



So As to Please God

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2

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Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. For you know what commandments we gave you by *the authority of* the Lord Jesus.

Main Point

Christian instruction must be given and received in keeping with its authority and must be aimed at transformation.

The background is a faded map of the Czech Republic. Overlaid on the map are several text elements: 'So As to Please God' in large bold black font, 'The Necessity of Our Instruction' in large black font, 'Národní technické muzeum' in a diagonal orientation on the left, 'VÚGTH, v. v. i.' in a diagonal orientation in the center, and 'Národní technické' in a diagonal orientation on the right.

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The Necessity of Our Instruction

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The Necessity of Our Instruction

Instruction must be given.

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For **you know what commandments**
we gave you
by *the authority of* the Lord Jesus.

Paul understood the condition of God's people, that they need instruction, and that this instruction must be given by those whom the Lord has appointed.

1 Timothy 4:11

Prescribe and teach these things.

Titus 2:15

These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority.
Let no one disregard you.

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season;
reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

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Remember Paul's great desire...

1 Thessalonians 3:10

Night and day we keep praying

most earnestly **that we** may see your face,
and **may complete what is lacking in your faith.**

Paul's desire was to return and fill
in the gaps of instruction.



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Instruction must be given.

Instruction must be received.

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1 Thessalonians 1:6

You also became imitators of us and of the Lord,
having received the word in much tribulation
with the joy of the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

When **you received the word** of God which you heard
from us, you accepted it not as the word of men,
but for what it really is, the word of God.

**The word must be received by those
to whom it is given!**

What does it mean to receive the word?

It is more than hearing it
since many hear who do not receive.

It is more than assent to it
since many assent but do not obey.

Receiving the word is taking it
into the heart and taking it *to* heart.

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When you received the word of God which you heard

from us, **you accepted it** not as the word of men,

but **for what it really is, the word of God.**

It is accepting it as the authoritative,
life-governing word of God.

So As to Please God

The Necessity of Our Instruction

The Authority of Our Instruction

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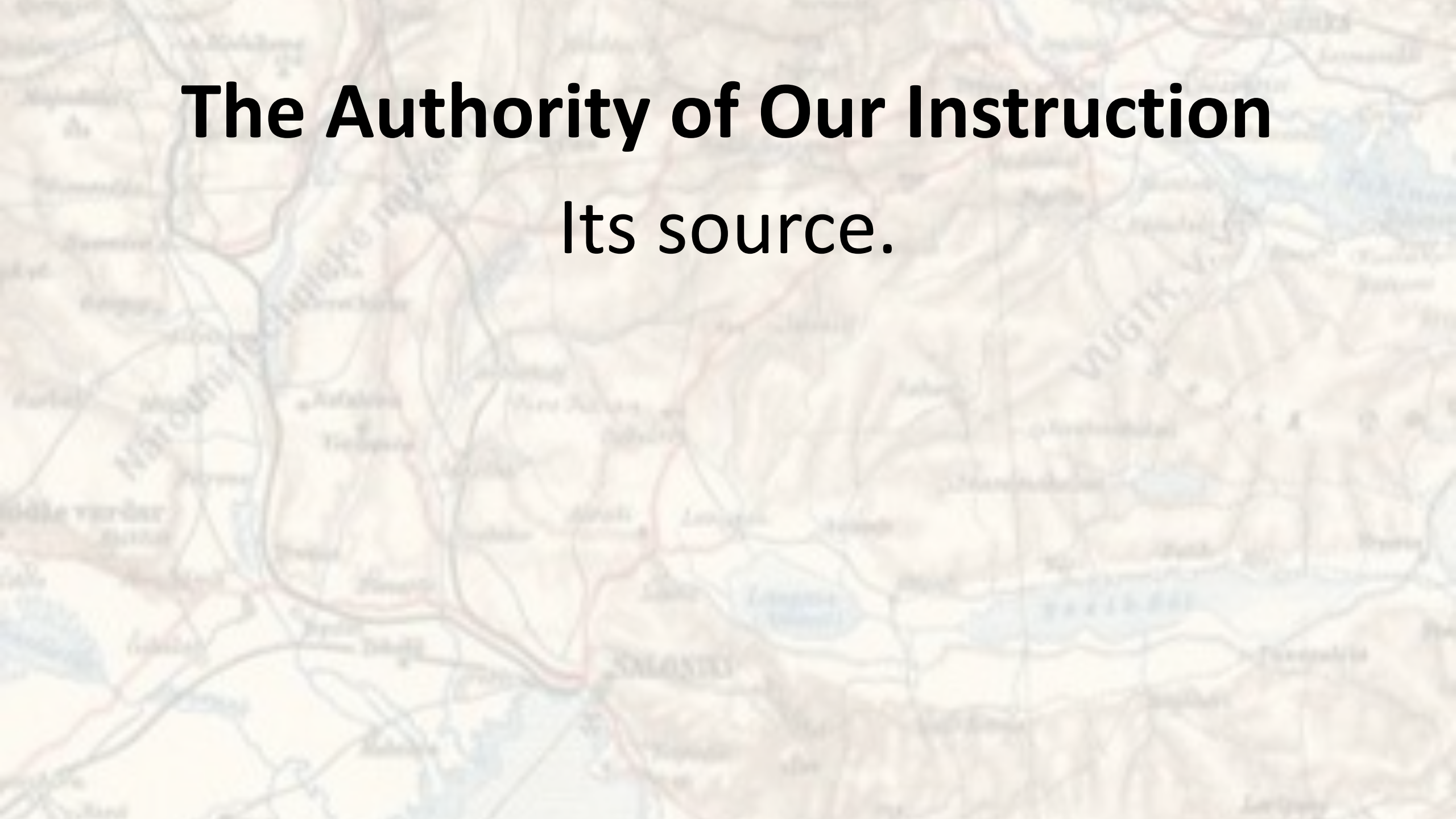
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The Authority of Our Instruction

