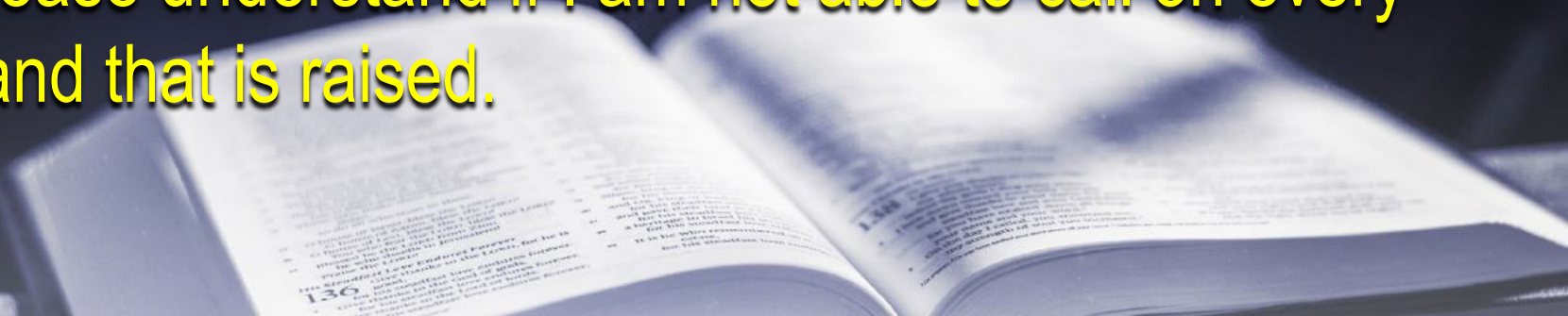


# Authority of the Scriptures



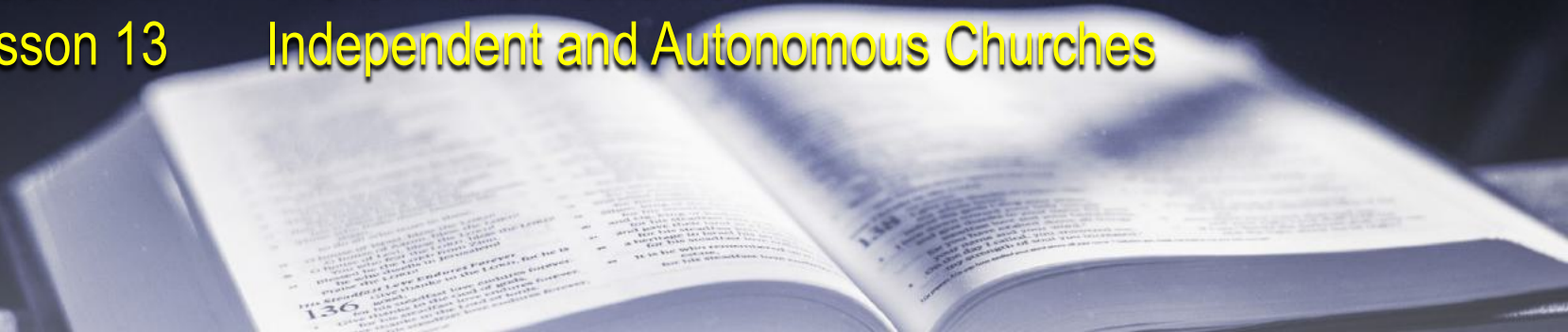
# Class Rules

- Please limit yourself to one comment a class.
  - Exception – Class exercises
- Please make comments that are on topic.
- Please come to class with an open mind.
- Please come to class with a desire to grow.
- Please come to class with a desire to honor the Lord.
- Please understand if I am not able to call on every hand that is raised.



# Class Lessons

- Lesson 1 Why Study Authority?
- Lesson 2 False Standards of Authority
- Lesson 3 Inspiration – Part 1
- Lesson 4 Inspiration – Part 2
- Lesson 5 How Does God Communicate With Us?
- Lesson 6 Wrong Attitudes About Bible Authority?
- Lesson 7 Establishing Bible Authority
- Lesson 8 Generic and Specific Authority
- Lesson 9 When is an Example Binding?
- Lesson 10 Aids and Additions
- Lesson 11 The Silence of God
- Lesson 12 The Universal and Local Church
- **Lesson 13 Independent and Autonomous Churches**



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

Three key areas which demonstrate the scriptural plan

- Oversight of the Elders
- The Treasury
- Receiving Benevolence



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## Oversight of Elders

- Elders in every church overseeing a local flock and a local work (Acts 14:3, Titus 1:5)
- Elders accountable to the Chief Shepherd, Jesus (1 Pet 5:1-5)
- When we change the scope of oversight for the elders, whose authority is usurped? Jesus, the Chief Shepherd



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## The Treasury



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## The Treasury

- How did local churches in Macedonia and Achaia aid needy saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8:1-14, 9:1-5)?



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## The Treasury

- How did local churches in Macedonia and Achaia aid needy saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8:1-14, 9:1-5)?

