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## Other Sites We Love!

(these ministries and/or websites are not associated with HeavenlySanctuary.com)

GodsCharacter.com, Live2KnowHim.org, MyFatherInHeavenIsPerfect.com, GregBoyd.org, ComeAndReason.com, RenewedHeartMinistries.com, Pineknoll.org, LBM.org, Theox.org, GreatNewsAboutGod.org

# Events & Schedules

**Every Saturday, 11-12 PM — Vancouver, BC, Canada** (*Manuel Silva*): Oakridge Adventist Church

Contact: Gaileen Woytko @ 1.604.266.6727 / [gaileen@oakridgeadventist.ca](mailto:gaileen@oakridgeadventist.ca)

## Other Beautiful Messages

(these ministries and events are not associated with HeavenlySanctuary.com)

**Every Thursday, 12-1 PM — LLU Medical Student Bible Study** (*Dr. Brad Cole*): See [GodsCharacter.com](http://GodsCharacter.com)

**Every Monday, 12-1 PM — LLU Allied and Public Health Bible Study** (*Dr. Brad Cole*): See [GodsCharacter.com](http://GodsCharacter.com)

**November 14, 2009 — Bishop, CA** (*Ty Gibson*): See [LBM.org](http://LBM.org)

**December 12, 2009 — Pleasant Hill, CA** (*Ty Gibson*): See [LBM.org](http://LBM.org)

**January 7-8, 2010 — Rochester, NY** (*Herb Montgomery*): See [RenewedHeartMinistries.com](http://RenewedHeartMinistries.com)

**November 22 & 29, 2009 — St. Louis Park, MN** (*Dr. Greg Boyd*): See [GregBoyd.org](http://GregBoyd.org)

# The Good News

A NEWSLETTER ENTIRELY ABOUT GOD : ISSUE THIRTY : NOVEMBER, TWO-THOUSAND AND NINE



I'll never forget the time, while attending a denominational university, when one of my classmates asked our philosophy professor if he was a Christian. The reason my fellow classmate was curious was because Dr. Samraj was instructing us on the topic of Eastern Religions. Dr. Samraj taught the subject with such passion that it prompted some of my fellow theology students to wonder if he might be wavering in his faith. "I'm more than a Christian" was his answer. He was informing us that he had many roles in his life and they were all affected by his spirituality. It was a response that neither my classmate nor I were expecting but the answer was obvious. A doctor has more responsibilities than just being a doctor. A teacher is more than a teacher. A mechanic has more functions than just being a mechanic. When stated this way, we say "of course." From that moment on, Professor Samraj had my full attention every class period because when he spoke, he revealed knowledge that was not "taught" but rather "thought". I was captured by my teacher's words and how he spoke with authority.

It is in this frame of reference that I'd like to consider the following passages: *When the temple police returned to the chief priests and Pharisees, they were asked, "Why didn't you bring Jesus here?" They answered, "No one has ever spoken like that man!"* (John 7:45-46, CEV) When Jesus was teaching it was said that *"he taught as one who had authority."* (Matthew 7:29) The

question I'd like to ask is what was it that gave Jesus' words such authority and provoked people to exclaim, "no one has ever spoken like this man?"

Did he yell? In his sermon notes did he write "bang pulpit here" and "stomp feet after this line?" No. In fact, the scriptures often state that Christ would "sit down" and teach the people. The authority that Christ revealed was not in his delivery style.

Was it because Jesus performed miracles? No. it was not a miracle that caused the temple attendants to exclaim what they did, for they said "no man spoke like this man." It was what he said that had authority. Christ did not want people to believe in what he was saying based on His heavenly endowed powers.

Did Jesus instill fear in them? "No one has ever spoken like this man." Were those words expressing fear? Did the authority of Christ's dissertations cause the temple police to experience panic and anxiety? Sometimes an evangelist has held the attention of an entire crowd by focusing on the end of the world, tribulation, plagues, timelines, beasts, horns, apostasy and wrath. This brings fear to some people. Does this give them authority? Does a person's ability to expand on the eschatological concepts of biblical prophecy, performing scriptural exegesis, expounding on apocalyptic theories and identifying typological connections in the Old and New testaments give them authority (I admit that I'm trying to be a little humorous here)?

a newsletter **entirely** about God

## MINISTRY NEWS



HeavenlySanctuary.com has accomplished a lot – an internet portal loaded with content about God's character, a recently published book

that had not been circulated for decades (God Is Love by G.E. Fifield), seven conferences under the banner of the Good News Tour, helping to establish three other ministries that now stand on their own two feet, distributing DVDs and CDs all over the planet and publishing a newsletter that reaches from Kansas to Kenya. Presently, we are getting close to completing our multi-author book that we hope to be picked up by a major Christian publisher so that this message of God's goodness will be available in your local book store. We also are nearing the completion of our latest Good News Tour DVD set that was held in Vancouver, BC, Canada. On a daily basis our ministry is constantly networking with others and doing whatever it can to help champion those who want to express their admiration for God's beautiful character. We've been promoting other authors on our site to get them exposure – because we believe that our ministry was meant to serve other ministries.

