In the Old Testament, we see

- Christ **Promised**
- Christ **Present**

Trust What Jesus COMMISSIONED: The NEW Testament

What about the New Testament?

WHEN Jesus asked this question, “**What is written in the law?**”, there was **NO New Testament**-there was just the collection of sacred writings (Torah, Nevi'im, and Ketuvim) and the books in those three collections.

Testament = Covenant

- Jesus death and Resurrection was the foundation of the **NEW Covenant** between God and humanity! Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, there was...
 - No Need for **Priest**—Jesus was the NEW ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST
 - No need for **animal sacrifices**—Jesus was the once-and-for-all sacrifice
 - Jesus **fulfilled the requirements** of the Old Covenant!

Matthew 5:17 (HCSB) “Don’t assume that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

The **ceremonial and civil laws** in the **Old Testament** were given

- To a **Specific People** = The Jews
- At a **Specific Time** = When they became a nation
- For a **Specific Period** = Until the coming of the Messiah

The **ceremonial and civil** laws in the Old Testament DO NOT apply to us because...

- Jesus has come and fulfilled the Old Testament Law

Does anything LAW from the Old Testament apply to us today?

- If a LAW from the Old Testament is **repeated** in the New Testament then it is still applicable today!
 - **Old Testament** = Do not Commit Adultery
 - **New Testament** = Do not commit Adultery

Go back to our text:

- **Mark 10:26-28** “What is written in the law?” He asked him. “How do you read it?” He answered: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all

your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. 28 “You’ve answered correctly,” He told him. “Do this and you will live.”

- Jesus affirms this teaching from the LAW as still applicable today!
- **Matthew 22:36–40 (HCSB)** “Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.** ³⁸ This is the greatest and most important command. ³⁹ The second is like it: **Love your neighbor as yourself.** ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”
 - Jesus affirms this teaching from the LAW as still applicable today!

The **New Testament** is a collection of writing that guide Christ-followers as WE live under the New Covenant.

- Can we TRUST the New Testament like Jesus trusted the Old Testament?
 - Jesus **ascended** back to heaven long before the New Testament was written!
- Can we TRUST the New Testament like Jesus trusted the Old Testament?

LET'S START WITH THE GOSPELS since they tell us about Jesus

- FACT: All four Gospels were written by **apostles** or had **apostolic backing**
 - Why is this important?
 - **Jn 14:26:** “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”
 - Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would cause the apostles to remember **“all”** that Jesus said.

History Channel = The Gnostic Gospels

- *Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Philip, The Gospel of Mary and The Gospel of Truth.*
 - Why aren't these books in the New Testament?

The reason is because they **did not have *Apostolic Authority*** like the 4 Gospels;

- **Matthew** and **John** were apostles
- **Mark** had the backing of the **Apostle Peter** and he was close to the **Apostle Paul**-especially in his later years.
- **Luke**, while not an apostle, traveled extensively with **Paul** and had his backing.

- In fact, **Paul** quotes from *The Gospel of Luke* was Scripture in **1 Tim. 5:18** calling it “**Scripture.**”

Was it possible that someone wrote a **letter** and **SAID** it was **written** by an apostle when it wasn't? Yes.

- 100 + years after the death of the Apostles, other books began to surface that claimed to have been written by an apostle such as *The Gospel of Thomas*.
 - **PROBLEM:** The message of these other books **did not agree with the Four Gospels**—so they were rejected by the believers at the various house churches.
- Ex: The **Gospel of Philip**: “God is a man-eater. So people are sacrificed to him.”

BEYOND THE GOSPELS

Most of the New Testament is made up of **letters**.

- **Letters** were written by the **apostles** to the various churches
 - **Paul**-wrote the majority (He was chosen personally by Christ to be an apostle)
 - **John, Peter and Jude (also known as Thaddaeus)**—who were part of the original 12 apostles

- **Exception: James**, either the ½ brother of Jesus or the apostle James
- Most of these letters were ***instantly recognized*** as Scripture by the churches because they were written by the apostles
- **Peter** refers to **Paul's** writings as Scripture (**2 Pe. 3:16**)
 - Implying that they had **begun to be collected** together still in the **first century**.