For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints

- 2 Cor 8:3-4



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## The Treasury

- How did local churches in Macedonia and Achaia aid needy saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8:1-14, 9:1-5)?

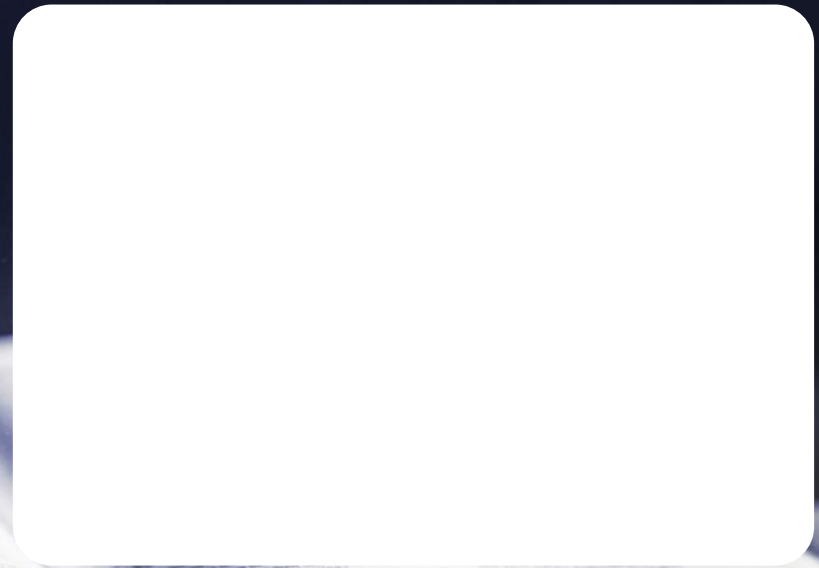
Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them.

- 2 Cor 9:1-2

# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## The Treasury

- How did local churches in Macedonia and Achaia aid needy saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8:1-14, 9:1-5)?
- How was the treasury in Corinth controlled (1 Cor 16:3)?



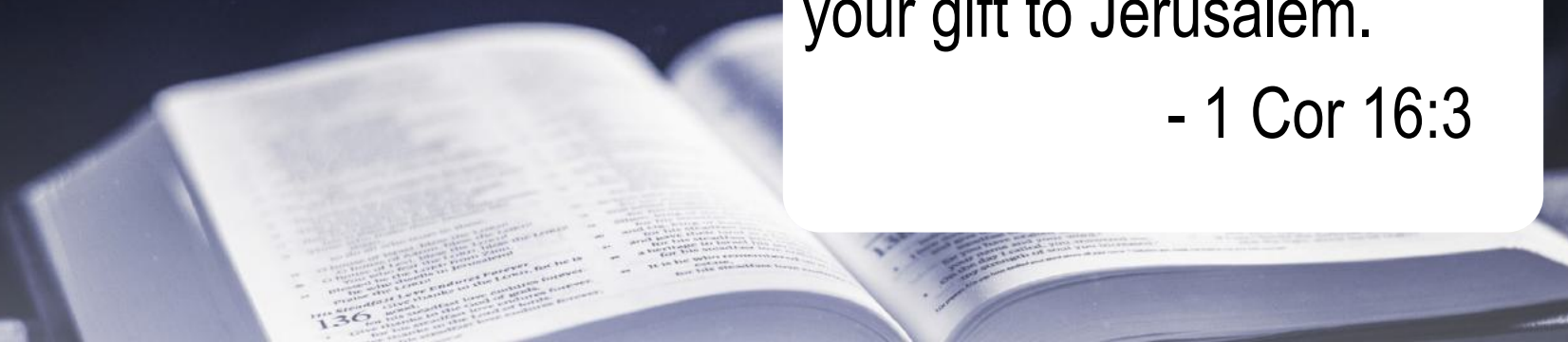
# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## The Treasury

- How did local churches in Macedonia and Achaia aid needy saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8:1-14, 9:1-5)?
- How was the treasury in Corinth controlled (1 Cor 16:3)?

And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

- 1 Cor 16:3



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## The Treasury

- How did local churches in Macedonia and Achaia aid needy saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8:1-14, 9:1-5)?
- How was the treasury in Corinth controlled (1 Cor 16:3)?
- Why was it necessary for Jerusalem to receive relief from other local churches (2 Cor 8:13-14)?



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## The Treasury

- How did local churches in Macedonia and Achaia aid needy saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8:1-14, 9:1-5)?
- How was the treasury in Corinth controlled (1 Cor 16:3)?
- Why was it necessary for Jerusalem to receive relief from other local churches (2 Cor 8:13-14)?

...your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

- 2 Cor 8:13

# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## The Treasury

- Every church determining its capability to contribute to a need
- Every church determining how to use its treasury
- Every church controlling its treasury



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## Receiving Benevolence



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## Receiving Benevolence

- Does a church in need surrender oversight when receiving aid from another church (Acts 11:29-30)?