This is a call for those who feel God's urging to put their talents to work to join a small but expanding team to seek God's will for us moving forward. If you feel that God is in fact urging you to get more involved we're specifically asking you to explore how you feel you would like to help by calling us at (888) 250-4612, e-mailing us at [office@heavenlysanctuary.com](mailto:office@heavenlysanctuary.com), or writing us at PO Box 4, Redlands, CA, 92373. We want to expand this team to reflect the reality that all of you are the real ministry.

We'd also like to thank all those who answered our call for financial help last newsletter—we now have enough to operate for at least three months! Thank you!

- The HeavenlySanctuary.com Team



[ CONTINUED FROM FRONT ] No. The authority of Jesus' discourses struck love in the people's hearts and they returned that love.

Was it because of Jesus' title and rank or his position on the social ladder that stirred the people to declare "no one has ever spoken like this man?" After the sanctuary Gestapo agents came back to the temple without Christ the following is recorded: *"Have you been led astray, too?" the Pharisees mocked. "Is there a single one of us rulers or Pharisees who believes in him? This foolish crowd follows him, but they are ignorant of the law. God's curse is on them!"* (John 7:47-49, NLT) Notice how the scribes and Pharisees equated authority based on social structure – on position – on which step a person stands on the hierarchical ladder. Let's all be glad that God doesn't work like that. Our gracious creator does not ask us to trust Him based on social structure.

Did Jesus speak with authority because of his educational credentials? Usually educational credentials bring respect and affirmation. Often a person is considered an authority because he or she has a degree or certificate stating they are. Did Christ get his authority from his university grade point average? No. In fact, we find over in Luke 2 that even as a young child he was able to amaze the scholars despite never being instructed by them. Could we say "no one has ever spoken like this man" because of Jesus' scholastic achievements? Of course not, and even the Pharisees would agree because we find them condemning the Son of God as someone who had never been educated in their courts. Despite that, Jesus still spoke with such authority that he was able to ask Nicodemus during their secret night rendezvous, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?" (John 3:10)

If it wasn't his evangelistic technique, yelling and stomping his feet for verbal emphasis and a passionate delivery style which gave Christ his au-

thority; if his authority didn't come from the working of miracles, magic tricks and displays of power; if his authority didn't originate from a source of expounding on topics which caused fear and anxiety; if his authority didn't come from the fact that he had a higher method of scriptural interpretation or an eye-opening view of revelatory end-times prophecies; if his authority didn't come from rank or position on the social ladder; then where did his authority come from that caused the temple police to exclaim with such certainty, "no one has ever spoken like this man!" What made his words and discourses authoritative?

I submit to you that what gave Christ's words authority was truth! What gave Christ's words so much power was the fact that when he spoke, what he spoke and where He spoke, truth rang out. Truth caused the blind to see. Truth built up those who were spiritually and physically oppressed. Truth changed people's hearts and wooed back the leprous. In the same vein, it was the truth that caused devout and pious men to pick up rocks to murder Christ. It was the truth that provoked God's own people to kill their creator and hurry home on Sabbath to keep it holy. They perverted and ultimately rejected the truth. You see, God's Word became a person and that person was Jesus Christ. The Word became flesh and blood. Christ did not just speak the truth with authority for he was the Truth incarnated as a member of the human race.

*"You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."* (John 8:32) Let me rephrase. "You shall know God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and knowing the truth about what God is really like will totally set you free." My friends – never rely on trusting anything that comes from that which claims to be authority unless you test it by the truth that Christ came to reveal. Authority that comes from

any place other than that which reveals evidence that it is true is not trustworthy. Never believe based on claims, the miraculous or the worldly, but drink deep of the spirit of the words that left the lips of your best friend, Jesus Christ, and don't be surprised when you look upon His face with eyes that are wide and say out loud, "no one has ever spoken like this man!" [ END ]

NOTE: If you'd like to listen to the presentation this article was adapted from, please visit [HeavenlySanctuary.com](http://HeavenlySanctuary.com) and peruse our audio Section or send an email to [marco@heavenlysanctuary.com](mailto:marco@heavenlysanctuary.com).

THANK YOU  
SO MUCH!

Over the last five years Brad and Dorothee Cole have given our team wonderful wisdom, insight and energy as they shared in our primary mission — to promote the wonderful character of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. As a team we are very grateful for their support and believe that *GodsCharacter.com* and all of the many people that they speak to on a weekly basis will pave the way for many opportunities that God can use to promote his kingdom. We wouldn't be where we are today without them. We wish them the very best as they focus on *GodsCharacter.com!*