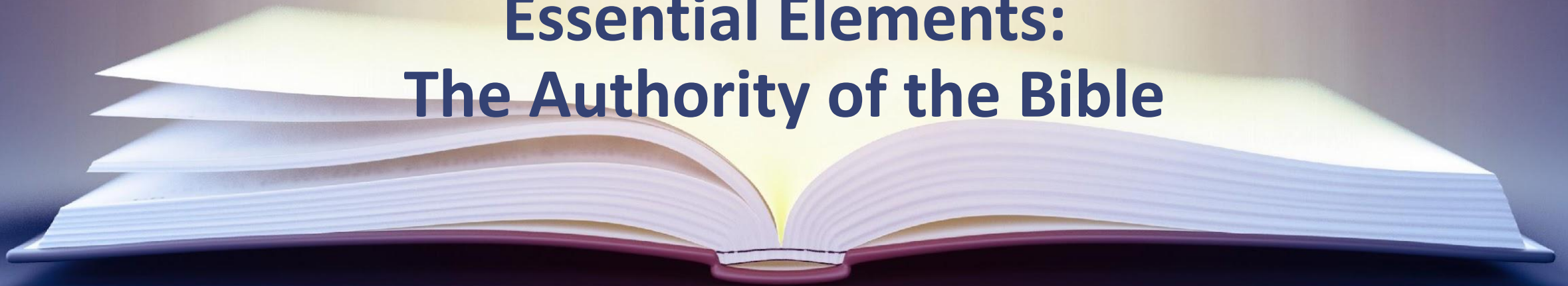


# **BIBLICAL**

A STUDY THROUGH THE SCROLLS OF SCRIPTURE

# **REVIEW**

**Essential Elements:  
The Authority of the Bible**



# Introduction

The Experience of a “Military Brat” ...

Transition:

A lot of us have had experiences with people in positions of authority that make our relationship with the concept of authority a difficult one. Add to that our flesh that has a bent to not want to yield to one in authority. So, we will have to try to set aside our negative experiences and emotional sense of things when we look at today's essential element: The Authority of the Bible.

## I. A Working Definition:

“Authoritative words are words that impose obligations on the lives of their readers and hearers. To say that the Bible is authoritative is to say that it governs all areas of human life.”

## II. A Working Description

God is by nature the supreme authority in the universe, governing the lives of all his creatures. When he speaks, creatures must obey or bear the consequences of disobedience. The Bible is his word, and therefore human beings must obey all aspects of it in every area of their lives. ...

## II. A Working Description

The Westminster Confession of Faith, 14.2, says that by saving faith, “a Christian believes to be true whatever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein; and acts differently upon that which every particular passage [contains] ; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come.”

## II. A Working Description

This is not to say that the content of Scripture [is measured by] human standards of what is right and wrong, true and false. Rather, Scripture is itself the very standard, the ultimate criterion of what is true and right.



## II. A Working Description

Nor should we restrict the authority of Scripture to some narrow sphere of human life, such as religion or worship. Scripture governs the religious life, but before God all of life is religion in the sense that we are to do everything to the glory of God. Scripture is the supreme guide as to how to glorify God in all of life.

## II. A Working Description

So however difficult it may be in a social environment, the Christian must be bold to obey the Bible, not only in church, but in the workplace, in intellectual life, in science, philosophy, law, politics, the arts, culture, commerce, and entertainment.



## II. A Working Description

Believers must, of course, respect the fact that Scripture focuses on redemption rather than general culture. But that redemption itself is cosmic: the removal of the fall's curse from all creation and the reconciliation of all things to God. The Bible's authority extends over all areas of human life.

John Frame, "The Bible's Authority," in *Lexham Survey of Theology*, ed. Mark Ward et al. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018).