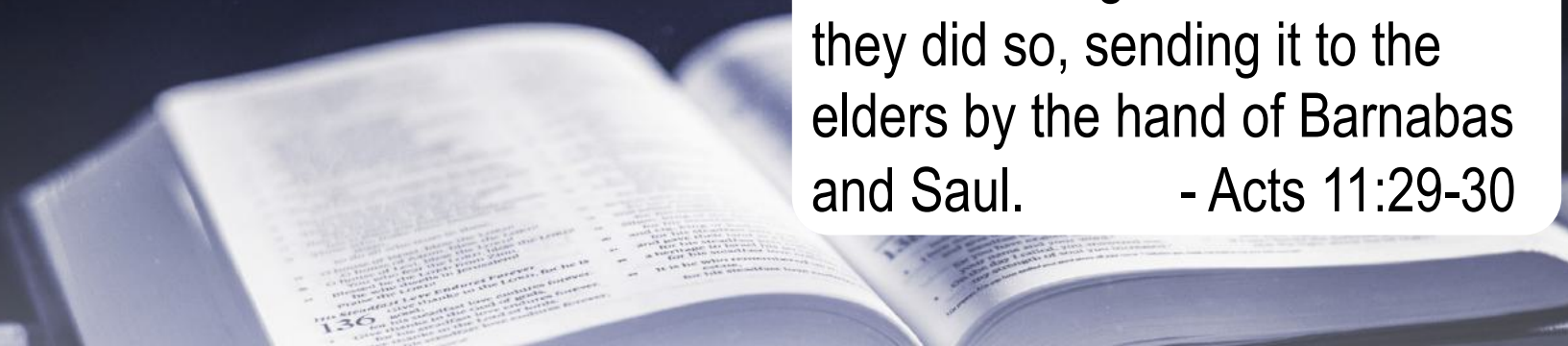


# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## Receiving Benevolence

- Does a church in need surrender oversight when receiving aid from another church (Acts 11:29-30)?

So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul. - Acts 11:29-30

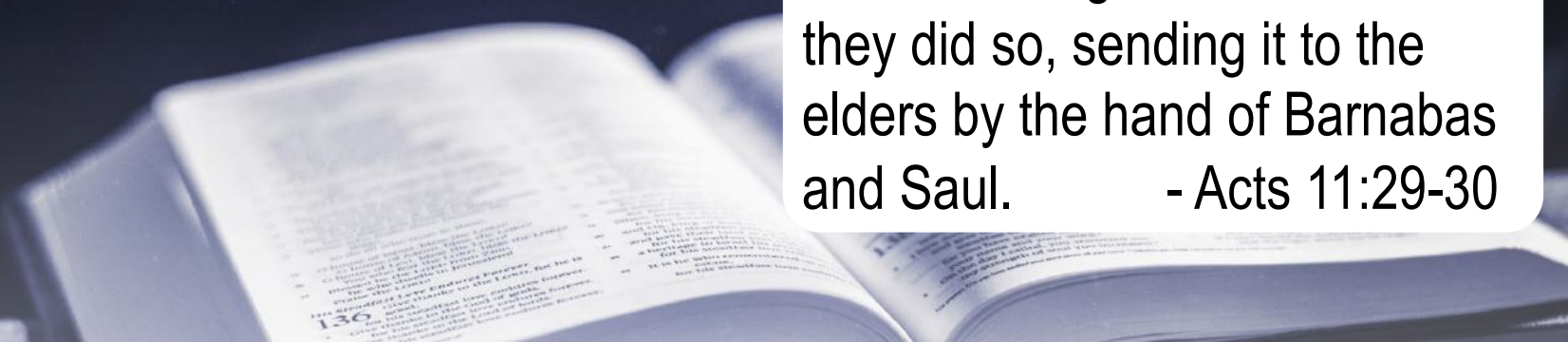


# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## Receiving Benevolence

- Does a church in need surrender oversight when receiving aid from another church (Acts 11:29-30)?
- Does the giving church maintain control over the funds once they give them to a needy church? Who has oversight over the money once the needy church receives it?

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# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## Receiving Benevolence

- Does a church in need surrender oversight when receiving aid from another church (Acts 11:29-30)?
- Does the giving church maintain control over the funds once they give them to a needy church? Who has oversight over the money once the needy church receives it?
- Who is responsible for distributing funds among the needy saints once received from the giving church?

So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul. - Acts 11:29-30

# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## Receiving Benevolence

- No example of churchwide “relief fund”
- The pattern: give when there is need to those having need



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## Thought Questions

- Do the scriptures demonstrated the exact same pattern for financially supporting a preacher as for distribution benevolent aid to needy Christians?  
(Phil 4:14-20, 2 Cor 11:7-9)



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## Thought Questions

- Doesn't Acts 15 show that “church councils” can be set up to regulate a larger entity than the local church?



# Independent and Autonomous Churches

## Acts 15 “The Jerusalem Council”

- Warned another church about false teachers
- Communicated information to another church
- Clarified their understanding of revealed truth

Autonomy does not prevent information flow between churches,  
but does require independent oversight

