1. **What is Authority**
   b. Authority ~ **def.** Legal power or right to command; power; rule; judge.
   c. We recognize authorities all the time: scholars, umpires, teachers, judges, parents.
   d. At weddings you hear the priest say “by the power invested in me…”
   e. Where does it come from? Tradition, apostles, creeds, academia, strength, governments?

2. **The Authority Problem**
   a. Rebellion is having a problem with authority: "teenagers", atheists, sinners, fools
   b. A fool is someone who rejects wisdom when its obvious to all – Prov 17:16, 1:7
   c. A fool delights in discovering himself, not the truth – Prov 18:2
   d. All problems with true authority are derived from a problem with the final authority
   e. How do we know truth? Who decides? What is the highest authority? Who judges?

3. **God, Our Final Authority**
   a. For all men, God is the final authority: his words are absolutely authoritative
   b. The answer has always been God, anything else is foolish - Rom 1:19-20
   c. False religions replace the true God with their own corruptible ‘god’ – Rom 1:21-23
   d. How do corruptible people make decisions? By their flawed reason and experience.
   e. The authority of “I”, “I think”, “I like”, “I believe it” = “a man said”, “a smart man”
   f. Ourselves as the authority is subjective, unclear, insufficient, variable, inaccessible
   g. The Bible is objective, clear, historical, comprehensive, sufficient, unchanging
   h. Even the church has been foolified into rejecting the Bible as God’s final authority
   i. How do you know if the Bible is God’s word? You have to hear it – Rom 10:17
   j. God is, he spoke, and his words are our final authority– Heb 1:1, 2 Tim 3:15-17

4. **Speaking with Authority**
   a. The scriptures are authoritative because they are God’s words – 2 Pet 1:20-21
   c. When he did people were astonished - Mark 1:21-22
   d. They asked, “what new doctrine is this?”, but it wasn’t new – Mark 1:27
   e. We have God’s words; we can speak with authority when we speak scripture.
   f. Speak, exhort, rebuke with all authority - Titus 2:15, Col 2:9-10
   g. Young people, men, sinners can know the truth authoritatively in the Bible
   h. We must decide to let God be true and man be under his authority – Rom 3:4
   i. Faith is not merely believing what Christianity says, it is letting God be true.
   j. God is our authority; we are not the authority on God.
   k. He will judge us, we do not judge him.