New Testament Facts:



5,000 manuscripts: More than any ancient document!



180 A.D., a harmony of the four Gospels had appeared.



Ignatius, before martyrdom in 107 A.D. quotes from Gospels and most of New Testament



- 175 A.D.** called the *Muratorian Fragment*
- Although parts of the document are missing, 22 of our 27 books of the New Testament are listed.
 - **Within 100 years** from the last book to be written (Revelation), there was a list that include the four Gospels, Acts, all 13 epistles of Paul, Jude, 1 John, 2 John (and possibly 3rd John), and Revelation.

- This means that at a remarkably early point (end of the second century), the **central core** of the New Testament canon was already established and in place.
- First, this means that most of the debates and disagreements about canonical books in early Christianity only concerned a **handful of books**. Books like 3 John, James, 2 Peter
- Second, Christianity's **core doctrines** of the person of Christ, the work of Christ, the means of salvation, etc., **were already in place and already established**.

The **final list of the 27 books** of the New Testament were published by **Athanasius** in **367 A.D.**

- **Contrary to a myth popularized by Dan Brown's Davinci Code**, Constantine did not handpick which books were going to make up the New Testament— There is no record of any discussion of the biblical canon at the council.

Trust What Jesus COMMISSIONED: The NEW Testament

YOU

How does this apply to you?

We all have “**Authorities**” we look to!

- Parents
- College Professor
- Author
- Government
- Books
- Internet

What is YOUR **authority** for your **faith** and **practice**?

- What/who is **backing** your authority? **Christ**
 - Who **rose** from the dead and proved He is God-in-the-flesh?
 - Who **trusted** the Old Testament Scriptures
 - Who **Commissioned** the New Testament Scripture?

What/who is **backing** your authority?

- **Science?**
- **Science is great and real science is not in conflict with the scriptures**, but new discoveries are being made all the time and the old “truths” are constantly being changed or updated.

For example, during COVID-19 we were told that

- April 7, 2020: Surgical And Cotton Face Masks Ineffective At Blocking Sars-Cov-2 Particles When Covid-19 Patients Cough, Study Finds ([Newsweek](#))
 - April 13, 2020 “Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19”
- April 6, 2020 “[Is hydroxychloroquine effective for COVID-19?](#)”
 - “Two studies find hydroxychloroquine is not effective for COVID-19 and two studies find it is”

What is YOUR **authority** for your **faith** and **practice**?

- What/who is **backing** your authority? **Christ**
 - Who **rose** from the dead and proved He is God-in-the-flesh?
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When you have a **question**, search the **Scriptures**!
 Since we now live under the **New Testament**, start with the **New Testament**.

- Is there a **command**?
- Is there a **principal**?
 - Not every scenario is covered in the New Testament, so look for principals.

- For EXAMPLE: Rape is not condemned specifically in the NEW Testament!
 - Does that mean RAPE is approved by God?
NO!!
 - All sex outside of a marriage between a man and woman is condemned by God in both the Old and New testaments!
- For EXAMPLE: Drug abuse is not explicitly discussed in the Scriptures.
 - Does that mean drug abuse is approved by God? NO!!
 - The Scriptures command us NOT to be controlled by anything other than God's Holy Spirit. We must not allow anything (drugs, alcohol, lust, coveting, etc.) to control us. We are to be motivated by, and desirous of God in our actions, words and deed.

When you have a **question**, search the **Scriptures!**

- Read the Scriptures daily
- Listen to the Scriptures being preached and taught
- Memorize the Scriptures
- Study the Scriptures

Aren't the Scriptures outdated?

- No! The scriptures deal with the human heart!
 - Technology may change, we may make new scientific discoveries, but the human heart has not changed.

PQ: Do you know the Scriptures?

- Are you a student of the Scriptures?
- Are the Scriptures the authority for your life?

WE