# III. Authoritative Leadership vs. Authoritarian Leadership

Authoritative	Authoritarian
With God:	With Men:

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Among Men (including Jesus): Conferred by God as a stewardship responsibility	Among Men: Conferred but abused; Or, Taken by Force or Deception

### III. Authoritative Leadership vs. Authoritarian Leadership

Authoritative	Authoritarian
With God: Self Derived	With Men: Assumed to Oneself
Among Men (including Jesus): Conferred by God as a stewardship responsibility	Among Men: Conferred but abused; Or, Taken by Force or Deception
Purpose: To care for and serve those under them.	Purpose is perverted to serve oneself at the expense of those under them.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be  
enlightened, so that you will know what  
is the hope of His calling,

Eph. 1:18-23





what are the riches of the glory of His  
inheritance in the saints,  
and what is the surpassing greatness of  
His **power** toward us who believe.

Eph. 1:18-23



These are in accordance with the  
working of the **strength** of His **might**  
which He brought about in Christ,  
when He raised Him from the dead

Eph. 1:18-23



and seated Him at His right hand in the  
heavenly places,  
far above all rule and **authority** and  
**power** and **dominion**,

Eph. 1:18-23



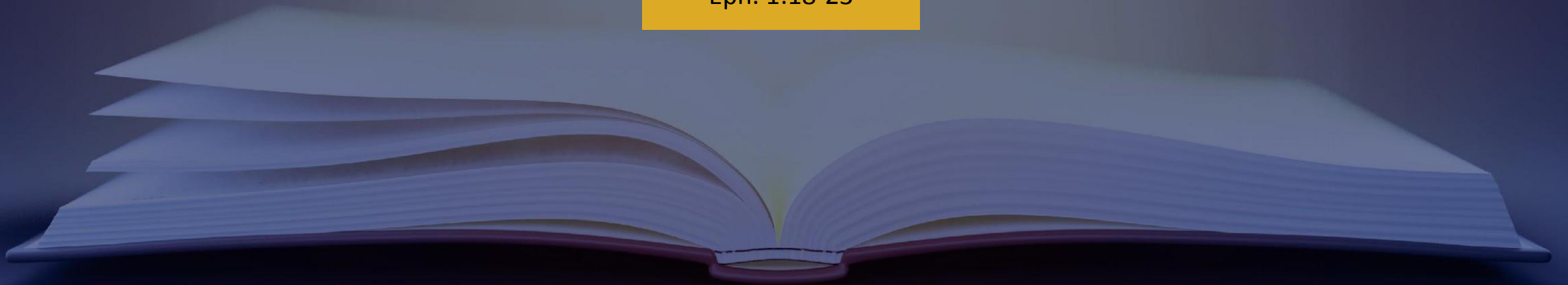
and every name that is named, not only  
in this age but also in the one to come.

Eph. 1:18-23



And He put all things in subjection under  
His feet, and gave Him as head over all  
things to the church,  
which is His body, the fullness of Him  
who fills all in all.

Eph. 1:18-23



## IV. Understanding the Aspects of Authority in Eph. 1

A. Authority of Position- [Gr. EXOUSIA] “one has the RIGHT to speak or act.”

B. Authority of Function – [Gr. DUNAMIS] “one has the POWER to speak or act.”

1. Strength [Gr. KRATOS] “power to control”
2. Might [Gr. ISCHUS] “exceptional capability”
3. Dominion [Gr. KURIOTES] “power to govern”

C. Authority of Person – “one has the moral power by virtue of exemplary character and conduct to draw and influence others to willingly obey, follow, and sacrifice.”



## V. Jesus, “The Word,” and His Authority

### A. Luke 4

1. Nazareth – vv. 14-30, his closest friends and family – didn’t believe and obey

2. Capernaum – vv. 31-41, the demons obey

v. 32, “His message was with authority”

v. 36, “for with authority power he commands the unclean spirits”

v. 41, “He would not allow them (demons) to speak.”

B. Luke 8: 22-25, Jesus Asleep in the Storm,—the wind and the waves obey

## V. Jesus, “The Word,” and His Authority

C. Luke 7: The Centurion with Great Faith, vv. 1-9—a pagan outsider believes; He understands the authority to direct and bind. (see Matt. 18:18).

D. Matt. 28: 18-20, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth...MAKE DISCIPLES!”

## Conclusion:

An “Options in Hand” Orientation  
vs.  
A “Commands to Obey” Orientation

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Trust and Obey