Its source.

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Its Source...

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

Its Source...

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All Scripture is **inspired by God** and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

God is the source of the word
we preach and teach!

2 Timothy 4:1-2

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:
preach the word.

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I solemnly charge you **in the presence of God** and
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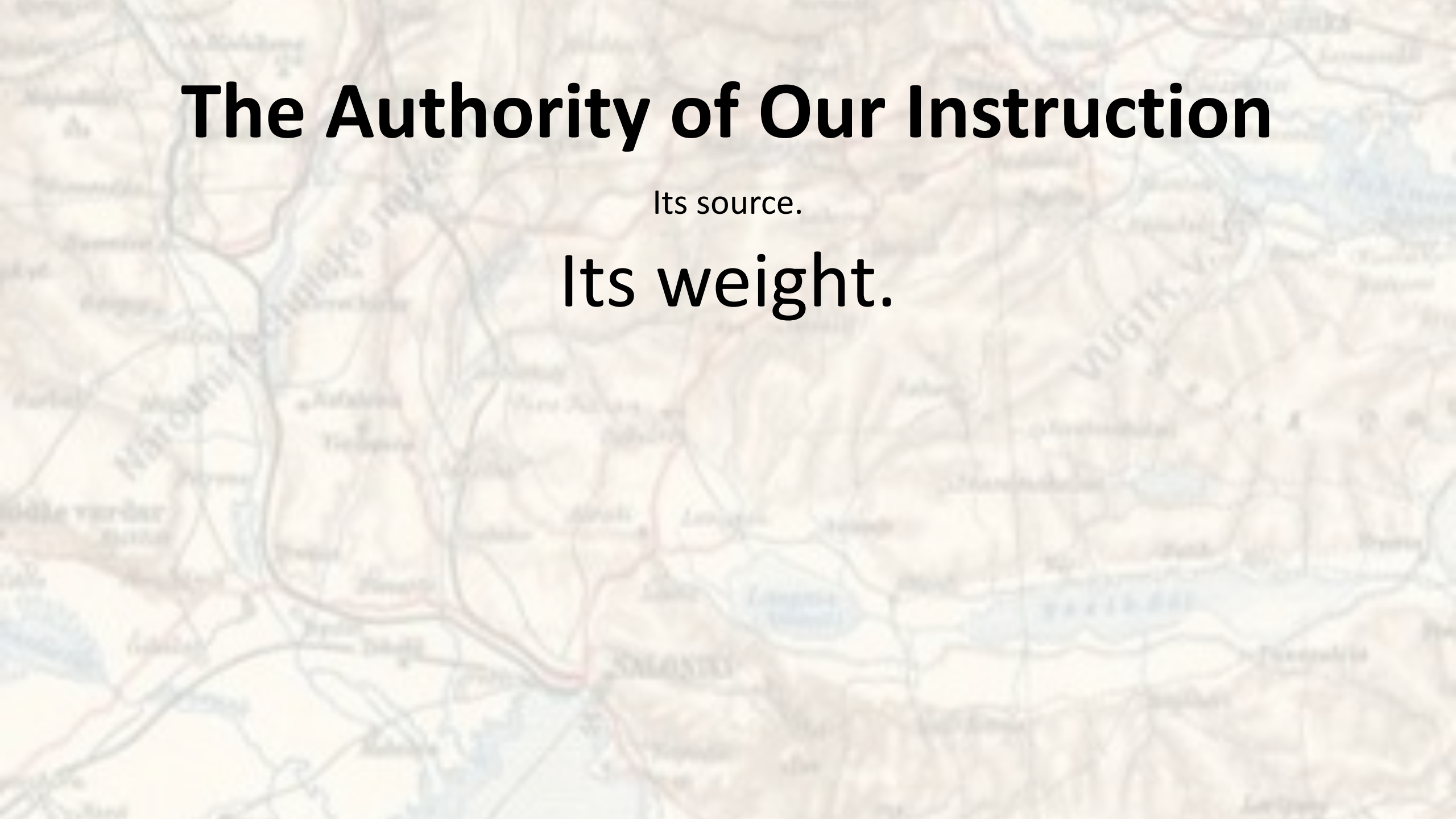
I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and
of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead,
and by His appearing and His kingdom:

preach the word.

Our instruction has authority because it comes from God through Christ our Lord.

An important implication...

Since the source of our instruction is God Himself, we must take great care when teaching and exhorting from it.



The Authority of Our Instruction

Its source.

Its weight.

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Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you
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as to how ***it is necessary for you*** to walk and please God

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For **you know what commandments**
we gave you
by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Paul understood the weight of his instruction, that it consisted not of helpful suggestions, but of authoritative commands.

This is a two-way street!

For those who give instruction...

“Let them learn how they ought to dispense the word so as to answer the spring from whence it comes; namely, with authority, love to, and care for the souls of men. And, let them consider to whom they are to give an account of the work they are called to discharge.”

For those who receive instruction...

“This is that on which the whole ordinance of preaching is founded; which makes that which is derived from the word, to have the power, authority, and efficacy of the word accompanying it.”

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For you know what commandments we gave you
by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Titus 2:15

These things speak and exhort and reprove
with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

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The Authority of Our Instruction

The Aim of Our Instruction

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The Aim of Our Instruction

To transform conduct.

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Walking is commonly used as a metaphor
for the conduct of life -- Paul's instruction
was aimed at their conduct.

Ephesians 4:1

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord,
implore you to **walk** in a manner worthy of the calling
with which you have been called.

Colossians 1:10

Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,
to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every
good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Philippians 1:27

Only **conduct yourselves** in a manner worthy
of the gospel of Christ.

There is a conduct of life that aligns with
God's desires, and biblical instruction
is aimed at making this known so that
His people will know how to live.

How do ***you*** know how
you ought to live?



The Aim of Our Instruction

To transform conduct.

By transforming motivation.

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Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you
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as to how you ought to **walk *so as to* please God**

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The goal of Christian conduct
is to please God.

Colossians 1:10

Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,
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to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every
good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

If the goal of our conduct is to please God, then pleasing God ought to be our motivation for change.

What is your motivation for change?

How are you inclined to motivate others?

Conclusion

Do you see God's word and faithful instruction from it as authoritative and life-governing?

Are you *receiving* the instruction given to you?

Is love for God your greatest motivation for change?